

1 **Title:** Augmenting biologging with supervised machine learning to study *in situ* behavior of the
2 medusa *Chrysaora fuscescens*

3 **Running title:** Jellyfish behavior via machine learning

4 **Authors:** Clara Fannjiang,^{1,2} T. Aran Mooney,³ Seth Cones,³ David Mann,⁴ K. Alex Shorter,⁵ Kakani
5 Katija¹

6 **Affiliations:**

7 1. Research and Development, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Moss Landing,
8 CA, USA

9 2. Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, University of California, Berkeley,
10 Berkeley, CA, USA

11 3. Biology Department, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA, USA

12 4. Loggerhead Instruments, FL, USA

13 5. Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.

14 **Corresponding author:** clarafy@berkeley.edu

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16 **Summary Statement**

17 High-resolution motion sensors paired with supervised machine learning can be used to infer
18 fine-scale *in situ* behavior of zooplankton for long durations.

19 **Abstract**

20 Zooplankton occupy critical roles in marine ecosystems, yet their fine-scale behavior remains
21 poorly understood due to the difficulty of studying individuals *in situ*. Here we combine
22 biologging with supervised machine learning (ML) to demonstrate a pipeline for studying *in situ*
23 behavior of larger zooplankton such as jellyfish. We deployed the ITAG, a biologging package
24 with high-resolution motion sensors designed for soft-bodied invertebrates, on 8 *Chrysaora*
25 *fuscescens* in Monterey Bay, using the tether method for retrieval. Using simultaneous video
26 footage of the tagged jellyfish, we develop ML methods to 1) identify periods of tag data
27 corrupted by the tether method, which may have compromised prior research findings, and 2)
28 classify jellyfish behaviors. Our tools yield characterizations of fine-scale jellyfish activity and
29 orientation over long durations, and provide evidence that developing behavioral classifiers on *in*
30 *situ* rather than laboratory data is essential.

31 **Introduction**

32 As anthropogenic impacts continue to alter the oceans, understanding the role movement and
33 behavior play in how marine animals respond is required for effective stewardship and
34 conservation. Researchers have made great strides in investigating marine megafauna behavior
35 related to long distance migrations (Block et al., 2011; Rasmussen et al., 2007; Sequeira et al.,
36 2018) and foraging strategies (Sims et al., 2008; Weise et al., 2010). However, the behavior of
37 more numerous, higher total-biomass, lower trophic-level animals like zooplankton is much less
38 understood. Early attempts to investigate *in situ* behavior of zooplankton such as jellyfish relied
39 on scuba divers following animals with hand-held video cameras (Colin and Costello, 2002;
40 Costello et al., 1998) and later with remotely operated vehicles (ROVs; Kaartvedt et al., 2015;
41 Purcell, 2009; Rife and Rock, 2003). Acoustic methods have also been used to describe
42 large-scale movement patterns of jellyfish (Båmstedt et al., 2003; Kaartvedt et al., 2007; Klevjer et
43 al., 2009); however, these methods can be resolution-limited.

44 A promising alternative is biologging, where electronic transmitters or loggers with
45 environmental and motion sensors are affixed to organisms (Kooyman, 2004; Rutz and Hays,
46 2009). Biologging has enabled a diverse array of marine vertebrate studies (Block et al., 2011;
47 Goldbogen et al., 2006; Johnson and Tyack, 2003), while several technological challenges have
48 hindered the widespread use of biologging to study gelatinous invertebrates like jellyfish. Their
49 sensitivity to drag induces constraints on tag size, shape, and buoyancy (Fossette et al., 2016;
50 Mills, 1984; Mooney, Katija, Shorter et al., 2015), which, coupled with bandlimited transmission
51 capabilities, often restricts sensor payloads to low-resolution depth or location pingers (Honda et
52 al., 2009; Moriarty et al., 2012; Seymour et al., 2004). As a result, very few studies have
53 successfully deployed high-resolution motion sensors like accelerometers on jellyfish *in situ*
54 (Fossette et al., 2015), and these adopted the “tether method” for retrieval (Fossette et al., 2016;
55 Hays et al., 2008), where the tag is tethered to a surface float transmitting location. As tethering
56 can restrict movement, it is unknown whether data collected in this manner is broadly
57 representative of natural behavior. Furthermore, without validation from simultaneous observation
58 of the tagged animal, interpretation of biologging data is easily biased (Brown et al., 2013; Jeantet
59 et al., 2018).

60 Recently, techniques from supervised machine learning, which automatically fit or “learn”
61 patterns that optimally distinguish categories, have been successfully used to classify behaviors
62 in various marine vertebrates (Brewster et al., 2018; Jeantet et al., 2018; Ladds et al., 2016).

63 However, few studies develop their methods on ground-truthed *in situ* data, due to the difficulty
64 of recording sustained observations of wild marine animals (Carroll et al., 2014). It is unknown
65 whether classifiers developed on data from captive, controlled, or laboratory conditions are
66 equally effective on data from natural environments (Carroll et al., 2014), a broader problem
67 known as domain adaptation in machine learning (Pan and Yang, 2010; Zhang et al., 2013).

68 In this study, we demonstrate how to investigate fine-scale zooplankton behavior *in situ*
69 by combining biologging advancements with supervised machine learning (ML) methods. We
70 study the movements of the scyphomedusa *Chrysaora fuscescens* in Monterey Bay, CA, USA,
71 using the ITAG, a biologging tag equipped with high-resolution motion sensors and engineered
72 specifically for soft-bodied invertebrates (Mooney, Katija, Shorter et al., 2015). We use the tether
73 method for retrieval and simultaneously record video footage of the tagged animals. We develop
74 classifiers using the resulting data to 1) detect when the tether method influences jellyfish
75 behavior, and 2) distinguish swimming from drifting. We provide principled estimates of the
76 classifier error characteristics, which allow us to remove behavioral data influenced by tethering,
77 and estimate the fine-scale *in situ* orientation and swimming activity of *C. fuscescens* individuals
78 for up to 10 h. By combining a highly specialized tag with supervised ML, our approach is the first
79 complete pipeline for acquiring and interpreting high-resolution motion data from individual
80 jellyfish or other zooplankton *in situ*.

81 **Methods & Materials**

82 **Laboratory Deployments**

83 Laboratory investigations of jellyfish tagging were conducted at the Monterey Bay Aquarium
84 Research Institute (MBARI) in Moss Landing, CA in the spring of 2018. Four jellyfish (*Chrysaora*
85 *fuscescens*) with bell diameters ranging from 16 to 25 cm were collected in Monterey Bay from
86 R/V Paragon (CADFW permit SC-13337) and kept in plastic bags filled with unfiltered seawater.
87 Within 4 hours of collection, animals were transported into large holding tanks in a 5° C cold room
88 in MBARI's Seawater Lab. Experiments were conducted in MBARI's Test Tank, a 275,000 gallon
89 tank with dimensions of 13 m (L) x 10 m (W) x 10 m (D). Animals were transported from the
90 Seawater Lab in plastic bags and placed in the Test Tank to acclimate for at least an hour prior to
91 tagging trials. After acclimation, a neutrally buoyant bio-logging tag (ITAG v0.4; Mooney, Katija,
92 Shorter et al., 2015) was prepared for attachment. The ITAG (6.3 cm x 2.9 cm x 1.6 cm, air weight
93 30 g) is equipped with a triaxial accelerometer, gyroscope, and magnetometer synchronously

94 sampling at a rate of 100 Hz (TDK Invensense MPU9250, San Jose, CA, USA), and pressure,
95 temperature (TE Connectivity MS5803, Schaffhausen, Switzerland), and light sensors (Intersil
96 ISL29125, Milpitas, CA, USA) sampling at 1 Hz. The tag was attached to the animal's aboral
97 surface using veterinary-grade tissue adhesive (3M Vetbond, Maplewood, Minnesota, USA),
98 following the "glue method" (Fossette et al., 2016). Care was taken to center the attachment site
99 on the bell apex between the four gonads, so that the tag axis conventions aligned with the
100 jellyfish, and the animal's radial symmetry was not disrupted. The entire attachment procedure
101 took no longer than 2 minutes.

