

An underwater photograph of a kelp forest. The water is a clear, vibrant blue. Numerous kelp plants with long, feathery fronds are visible, some reaching towards the surface. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the title and course information.

KELP SEGMENTATION

AI 3011: Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition

The Problem

Climate Change Mitigation:

Kelp and other ocean algae generate 50-85% of Earth's oxygen. [2]

Human benefit: Kelp forests generate over US\$500 billion annually. [1]

Temperature Sensitivity: Kelp faces critical threats from climate change, overfishing, and unsustainable harvesting practices.

Thus, there is a need to monitor Kelp.

Literature Review: Models Employed

DCGAN + CNN

- **Dataset:** NDAWI values from Sentinel-2 remote sensing images amplified by DCGAN.
- **Optimal Results:**
Overall accuracy = 94.68%
kappa = 0.913
- Amplified images classified by UNet, DeepLabv3, and SegNet.
- DCGAN amplification increased OA by 4.43%, kappa by 0.032, and Precision by 4%

$$\text{kappa} = \frac{2 \cdot (TP \cdot TN) \cdot (FP \cdot FN)}{(TP + FP) \cdot (FP + TN) \cdot (TP + FN) \cdot (FN + TN)}$$

Mask R-CNN

- **Dataset:** Satellite imagery (Landsat Thematic Mapper) with cloud and landmass masks
- **Hyperparameters:** Learning rate and anchor size.
- **Optimal Results:**
Jaccard's index: 0.87 ± 0.07 .
Dice index: 0.93 ± 0.04
- Cost-efficient and less time-consuming approaches for long-term marine ecological monitoring

$$\text{Jaccard Index} = A \cap B / A \cup B$$

Literature Review: Why CNNs?

- CNNs can automatically learn and extract relevant features from the image data itself, unlike traditional methods that rely on manually designed feature extractors.
- This makes CNNs well-suited for the complex task of identifying the distinct floating canopy patterns of kelp forests.
- CNNs can leverage data augmentation techniques like rotating, flipping, rescaling images to artificially increase the training data, which the paper shows improves kelp detection performance by reducing overfitting.
- The hierarchical, multi-layer architecture of CNNs makes them highly effective at capturing the complex spatial patterns and shapes characteristic of floating kelp canopy distributions visible in satellite images.

Literature Review: Vegetation Indices

Index	Abbreviation	Formula	Author and Year
Normalized Difference Vegetation Index	NDVI	$\frac{(NIR - R)}{(NIR + R)}$	Rouse et al., 1974
Atmospherically Resistant Vegetation Index	ARVI	$\frac{(NIR - RB)}{(NIR + RB)}$ $RB = R - \gamma(B - R)$	Kaufman and Tanré, 1992
Redness Index	RI	$\frac{(R - G)}{(R + G)}$	Escadafal and Huete, 1991
Transformed Vegetation Index	TVI	$\frac{(NDVI + 0.5)}{ NDVI + 0.5 } \sqrt{ NDVI + 0.5 }$	Perry and Lautenschlager, 1984
Differenced Vegetation Index	DVI	$(NIR - R)$	Clevers, 1986

A. Bannari, D. Morin, F. Bonn, and A. R. Huete, "A review of vegetation indices," Remote Sensing Reviews, vol. 13, no. 1-2, pp. 95-120, aug 1995.

Index	Abbreviation	Formula	Author and Year
Normalised Difference Water Index	NDWI	$\frac{G - NIR}{G + NIR}$	Gao (1996)
Chlorophyll Index	CI	$\frac{G}{R}$	Xu (2006)
Modified Normalized Difference Water Index	MNDWI	$\frac{G - SWIR}{G + SWIR}$	Abrams (1998)

DATASET

Image Format: (350x350) px, TIFF, 30m resolution

RED

GREEN

BLUE

NEAR
INFRARED (NIR)

