VIIRS Cloud Mask (VCM)
CCR 12-418

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CCR 12-382

- Adjust VCM thresholds to mitigate obvious errors
    - This goes directly to this briefing
- Identify sub-optimal results where software changes will be necessary to correct/improve the VCM
- Identify external issues that negatively impact the VCM
- Begin development of "Golden Granules"
- Produce initial results from match-ups with CALIPSO
- Produce initial results from comparison with the MODIS cloud mask
- Establish beta performance

CCR 12-418:

- Update maturity to the beta level

Beta Definition

- Early release product

- Initial calibration applied

- Minimally validated and may still contain significant errors

- Available to allow users to gain familiarity with data formats and parameters

- Product is not appropriate as the basis for quantitative scientific publication studies and applications

- Early release product
  - VCM has been validated for only a 30 day period
  - VCM is already being evaluated for its impacts on other EDRs
    - Other teams understand VCM is in its early stages
- Initial calibration applied
  - As just noted, first set of tuning updates is ready for implementation
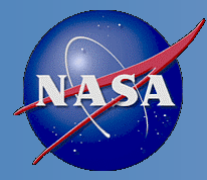 - No software changes have yet been made to the VCM

Beta Evaluation

- Minimally validated and may still contain significant errors
  - Certain backgrounds and cloud types have not been tuned
  - Flags for cloud phase and aerosols have yet to be evaluated by the VCM team
- Available to allow users to gain familiarity with data formats and parameters
  - Documentation is correct regarding format and output parameters (bit flags)
  - Some in the community need to gain more familiarity with the VCM output flags (i.e. quality flags)

- Product is not appropriate as the basis for quantitative scientific publication studies and applications
  - Many of the other Cal/Val teams at the recent Workshop identified concerns with the VCM
  - Results using pre-launch thresholds have varied from decent (Land) to sharply negative (SST)

Beta Considerations

- VCM has met the beta stage based on the definitions and the evidence shown supporting the tuning parameter update (CCR 12-0382)
    - This is the case based on the updated thresholds
    - Updated thresholds were promoted to operations May 1, 2012
- Remaining issues are known and at least a preliminary way ahead has been established
    - Most have DRs, what remains will be written as needed
- Understand some items still need to be completed
    - Submission of findings