102 To replicate the *in situ* recovery strategy, the tags were attached by 6 m of monofilament
103 line (20-lb. test) to a suspended walkway about 1 m above the tank surface (the tether length was
104 set to prevent the animal from getting tangled with metal bars on the walls of the test tank).
105 Simultaneous lateral-view video footage of the tagged jellyfish was collected with a HERO5 Black
106 GoPro (GoPro, Inc., San Mateo, CA, USA) mounted onto a BlueROV2 (Blue Robotics, Torrance,
107 CA, USA). Footage was synchronized with the tag data by sharply tapping the tag five times in
108 front of the GoPro prior to attachment.

109 **Field Deployments**

110 We deployed ITAGs on 8 *C. fuscescens* in Monterey Bay, CA in late spring of 2018, and collected
111 *in situ* recordings with durations between 54 min and 10 h. The bell diameters of these animals
112 were between 20 and 28 cm. Fig. 1A-G depicts the main phases of the deployment protocol.
113 Each animal was first spotted from aboard the R/V Paragon, which then maneuvered next to the
114 animal so it could be gently captured and brought aboard using a plastic bucket. Captured
115 jellyfish were then transferred into individual 27-gallon plastic holding tubs filled with seawater
116 (Fig. 1A), with care taken to not introduce air bubbles under their bells. To recover tags at the end
117 of the deployment, we used the "tether method" (Fossette et al., 2016): tags were tethered by 30
118 m of monofilament line to the bottom of a drogue, which was attached by dock line to a surface
119 drifter. A fishing swivel was placed at the midpoint of the tether, as well as immediately below its
120 attachment to the drogue, to prevent any tether torsion from affecting the animal. The surface
121 drifter consisted of PVC housing for a SPOT GPS tracking device (SPOT LLC, Milpitas, CA, USA),
122 and a PVC pipe chamber containing batteries and ballasting material. The SPOT was configured
123 to report its coordinates once every 15-20 minutes via email. The tethered tags were then affixed
124 to jellyfish while in the holding tubs, following the aforementioned glue method also used for

125 laboratory deployments (Fig. 1B-C). In order, the drogued drifter, ROV, and finally tagged jellyfish
126 were then released (Fig. 1D-F, respectively). The drogue was centered at a depth down to 9 m
127 (see Table S1), and the jellyfish could therefore swim freely down to a depth between 30 and 39
128 m. From pilot control on the deck, we used the ROV-mounted GoPro to track and record video
129 footage of the tagged animal, until losing sight of it due to water turbidity and/or turbulence.
130 Once visual contact with the tagged animal was lost, the ROV was recovered, and the tagged
131 animals tethered to the drogued drifters were left behind.

132 Tags were retrieved the next morning after deployment. The Paragon was navigated to
133 the most recent coordinates reported by the SPOT, and once the drifter and drogue were
134 located, the drifter, drogue, and tag (with or without an animal still attached) were recovered. Data
135 from the tag was then brought back to shore for analysis.

136 **Orientation Estimation**

137 We defined axes conventions appropriate for the typical jellyfish swimming position (see Fig. 1H),
138 according to which the ITAG pressure sensor and triaxial accelerometer, gyroscope, and
139 magnetometer were calibrated from bench tests. Since we have control over the tag attachment
140 site, we can ensure that the tag x-axis (surge direction) is orthogonal to the jellyfish bell at the
141 apex, so no further data processing is necessary to align the tag and jellyfish axes.

142 In order to compute orientation from the accelerometer and magnetometer signals, we
143 first used a finite impulse response filter to smooth the accelerometer and magnetometer data
144 (Sato et al., 2003). The filter cut-off frequency was set to 0.2 Hz, within the typical range of
145 0.25-0.5 of the pulse frequency (Martín López et al., 2016) of about 0.6 Hz estimated for a
146 *Chrysaora* species (Matanoski et al., 2001). Filtering the accelerometer data separates the signal
147 due to gravity (static acceleration, SA) from high-frequency animal-generated forces (dynamic
148 acceleration or DA; Wilson et al., 2006), which we later process and featurize for behavioral
149 classification. The resulting SA was then combined with the smoothed magnetometer data to
150 calculate orientation (Euler angles of heading, pitch, and roll) at every point in time, according to
151 trigonometric relationships (Johnson and Tyack, 2003). Based on our axes conventions in Fig. 1A,
152 heading refers to compass bearing from true north, positive pitch means the jellyfish bell apex is
153 tilted upward with respect to the horizon, and positive roll means the jellyfish bell is rotating
154 around its apex counterclockwise, when viewed facing the bell.

155 **Annotation of Video Data**

156 Throughout this paper, we refer to tag data paired with annotated simultaneous video footage as
157 annotated data, and tag data after video footage ended as unannotated data.

158 Laboratory and *in situ* video footage was manually annotated for jellyfish behavior and
159 tether influence. Each second of footage was labeled according to whether the jellyfish was
160 swimming or drifting (not actively pulsing its bell), and whether the tether was slack (i.e. when the
161 animal was uninfluenced by tether tension) or taut (i.e. when the animal was influenced by tether
162 tension). For *in situ* deployments, if the tether could not be clearly seen or was out of view due to
163 turbidity and/or viewing angle (e.g. facing the subumbrella), the state of the tether was annotated
164 as unknown. Similarly, if the jellyfish behavior could not be distinguished due to lighting or
165 turbidity, the behavior was annotated as unknown. Any segments of footage where either the
166 tether state or jellyfish behavior were unknown were excluded from training data for the methods
167 we describe below.

168 **Jellyfish Behavior Classification**

169 When using the tether method as a tag retrieval strategy, prolonged deviations between the
170 trajectories of the jellyfish and its tethered drifter can result in the tether pulling on the tag. These
171 forces leave measurable signatures in the motion sensor data, which are distinct from the signals
172 generated by the jellyfish's natural behavior. Our goal was to develop supervised machine
173 learning methods to 1) detect and remove segments of data corrupted by tether influence (tether
174 influence classification), and 2) distinguish swimming from drifting on the remaining data (activity
175 classification). In the following sections, we describe how these methods were developed.

176 **Data Preprocessing**

177 *In situ* data was first split into two pools. Annotated data was processed and featurized as
178 described below, then set aside for model training and evaluation. Unannotated data was
179 similarly processed and featurized, and then set aside for classification by the trained models.
180 Laboratory data was completely annotated, since we were able to capture video footage of the
181 entire deployment.