SHORTWAVE
INFRARED

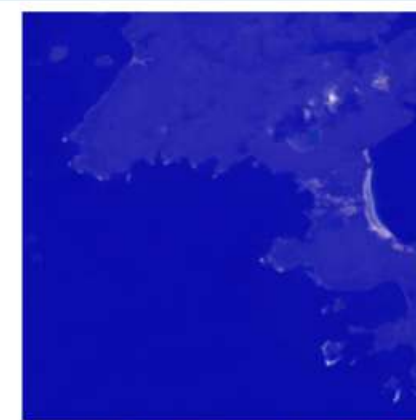
CLOUD MASK

DIGITAL
ELEVATION
MAP

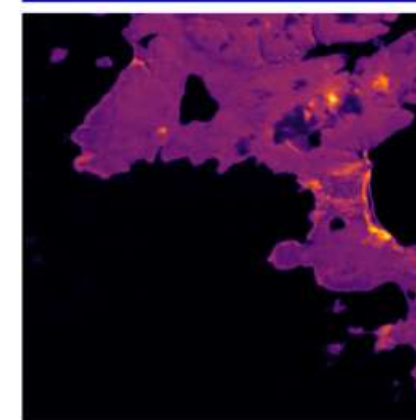
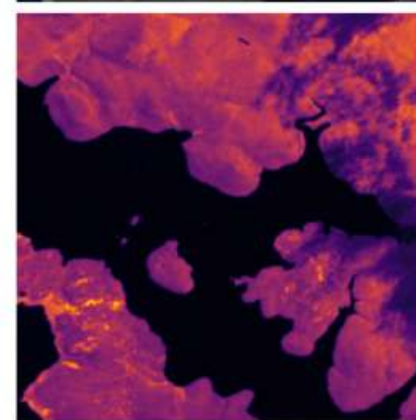
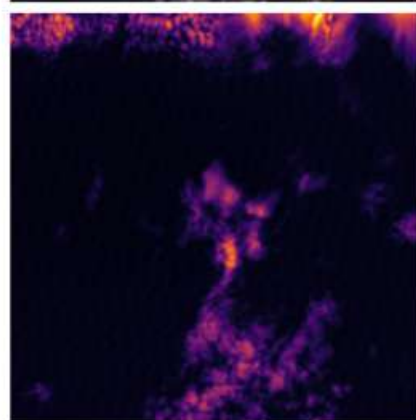
PIXEL-WISE
LABEL

Dataset Sample

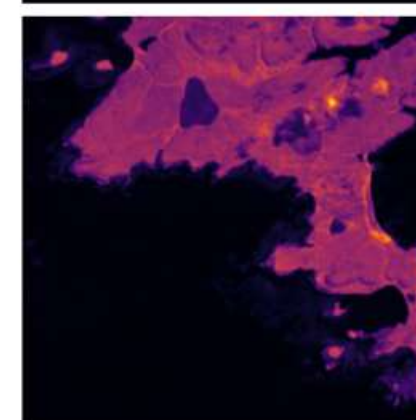
