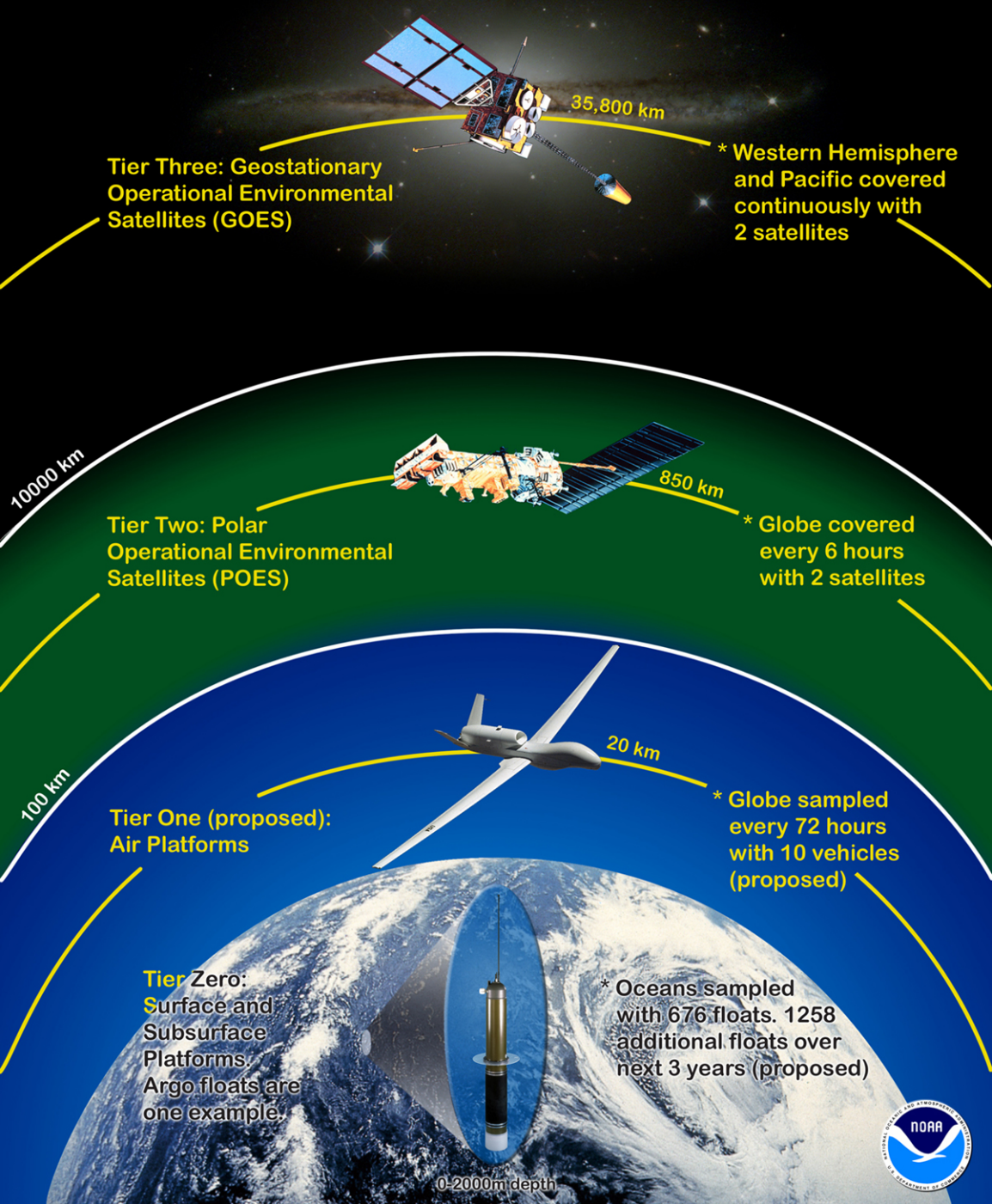


NOAA Global Observing Platforms



Tier Three: Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES)

35,800 km

* Western Hemisphere and Pacific covered continuously with 2 satellites

Tier Two: Polar Operational Environmental Satellites (POES)

850 km

* Globe covered every 6 hours with 2 satellites

Tier One (proposed): Air Platforms

20 km

* Globe sampled every 72 hours with 10 vehicles (proposed)

Tier Zero: Surface and Subsurface Platforms
Argo floats are one example.

* Oceans sampled with 676 floats. 1258 additional floats over next 3 years (proposed)

0-2000m depth