182 We used the following procedure to assemble data samples for each of the four
183 categories annotated as described above: tether-influenced, uninfluenced, swimming, and
184 drifting. Upon visual inspection, the DA of every deployment displayed a nearly constant periodic

185 nature, consistent with the nearly constant jellyfish bell pulsing observed in both the laboratory
186 and *in situ* video footage. We therefore computed the discrete cosine transform (DCT) of the DA
187 and took the frequency with the maximum absolute coefficient as the representative pulse
188 frequency (RPF) for each deployment.

189 For each category, we extracted all segments of motion sensor data whose
190 corresponding video footage was annotated with that category. Each segment, which consisted
191 of 10 channels of data (pressure sensor and triaxial accelerometer, gyroscope, and
192 magnetometer) was then split into consecutive, non-overlapping windows with a duration equal
193 to the representative swimming cycle length (the reciprocal of the RPF). Segments shorter than
194 this duration, and trailing windows at the ends of segments shorter than this duration, were
195 discarded from classification and analysis. Each of these windows, which we refer to as periods,
196 was then featurized. Note that the period duration is different for each deployment, to account for
197 the pulse frequency of each animal.

198 **Featurization**

199 For each period, we generated a total of 46 candidate features from the accelerometer and
200 gyroscope. During training, we used a feature selection method to select a subset with the
201 greatest predictive power, as described below. In the following, triaxial jerk was calculated as the
202 difference between consecutive triaxial accelerometry values, scaled by the sample rate of 100
203 Hz. Similarly, angular acceleration was calculated as the difference between consecutive
204 gyroscope values, scaled by the sample rate.

205 We computed various features of partial dynamic body acceleration, or PDBA, the sum of
206 the absolute values of the y- and z-axis of DA. PDBA is a variant of overall dynamic body
207 acceleration (ODBA; Wilson et al., 2006), which is used extensively as a proxy for energetic input
208 (Halsey et al., 2009; Wilson et al., 2006). By computing both PDBA and the absolute value of the
209 x-axis of DA (DAX), we can separate energy expenditure in the direction of jellyfish propulsion
210 from movements in the orthogonal plane (i.e. the x-axis from the y-z plane in Fig. 1H). To account
211 for variation in propulsion force between individual jellyfish, for each jellyfish we divided the
212 PDBA and DAX by their respective averages over the entire deployment. Analogous to PDBA and
213 DAX, for the gyroscope data we considered the norm of the y- and z-axis (which we call partial
214 vectorial angular velocity, or PVAV), and the absolute value of the x-axis (AVX).

215 Accelerometer-based features included the maximum, mean, and standard deviations of
216 the following quantities: DAX, PDBA, the absolute value of the x-axis of jerk, and the norm of the

217 y- and z-axes of jerk. Spectral features were the sparsities of DAx and PDBA spectra (the absolute
218 value of the Fourier transform), as measured by the Gini index (Hurley and Rickard, 2009;
219 Zonoobi et al., 2011) and the spectral energies of DAx and PDBA in 0.2-1.0 Hz (roughly the typical
220 range of pulse frequencies) and 1-8 Hz. We also included the spectral energy of DAx over 8 Hz
221 but excluded it for PDBA, because the two were too highly correlated, leading to numerically
222 unstable covariance matrix inversions in our model. The remaining features were the number of
223 peaks in the DAx and PDBA, as identified by a peak-detection method (Duarte, 2013), the
224 correlation between the y- and z-axes of DA, and the average of the correlations between the x-
225 and y-axes and x- and z-axes of DA.

226 The gyroscope-based features were completely analogous to the accelerometer-based
227 features, substituting AVx, PVAV, and angular acceleration for DAx, PDBA, and jerk above,
228 respectively.

229 We also computed the maximum normalized ODBA per period for behavioral analysis,
230 where, similarly to PDBA and DAx, we first divided the ODBA signal by the average ODBA over
231 the deployment to accommodate differences in propulsion strength between individual jellyfish.
232 However, it wasn't included as a classification feature due to redundancy with PDBA and DAx.

233 **Training Data**

234 The video footage showed that the nature of tether influence was fundamentally different
235 between *in situ* and laboratory deployments. In the test tank, the jellyfish simply turned slightly
236 whenever it reached the end of the tether, whereas tether influence *in situ* took the form of sharp
237 yanking or prolonged dragging on the jellyfish. Since our end goal was to detect tether influence
238 *in situ*, and the nature of *in situ* tether influence was not replicated in laboratory footage, we only
239 trained and evaluated the tether influence classifier on *in situ* data.

240 For training the tether-influence classifier, the annotated *in situ* data yielded 325 s of
241 tether-influenced behavior and 2825 s of uninfluenced behavior across all deployments. Splitting
242 this data into periods produced 83 and 1245 periods of influenced and uninfluenced data,
243 respectively. For training the activity classifier, the annotated laboratory data yielded 366 s (68
244 periods) and 9201 s (3069 periods) of uninfluenced drifting and uninfluenced swimming behavior,
245 respectively, and the annotated *in situ* data yielded 79 s (17 periods) and 2740 s (1228 periods) of
246 uninfluenced drifting and uninfluenced swimming behavior, respectively. Since only 17 periods of
247 uninfluenced *in situ* drifting were observed, we trained the activity classifier on the combined *in*
248 *situ* and laboratory data (85 and 4297 periods of drifting and swimming, respectively) to

249 sufficiently capture drifting behavior. To assess the value of incorporating *in situ* data for training,
250 we also trained the classifier solely on the laboratory data.

251 **Classification Methods**

252 *Quadratic Discriminant Analysis*

253 For both tether influence and activity classification, we trained a supervised machine learning
254 method known as quadratic discriminant analysis (QDA; Hastie et al., 2009), a generalization of
255 the classical linear discriminant analysis method introduced by Fisher (Fisher, 1936; Hastie et al.,
256 2009). QDA models each category in feature space as a multivariate normal distribution with an
257 individual mean and individual covariance matrix. That is, let $x \in R^p$ denote the feature vector,
258 where p is the number of features, and let $y \in \{0, 1\}$ denote the categorical label (e.g.
259 swimming vs. drifting for the activity classifier). For convention, we let category 1 refer to the
260 minority (less frequent) category, i.e. uninfluenced for tether-influence classification and drifting
261 for activity classification. The data is then modeled as

$$262 \quad y \in \text{Bernoulli}(\alpha)$$

$$263 \quad x | y = 0 \sim N(\mu_0, \Sigma_0)$$

$$264 \quad x | y = 1 \sim N(\mu_1, \Sigma_1)$$

265 where $\mu_0, \mu_1 \in R^p$ and $\Sigma_0, \Sigma_1 \in R^{p \times p}$ are the mean and covariance matrix parameters,
266 respectively, and $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ is the probability of category 1 occurring, known as the class prior.
267 We fit the model by computing the maximum likelihood estimates (MLE) for $\mu_0, \mu_1, \Sigma_0, \Sigma_1$, and α ,
268 which are simply the sample means and sample covariances of the categories, and the
269 proportion of category 1 in the training set. Under this model, QDA then classifies a new instance
270 to the category \hat{y} that maximizes the conditional probability $p(\hat{y} | x)$ (the category that is most
271 likely given the features), which can be accessed via Bayes' rule. As the name implies, the
272 resulting decision boundaries in feature space are quadratic curves. Due to the simplicity of the
273 model and closed-form nature of the MLE, QDA is both easy to interpret and fast to train.