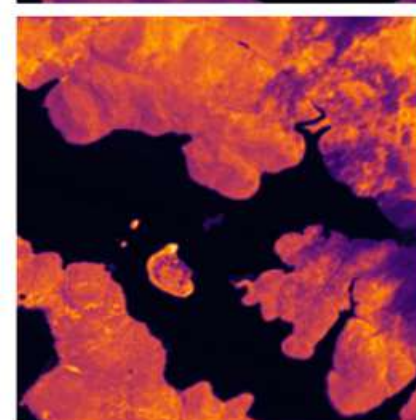
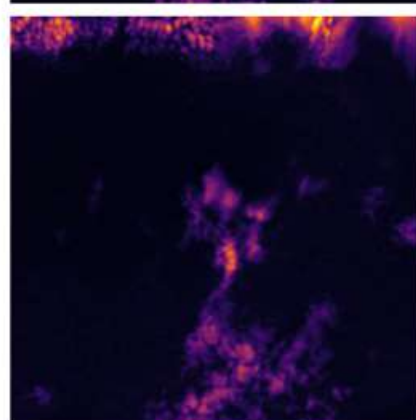
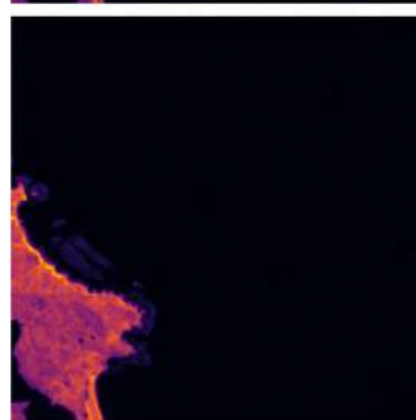
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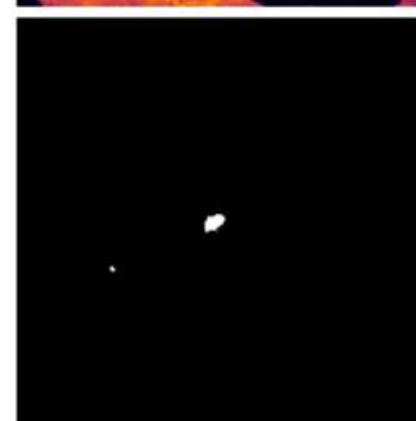
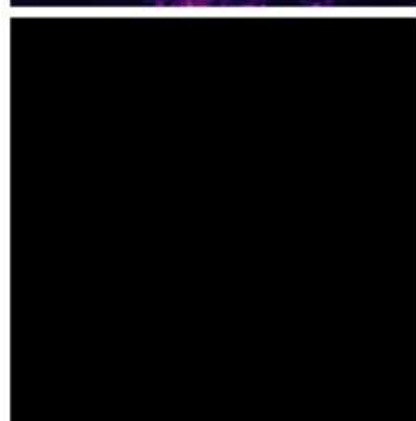
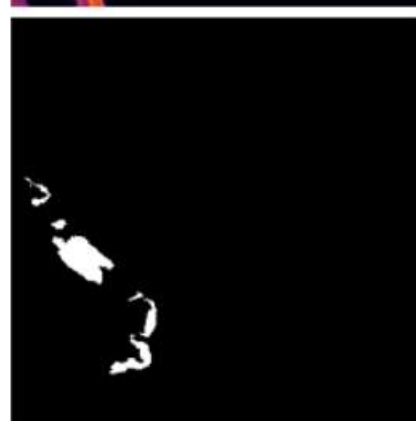
NIR



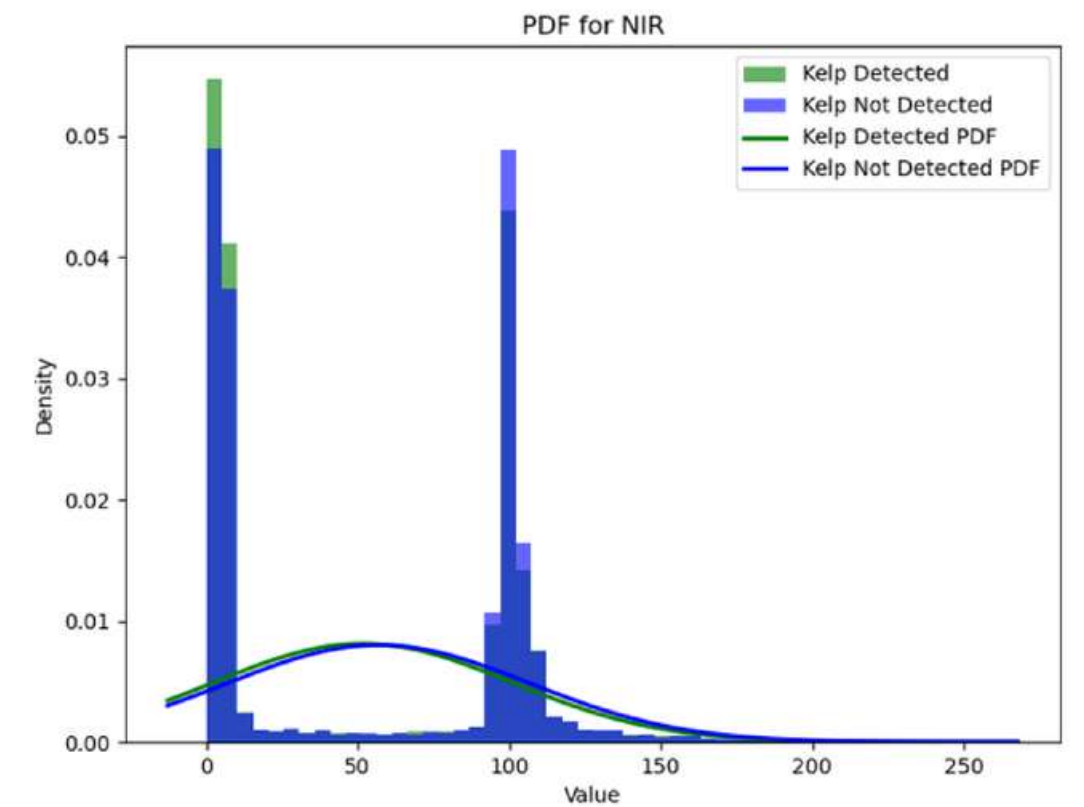
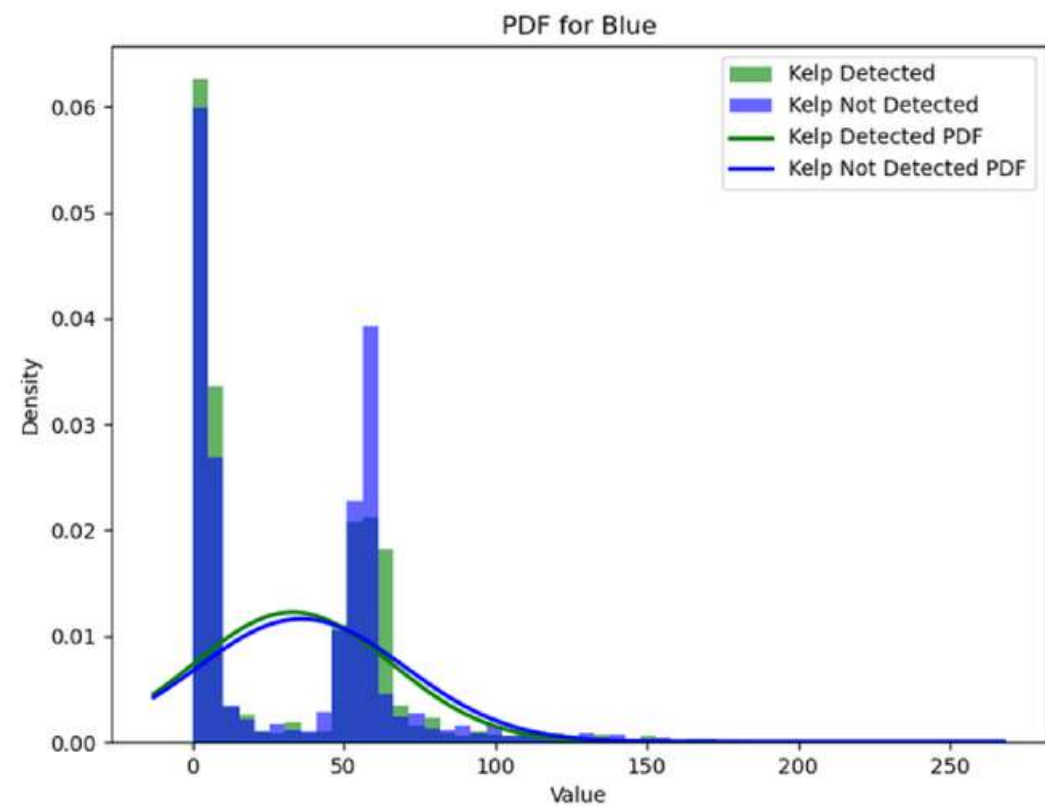