274 *Feature Selection*

275 There is often a large number of candidate features one can consider for a classifier. Principled
276 methods for choosing an optimal subset of these features can help produce classifiers that
277 perform better (due to the removal of noisy, irrelevant, or redundant features), are faster and

278 cheaper to use (since fewer feature need to be measured and processed), and are more
279 interpretable (Dash and Liu, 1997; Guyon and Elisseeff, 2003; Liu and Motoda, 1998). Under the
280 broader umbrella of model selection, feature selection encourages finding the simplest model
281 that explains the data, a principle that is critical for performance generalization (Hastie et al.,
282 2009; MacKay, 2003). We first manually generated the list of 46 candidate features described
283 above from accelerometer and gyroscope data. As part of training, we use a popular greedy
284 heuristic known as sequential forward selection (SFS; Whitney, 1971), which starts with an empty
285 subset of features and iteratively adds the next feature whose inclusion to the existing subset
286 improves some evaluation metric the most. Despite its simplicity, SFS has been shown to match
287 or outperform more complex search methods by being less prone to overfitting (Reunanen,
288 2003).

289 *Metric for Feature Selection*

290 In choosing an evaluation metric for SFS, we observed that our video annotations showed highly
291 skewed category distributions for both classification tasks: tether-influenced periods and drifting
292 were observed far less often than uninfluenced periods and swimming, respectively. In this case,
293 the common metric of accuracy loses meaning, since the accuracy of a simple majority decision
294 rule (i.e. always predict the majority categories, influenced and swimming) is high even though 1)
295 the features are not considered and 2) all instances of the minority category are misclassified.
296 Regardless of category imbalance, the evaluation metric should reflect how well a classifier
297 extracts discriminating information from the features, and should account for the balance of false
298 positives and false negatives on the minority category.

299 In particular, consider precision and recall on the minority category, defined as

$$300 \text{precision} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

$$301 \text{recall} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

302 where TP denotes the number of true positives, or minority category periods correctly classified
303 as the minority category; FP denotes the number of false positives, or majority category periods
304 incorrectly classified as the minority category; and FN denotes the number of false negatives, or
305 minority category periods incorrectly classified as the majority category. Given a trained
306 probabilistic model of the data, such as the one posed by QDA, the decision rule to classify an
307 instance as category 1 can be formulated in terms of a threshold on the probability $p(y = 1 | x)$.
308 Varying this threshold exposes an inherent trade-off between precision and recall: a decision rule

309 with a high threshold, which only selects the category given overwhelmingly high evidence,
310 tends to achieve higher precision at the cost of lower recall. A decision rule with a lenient
311 threshold, which liberally selects the category given only mild evidence, tends to achieve higher
312 recall at the cost of lower precision. This trade-off is captured by the curve in precision-recall
313 space (PR curve) generated by decreasing the decision threshold from 1 to 0, which is often used
314 to characterize classifier performance on tasks with skewed category distributions (Bunescu et
315 al., 2005; Davis and Goadrich, 2006; Fawcett, 2006; Manning and Schütze, 1999). The PR curve
316 allows the analyst to choose an appropriate decision threshold, depending on the relative
317 importance of precision and recall for the task at hand (Manning and Schütze, 1999).

318 We use the area under this curve (AUPRC) as the metric for feature selection, which
319 provides a summary of performance across all possible thresholds (Boyd et al., 2013; Richardson
320 and Domingos, 2006). The AUPRC ranges from 0 to 1, where an ideal classifier that suffers no
321 trade-off has an AUPRC of 1, and a classifier no better than random guessing has an expected
322 AUPRC of the proportion of the category in the dataset. During feature selection, we terminate
323 SFS when the inclusion of the next feature fails to improve the AUPRC by at least 0.02.

324 *Classifier Evaluation*

325 Unbiased evaluation of a classifier's performance on unseen data requires complete separation
326 of the data used in the training and evaluation phases. The standard way to evaluate classifier
327 performance is with k -fold cross-validation (CV; Hastie et al., 2009; Kohavi, 1995), in which the
328 annotated dataset is split equally into k parts. For each part, a classifier is trained on the
329 remaining $k - 1$ parts (the training set) and evaluated on the excluded part (the validation set)
330 using some evaluation metric, and the average of the resulting k evaluation scores (the CV score)
331 is used as an estimate of the method's evaluation score on unseen data. Since we want to take
332 full advantage of our annotated dataset for training, a final classifier can then be trained on the
333 complete dataset and deployed for future predictions (Cawley and Talbot, 2010; Varma and
334 Simon, 2006).

335 Note that during evaluation, the training phase must include all aspects of model
336 selection, including feature selection and choosing hyperparameter values. However, these
337 aspects are sometimes incorrectly treated as external to the training process: performing
338 hyperparameter and/or feature selection on the complete dataset, prior to CV, can result in
339 dramatic inflations of the CV score (Ambroise and McLachlan, 2002; Cawley and Talbot, 2010;
340 Smialowski et al., 2010; Varma and Simon, 2006). To remove this selection bias, for each of the k

341 iterations of CV, we perform feature selection solely on the training set using an “inner” CV
342 (Ambroise and McLachlan, 2002; Varma and Simon, 2006). That is, the training set is itself split
343 evenly into k parts, and for each iteration of SFS, each candidate feature is evaluated by 1) adding
344 it to the current feature subset, 2) training QDA with those features and evaluating it on the k
345 pairs of training and validation sets, and 3) averaging those k evaluation scores. The feature with
346 the best inner CV score is then selected. After SFS has terminated, we use the finalized feature
347 subset to train and evaluate QDA on the outer CV training and validation set. For both the inner
348 and outer CV, we take $k = 5$.

349 After the outer CV is complete, we report the average and standard error (SE) of the k
350 AUPRC values. We then use the average of the k PR curves to choose a decision threshold
351 (Fawcett, 2006). For the purposes of demonstrating our methods, we prioritize precision and
352 recall equally, and simply choose the threshold value out of $\{0.1, 0.2, \dots, 0.9\}$ that yields the
353 closest precision and recall. We call this the equal error rate threshold (Duda et al., 2000) and
354 report the CV precision, recall, and accuracy for this classifier. For future studies that prioritize
355 either precision or recall over the other, the researcher can use the average PR curve to pick a
356 threshold that achieves the desired trade-off (Manning and Schütze, 1999; Duda et al., 2000;
357 Fawcett, 2006).

358 *Activity Classifier Baselines*

359 To see if our featurization and feature selection approach improved activity classification beyond
360 simpler alternatives, we trained and evaluated two baseline classifiers. The first baseline, which
361 we refer to as ODBA thresholding, simply classifies a period as swimming if the mean normalized
362 ODBA is above some decision threshold. Since ODBA is often used as a proxy for energetic
363 expenditure, intuition would suggest it should be sufficient for discriminating swimming from
364 drifting in a noiseless scenario. The second baseline follows our method but only uses
365 accelerometry features, excluding features from the gyroscope data.

366 *In Situ Behavior Prediction*

367 After training and evaluating the classifiers, we used them to predict tether influence and activity
368 on the unannotated *in situ* data. After removing any periods classified as tether-influenced, we
369 then classified each remaining uninfluenced period as swimming or drifting. These classifications
370 provide estimates of 1) how often the tether method interferes with the natural movements of

371 jellyfish, and 2) how much time jellyfish spend swimming versus drifting *in situ* over long
372 durations.

373 **Orientation Change**

374 To assess change in orientation during swimming, we computed the difference in heading, pitch,
375 and roll angles between start and end of each non-excluded period. We converted these
376 differences into a non-negative total angle of rotation (Diebel 2006), which we refer to as
377 orientation change over a period. We also used circular mean and circular standard deviation to
378 compute the average and standard deviation of heading, pitch, and roll angles over periods.

379 To avoid ill-defined heading and roll values due to gimbal lock, here we excluded periods
380 where the absolute pitch angle exceeded 70° from the following analysis (this removed 0.7% of
381 total laboratory and *in situ* periods).

382 **Statistical Tests**

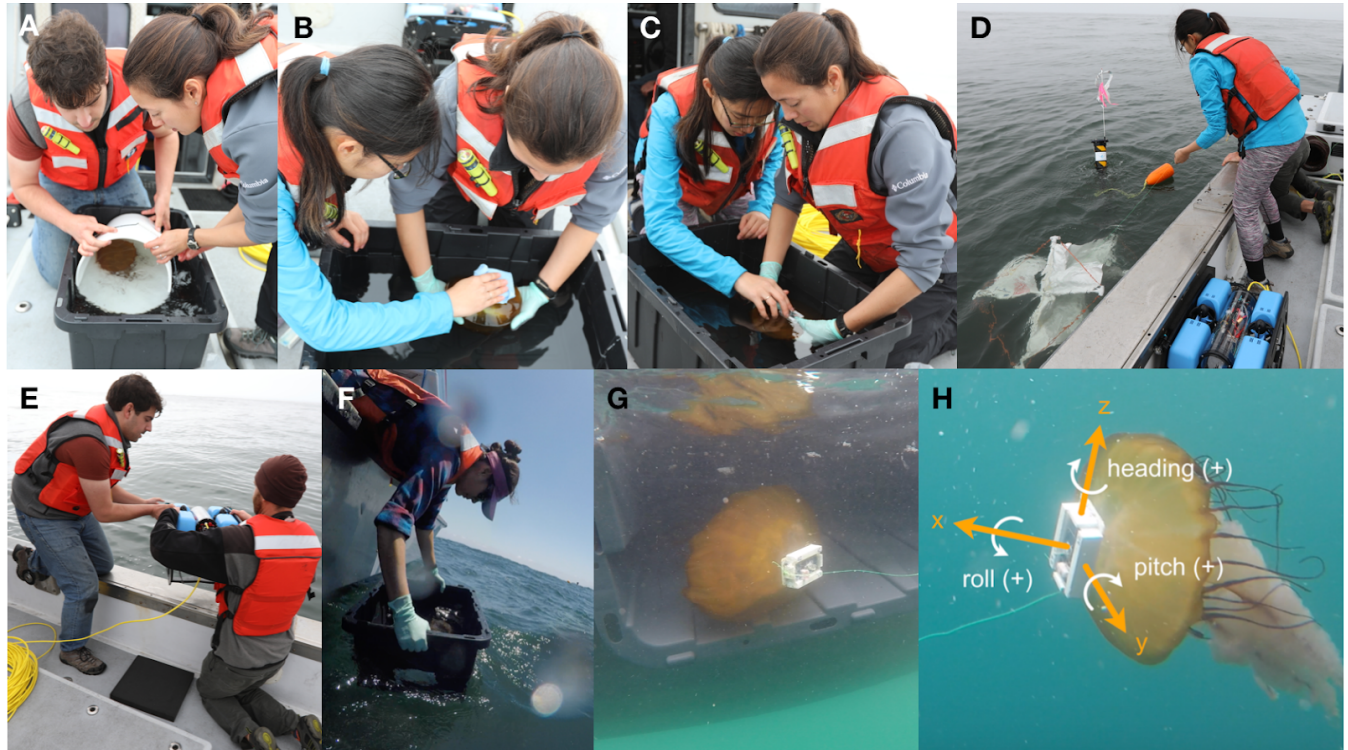
383 We ran several statistical tests on the annotated data to investigate potential distinctions
384 between laboratory and *in situ* behavior, and between tether-influenced and uninfluenced
385 behavior. For the following four tests, we used the nonparametric Mann-Whitney U test to avoid
386 any distributional assumptions on the quantities of interest, and because we expected to have a
387 considerably large sample size (each period constitutes only a few seconds of data). Specifically,
388 we pooled tether-influenced periods and uninfluenced periods across the *in situ* deployments,
389 and tested whether either group tends to exhibit 1) greater normalized ODBA and 2) greater
390 orientation change than the other. We also tested these two hypotheses between laboratory and
391 *in situ* data, by pooling together uninfluenced periods across the laboratory deployments and
392 across the *in situ* deployments.

393 **Results**

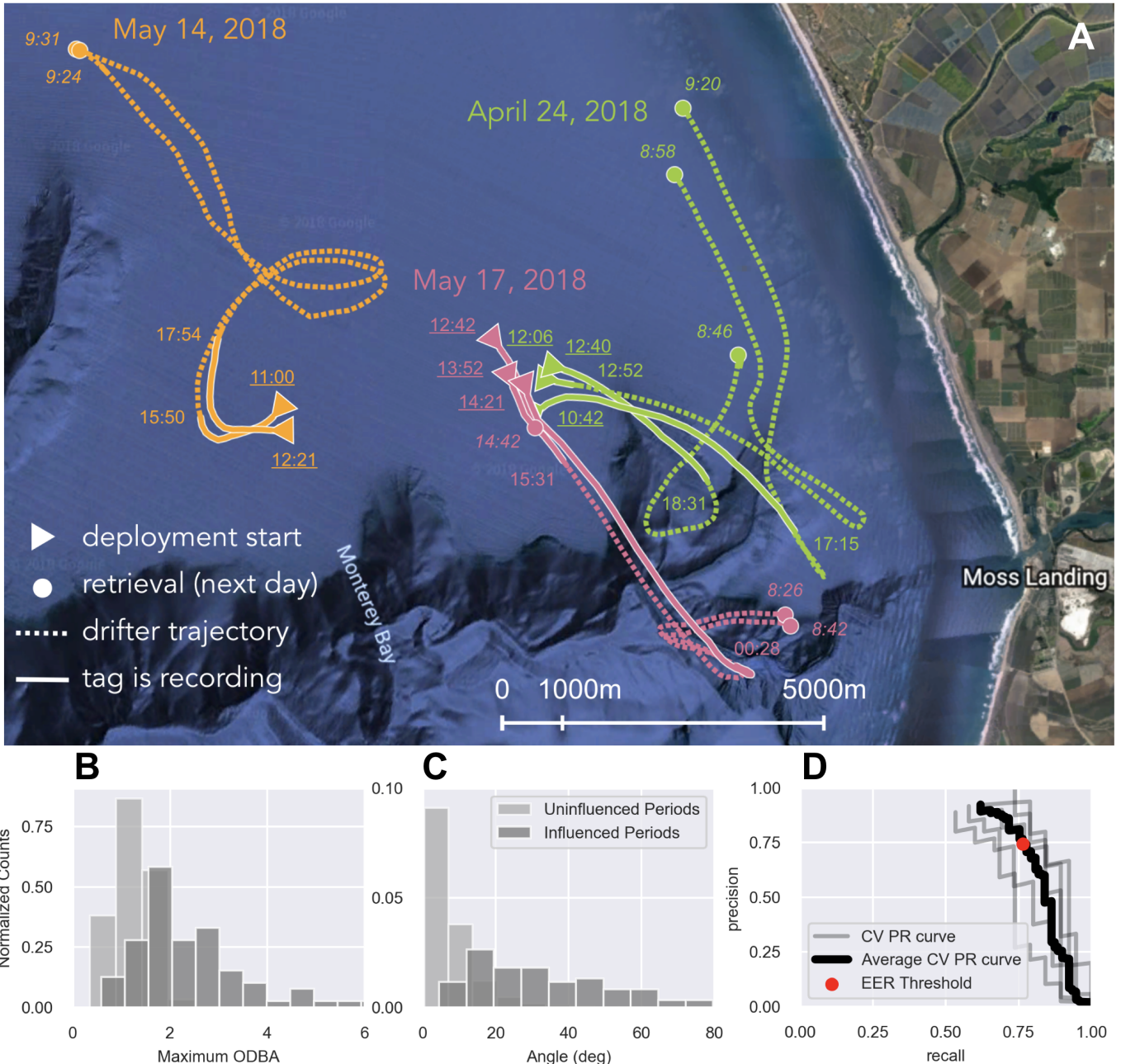
394 **Laboratory and *In Situ* Deployments**