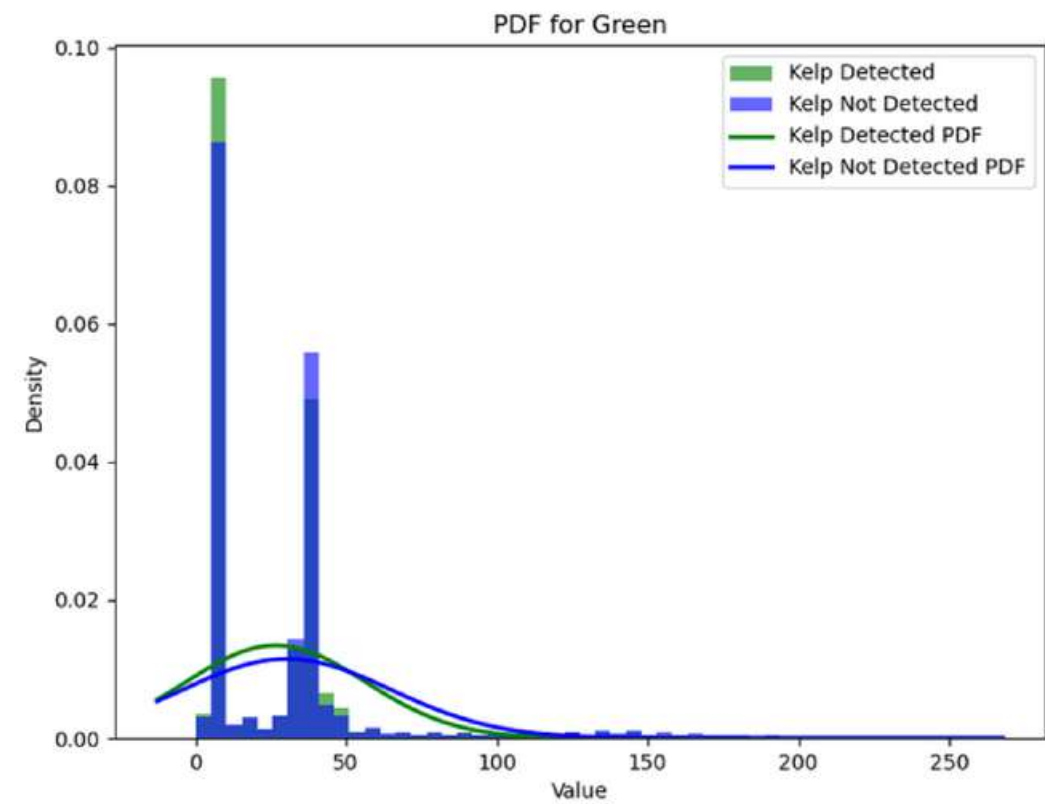