395 Fig. 2A shows drifter trajectories and timestamps for the 8 *in situ* deployments in the Monterey
396 Bay, over three separate days (see Table S1 for laboratory and *in situ* deployment details). Video
397 footage was successfully captured for 7 of these deployments, and annotated for activity and
398 tether influence as summarized in Table S2 (see Movie S1 for examples of annotated footage).

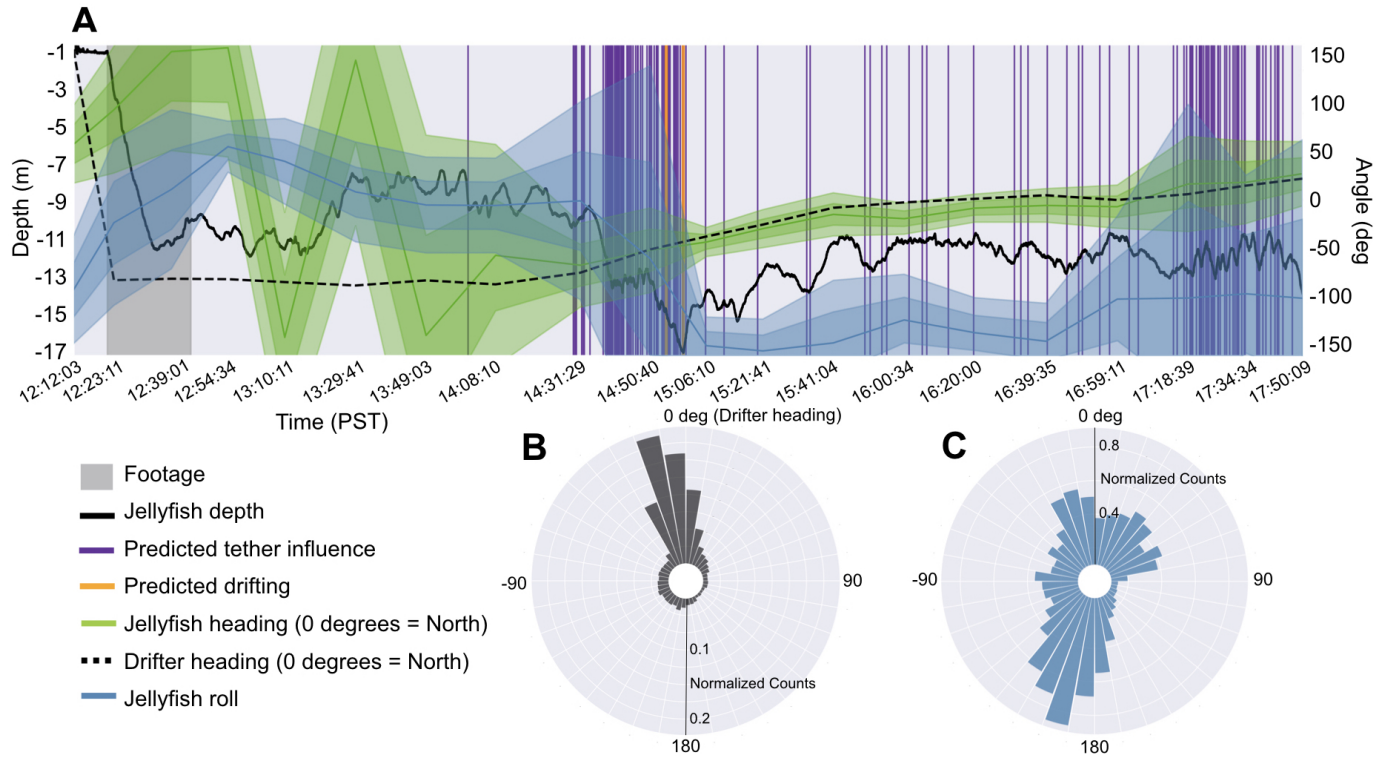
399 Drifting behavior was observed in 5 deployments, and ranged from 0.5% to 4.3% of the time.
400 Tether influence was also observed in 5 deployments (0.35% to 28.6%).



401 **Figure 1. Photos of the in situ protocol and tag axis definitions.** Protocol consisted of
402 transferring collected jellyfish to staging tub (A), drying the attachment site with absorbent towels
403 (B), gently affixing tethered ITAG with VetBond (C), deploying SPOT drifter and drogue (D),
404 deploying BlueROV with mounted GoPro (E), and gently releasing tagged jellyfish and tracking it
405 with the BlueROV (F-G). (H) Definitions for positive x, y, and z tag axes, and positive heading,
406 roll, and pitch angle.



407 **Figure 2. *In situ* deployment trajectories, effects of tether influence, and precision-recall curve**
408 **of activity classifier.** (A) Trajectories for the three deployment dates. Underlined times (PDT)
409 denote deployment start; italicized times denote when tag was recovered; remaining times
410 denote when tag stopped recording. (B) Maximum ODBA and (C) total orientation change over
411 annotated tether-influenced and uninfluenced periods. (D) Cross-validation precision-recall
412 curves of the activity classifier, and precision and recall using the equal error rate threshold.



413 **Figure 3. Fine-scale orientation and predicted activity of deployment S2-2.** (A) Estimated
414 heading and roll, and predicted tether influence and drifting, over entire deployment. Shaded
415 regions denote one and two standard deviations around mean. Note that the 1-pixel-width vertical
416 lines are disproportionately wide, as each predicted event only lasts a few seconds. (B) Radial
417 histogram of jellyfish heading relative to the drifter heading at zero, and (C) jellyfish roll angle
418 throughout deployment.

419 Jellyfish Behavior Classification

420 Jellyfish Behaviors Influenced by Tether

421 The tether-influence classifier had a cross-validation (CV) AUPRC of 0.860 (SE = 0.032), and using
422 the equal error rate (EER) threshold had a CV precision of 86.1% (SE = 5.3%), recall of 73.5% (SE =
423 3.8%), and accuracy of 97.6% (SE = 0.4%). In order of selection by SFS, the features were 1)
424 spectral energy of DA_x over 8 Hz, 2) mean y-z PD_{BA}, 3) number of peaks in the y-z PD_{BA}, and 4)
425 max DA_x. After these four, SFS found no additional features that appreciably improved
426 performance.

427 We used the tether-influence classifier to classify each unannotated *in situ* period as
428 influenced or uninfluenced. Table S3 shows the proportion of each deployment classified as
429 influenced, which ranged from 3.3% to 35.1%.

430 To understand how the tether influenced *in situ* behavior, we evaluated how normalized
431 ODBA and orientation change differed between annotated uninfluenced and influenced periods
432 (Fig. 2B, C). The maximum normalized ODBA over influenced periods (median 2.05) tended to be
433 larger than that of uninfluenced periods (median 1.27; Mann-Whitney U test, two-sided $p < 1e-4$).
434 Similarly, orientation change tended to be greater over influenced periods (median 30.8 degrees)
435 than over uninfluenced periods (median 5.6 degrees; Mann-Whitney U test, two-sided $p < 1e-4$).
436 That is, jellyfish exhibited greater ODBA and more severe orientation changes when influenced
437 by the tether.

438 **Jellyfish Swimming Activity**

439 The activity classifier had a CV AUPRC of 0.746 (SE = 0.047), and using the EER threshold had a
440 CV precision of 74.3% (SE = 4.9%), recall of 76.4% (SE = 2.7%), and accuracy of 99.0% (SE = 0.1%).
441 Fig. 2D demonstrates the average CV PR curve used to identify the EER threshold. The features,
442 in order of selection by SFS, were 1) number of peaks in the PVAV, 2) sparsity of the PVAV
443 spectrum, and 3) sparsity of the PDBA spectrum.

444 Note that since drifting occupied only 1.9% of the annotated periods, a simple majority
445 prediction rule has an accuracy of 98.1%. The other metrics therefore give more insight into
446 whether the classifier actually learns discriminative information about the categories, rather than
447 simply which category is more common. In comparison to our method, the baseline of ODBA
448 thresholding had an AUPRC of 0.585 (SE = 0.056) and, with the EER threshold, a precision of
449 68.9% (SE = 9.3%), recall of 49.9% (SE = 3.5%), and accuracy of 98.6% (SE = 0.1%). Training our
450 classifier without gyroscope features, and only with accelerometry features, gave an AUPRC of
451 0.679 (SE = 0.027), and precision of 73.9% (SE = 4.6%), recall of 58.0% (SE = 7.8%), and accuracy of
452 98.7% (SE = 0.1%) with the EER threshold.

453 We used our method to classify each unannotated *in situ* period as swimming or drifting,
454 which provided estimates of how much time each jellyfish spent for each activity. We first
455 removed periods predicted to be tether-influenced, so that our estimates are restricted to data
456 representative of natural behavior. The proportion of uninfluenced time each jellyfish was
457 classified as drifting ranged between 0% and 5.6% (Table S3), with the exception of deployment
458 S1-1 (19.1%) which also experienced frequent tether influence (both annotated and predicted). We

459 can then combine the outputs of the influence classifier, activity classifier, and orientation
460 estimation (again, restricted to periods predicted as uninfluenced) to visualize fine-scale
461 information about *in situ* behavior over several hours (Fig. 3).

462 **Classifier Trained on *In Situ* vs. Laboratory Data**

463 When trained and evaluated only on laboratory data, the activity classifier had a CV AUPRC of
464 0.894 (SE = 0.067) and, using the EER threshold, precision of 87.4% (SE = 6.1%), recall of 90.3% (SE
465 = 4.4%), and accuracy of 99.4% (SE = 0.2%). However, predictions made by this classifier on the
466 annotated *in situ* data had an accuracy of 96.3%, precision of 0%, and recall of 0%. We emphasize
467 that this means none of the periods classified as drifting were truly drifting, and none of the
468 drifting periods were correctly classified. Similarly, ODBA thresholding had an optimistic AUPRC
469 of 0.864 (SE = 0.047), precision of 78.2% (SE = 6.3%), recall of 81.1% (SE 4.0%), and accuracy of
470 99.1% (SE = 0.1%) when CV was performed only on laboratory data. However, predictions on
471 annotated *in situ* data had an accuracy of 90.8%, precision of 0%, and recall of 0%.

472 ***In Situ* vs. Laboratory Behavior**

473 The maximum normalized ODBA of uninfluenced laboratory periods (median 1.98) tended to be
474 greater than that of *in situ* uninfluenced periods (median 1.27; Mann-Whitney U test, two-sided $p <$
475 $1e-4$). Orientation change also tended to be greater over uninfluenced laboratory periods (median
476 11.6 degrees) than over uninfluenced *in situ* periods (median 5.6 degrees; Mann Whitney U test,
477 two-sided $p < 1e-4$). Note that test tank walls were not responsible for turning behavior, since the
478 tether length prevented jellyfish from reaching the walls.

479 **Discussion**

480 Our work provides a pipeline for interpreting fine-scale *in situ* behavior of a zooplankton species
481 (*Chrysaora fuscescens*) over long durations. Our approach of combining biologging with
482 supervised ML methods yields records of *in situ* activity and orientation of individual jellyfish for
483 several hours (up to 10 h so far), and may include the first successful *in situ* deployments of
484 magnetometers and gyroscopes on jellyfish. Using our activity classifier, our estimates of animals'
485 *in situ* swimming activity on unannotated durations (on average 96.4% of the time; Table S3) is
486 compatible with swimming in our annotated footage (on average 98.7% of behavior not annotated
487 as unknown; Table S2). These long periods of sustained swimming with limited bouts of drifting

488 are consistent with activity budget estimates of other oblate jellyfish (Colin et al., 2003; Costello
489 et al., 1998), whose rowing mode of propulsion has been shown to be energy-efficient (Dabiri et
490 al., 2010; Gemmell et al., 2018). In spite of tether influence, uninfluenced periods of data also
491 revealed that tagged animals underwent stereotypical vertical excursions (Fig. 3A; Hays et al.,
492 2012). Though future studies of fine-scale zooplankton behavior would be best conducted with
493 tetherless tag retrieval methods, our approach provides a reasonably precise solution for
494 detecting this influence and removing it, since it may compromise findings on *in situ* energetics
495 and orientation (Fig. 2B, C; Fossette et al., 2015; Hays et al., 2008).