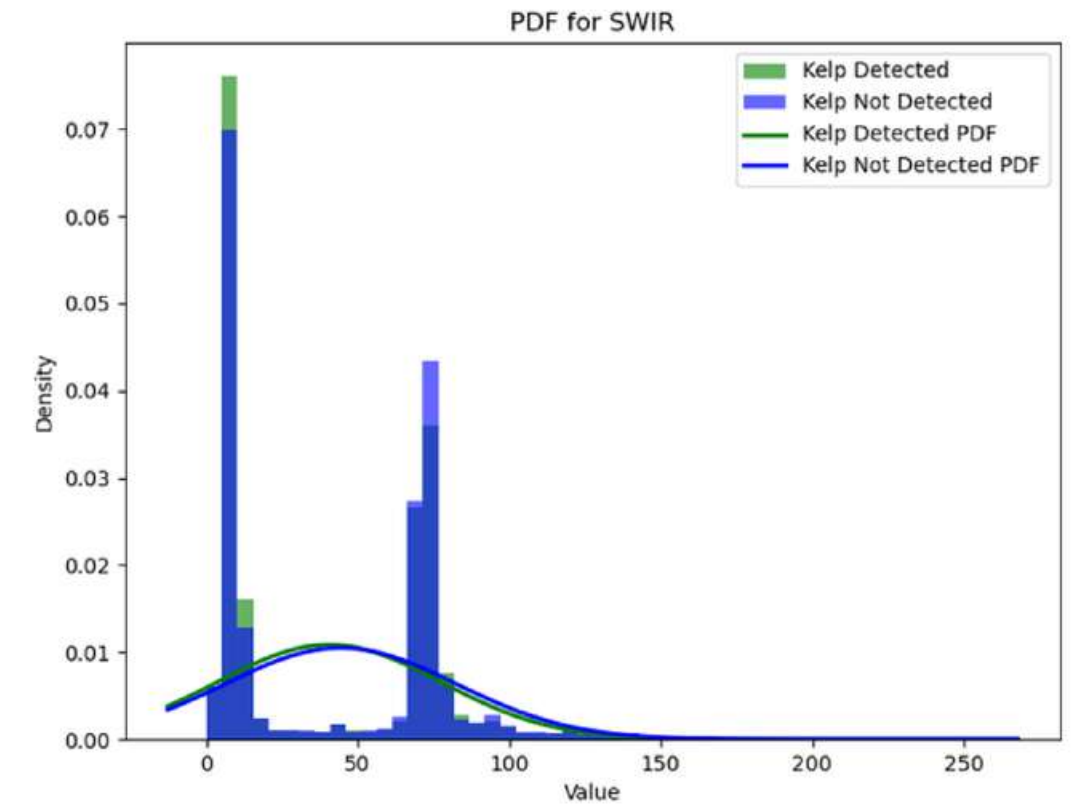
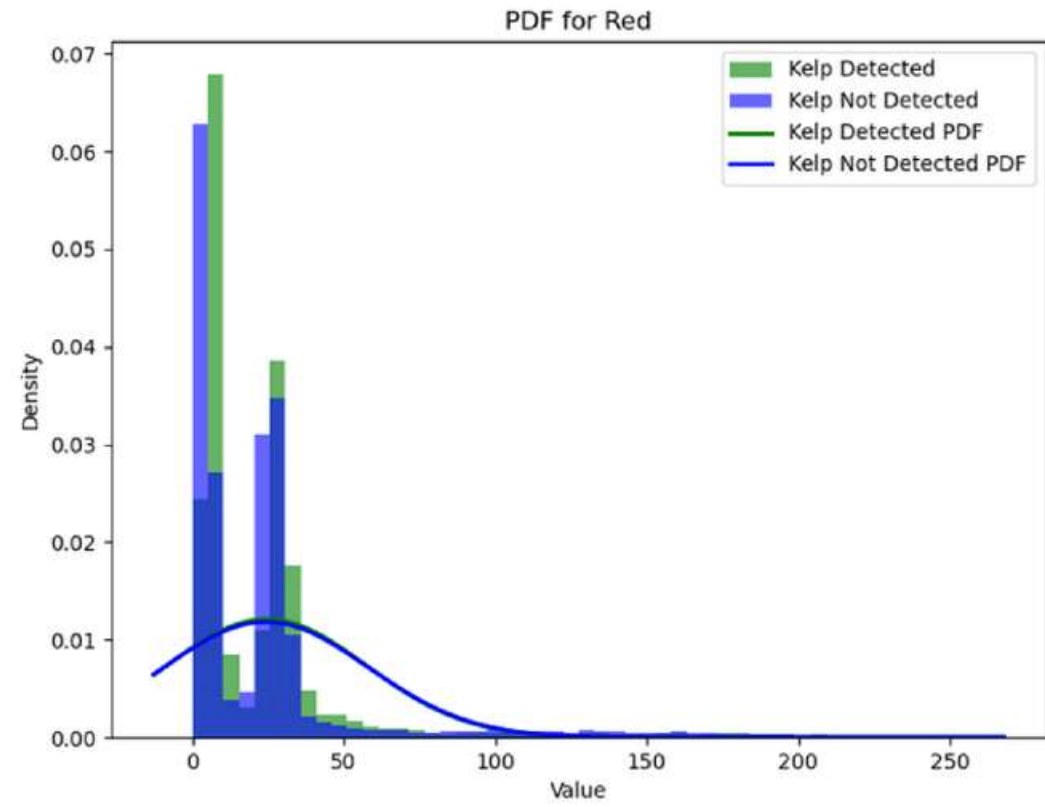
SWIR