496 Our findings also highlight the importance of collecting *in situ* biologging data, rather than
497 captive laboratory data, for developing behavioral classification methods. An assumption
498 fundamental to justifying the deployment of machine learning (ML) methods, is that the data seen
499 during training and inference are drawn from the same underlying distribution (Pan and Yang,
500 2010; Sugiyama et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2013). Classifiers for interpreting accelerometry data,
501 however, have been overwhelmingly trained and validated on laboratory data (Carroll et al.,
502 2014). In doing this, these studies implicitly assume that behavioral data generated in the
503 laboratory is distributionally similar to *in situ* behavioral data. Our findings suggest that this
504 assumption has limited applicability, even for organisms displaying simple behaviors like
505 swimming or drifting. First, basic descriptive statistics differed significantly between laboratory
506 and *in situ* data: jellyfish pulses induced greater orientation changes and greater ODBA in the
507 laboratory than *in situ*. Second, the activity classifier trained and validated solely on laboratory
508 data had optimistic estimates of precision and recall, but performed poorly with zero precision
509 and recall when evaluated on *in situ* data. We highlight this as a cautionary tale against naively
510 deploying ML classifiers developed on laboratory data in the field. As biologging moves forward,
511 methods involving technologies that capture the behavioral ground truth of *in situ* data, such as
512 camera tags, are strongly encouraged.

513 Our work also underscores the limitations of ODBA in characterizing even simple *in situ*
514 behaviors. ODBA thresholding yielded zero precision and recall in classifying *in situ* swimming
515 and drifting, but performed reasonably well when trained and evaluated on laboratory activity.
516 This suggests that the standard way of computing ODBA may not be robust to dynamic and
517 unpredictable sources of noise in *in situ* data (Shepard et al., 2008). Beyond accelerometry, our
518 results also show that leveraging information from other sensors (e.g. gyroscope) can improve *in*
519 *situ* behavioral classification considerably. Looking forward, our methods open the door to
520 investigating more complex questions about fine-scale zooplankton behavior, such as how these

521 species orient themselves in a current, whether they exhibit rolling behavior or lateral
522 preferences (Fig. 3), and whether their behavioral patterns distinguish them from passive drifters.

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705 **Supplementary Information**

706 **Table S1. Summary of laboratory and *in situ* deployments of ITAG on *Chrysaora fuscescens***

Test tank	Animal ID	Date deployed	Tag ID	Tag data (sec)	Video footage (sec)	Drogue depth (m)	Location collected	Date collected
	T1-1	18/05/18	e2	2321	1916	N/A	36.7968, -121.8298	18/05/18
	T2-1	18/05/21	b7	4562	2866	N/A	36.7968, -121.8298	18/05/18
	T2-2	18/05/21	e2	3110	3004	N/A	36.7968, -121.8298	18/05/18
	T3-1	18/05/31	b7	4257	4044	N/A	36.86749, -121.90273.	18/04/06
<i>In situ</i>							Location deployed	Time deployed (PST)
	S1-1	18/04/24	24	23479	264	5	36.8315 -121.8767	10:42am
	S1-2	18/04/24	3c	2166	614	None	36.8355, -121.8750	11:50am
	S1-3	18/04/24	e2	20571	789	9	36.8383, -121.8759	12:43pm
	S2-1	18/05/14	24	16893	1619	9	36.8243, -121.9247	11:00am
	S2-2	18/05/14	e2	19464	1374	9	36.8219,	12:21pm

							-121.9234	
	S3-1	18/05/17	e2	10289	1332	9	36.8397, -121.8854	12:42pm
	S3-2	18/05/17	24	2484	0	9	36.8333, -121.8827	1:52pm
	S3-3	18/05/17	b7	36400	975	9	36.8302, -121.8790	2:21pm

707 Footnotes: During the S3-2 deployment, the ROV lost track of the jellyfish almost immediately
 708 after release due to strong currents and no viable footage of behavior was recorded. In four out
 709 of the eight deployments (S1-1, S1-3, S3-1, and S3-2), the tag was still attached to the jellyfish at
 710 the time of retrieval. In the remaining four deployments (S1-2, S2-1, S2-2, and S3-3), the jellyfish
 711 was no longer attached.

712 **Table S2. Summary of test tank and *in situ* video footage annotations**

Test tank	Animal ID	Total annotated footage (sec)	Behavior			Tether Influence			Unannotated tag data after footage (min)
			Drift (sec)	Swim (sec)	Unknown (sec)	Taut tether (sec)	Slack tether (sec)	Unknown (sec)	
	T1-1	1916	0	1916 (100%)	0	1093 (57.0%)	816 (42.6%)	7 (0.4%)	N/A
	T2-1	2866	55 (1.9%)	2811 (98.1%)	0	575 (20.1%)	2253 (78.6%)	38 (1.3%)	N/A
	T2-2	3004	4 (0.1%)	3000 (99.9%)	0	550 (18.3%)	2454 (81.7%)	0	N/A

	T3-1	4044	311 (7.7%)	3733 (92.3%)	0	0	4044 (100%)	0	N/A
Total test tank		11830	370 (3.1%)	11460 (96.9%)	0	2218 (18.7%)	9567 (80.9%)	45 (0.4%)	N/A
<i>In situ</i>	S1-1	154	0	154 (100%)	0	24 (15.6%)	102 (66.2%)	28 (18.2%)	388
	S1-2	590	3 (0.5%)	350 (59.3%)	237 (40.2%)	25 (4.2%)	136 (23.1%)	429 (72.7%)	37
	S1-3	653	5 (0.8%)	631 (96.6%)	17 (2.6%)	127 (19.4%)	207 (31.7%)	319 (48.9%)	339
	S2-1	1431	7 (0.5%)	1415 (98.9%)	9 (0.6%)	0	727 (50.8%)	704 (49.2%)	262
	S2-2	1347	0	1347 (100%)	0	0	1285 (95.4%)	62 (4.6%)	311
	S3-1	1158	31 (2.7%)	1116 (96.4%)	11 (0.9%)	69 (6.0%)	285 (24.6%)	804 (69.4%)	146
	S3-2	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	54
	S3-3	762	33 (4.3%)	721 (94.6%)	8 (1.0%)	80 (10.5%)	83 (10.9%)	599 (78.6%)	590
Total <i>in situ</i>		6095	79 (1.3%)	5734 (94.1%)	282 (4.6%)	325 (5.3%)	2825 (46.3%)	2945 (48.3%)	2127

713 **Table S3. Tether-influence and activity classification results for individual jellyfish**

Deployment ID	Representative pulse frequency (pulses/sec)	Unannotated data* classified as influenced	Unannotated data* classified as drifting (out of time classified as uninfluenced)
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S1-1	0.260	35.1%	19.1%
S1-2	0.487	21.2%	0%
S1-3	0.615	6.0%	0.9%
S2-1	0.520	3.3%	0%
S2-2	0.466	5.0%	0.1%
S3-1	0.275	28.2%	5.6%
S3-2	0.422	9.8%	0.6%
S3-3	0.380	11.4%	2.7%

714 * Rightmost column of Table S2.

715 **Movie S1. Examples of annotated *in situ* and laboratory footage.** In order, uninfluenced *in situ*
716 swimming, tether-influenced *in situ* swimming, *in situ* swimming with unknown tether status,
717 uninfluenced *in situ* drifting, tether-influenced *in situ* drifting, and swimming and drifting in the
718 MBARI Test Tank.