Label

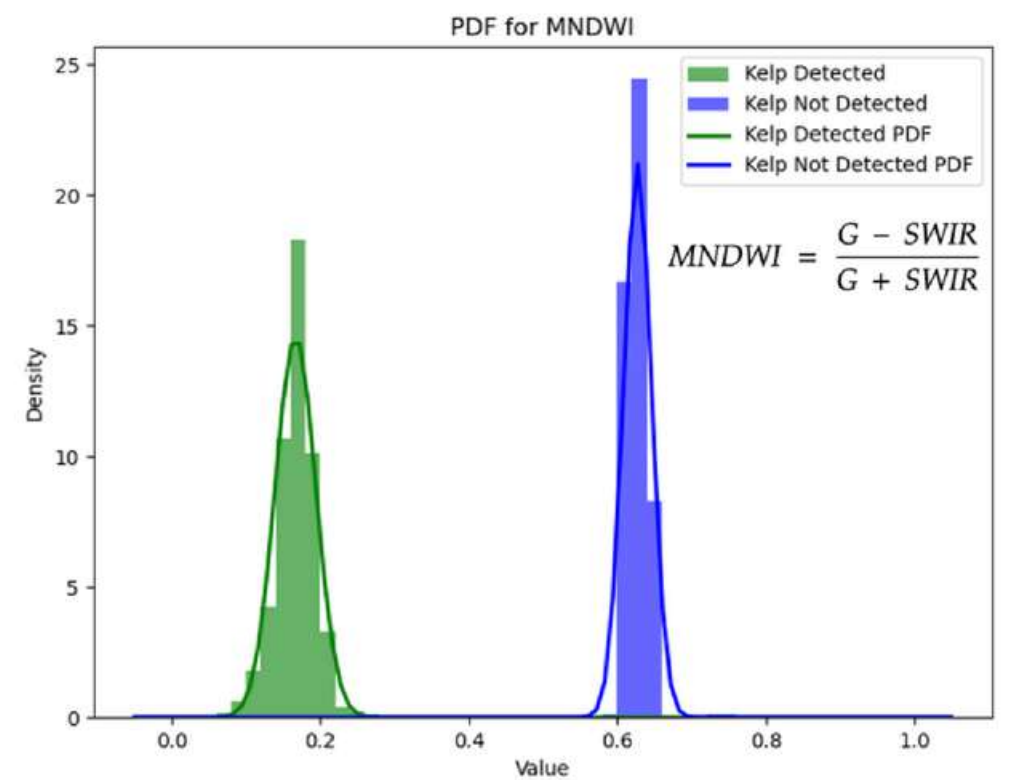
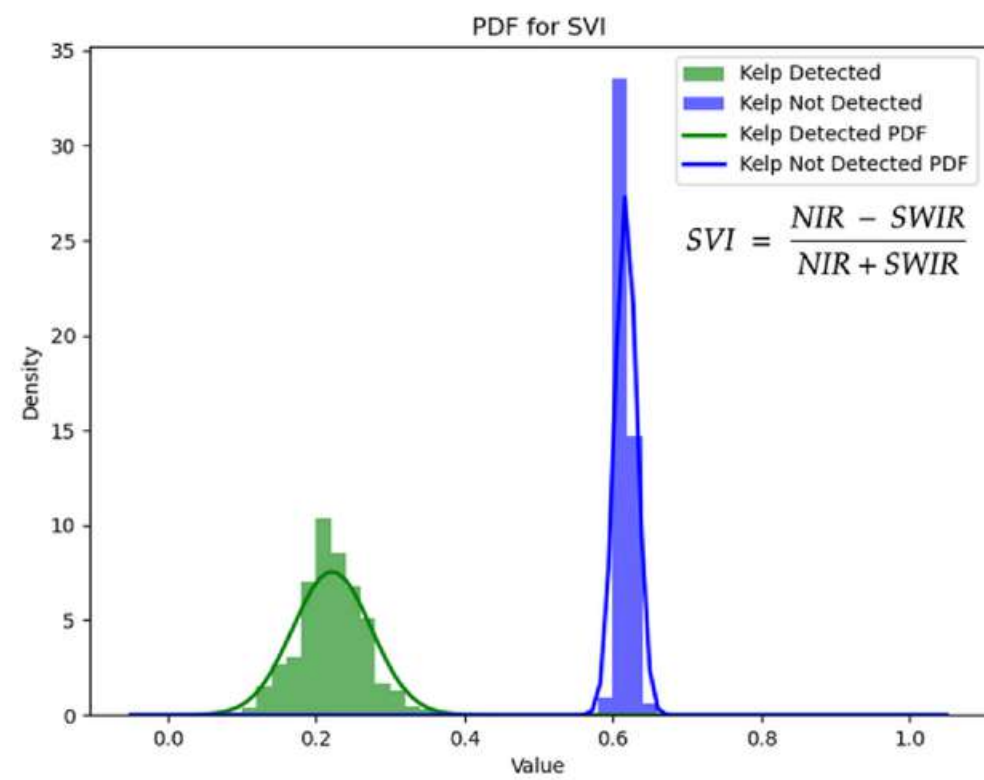
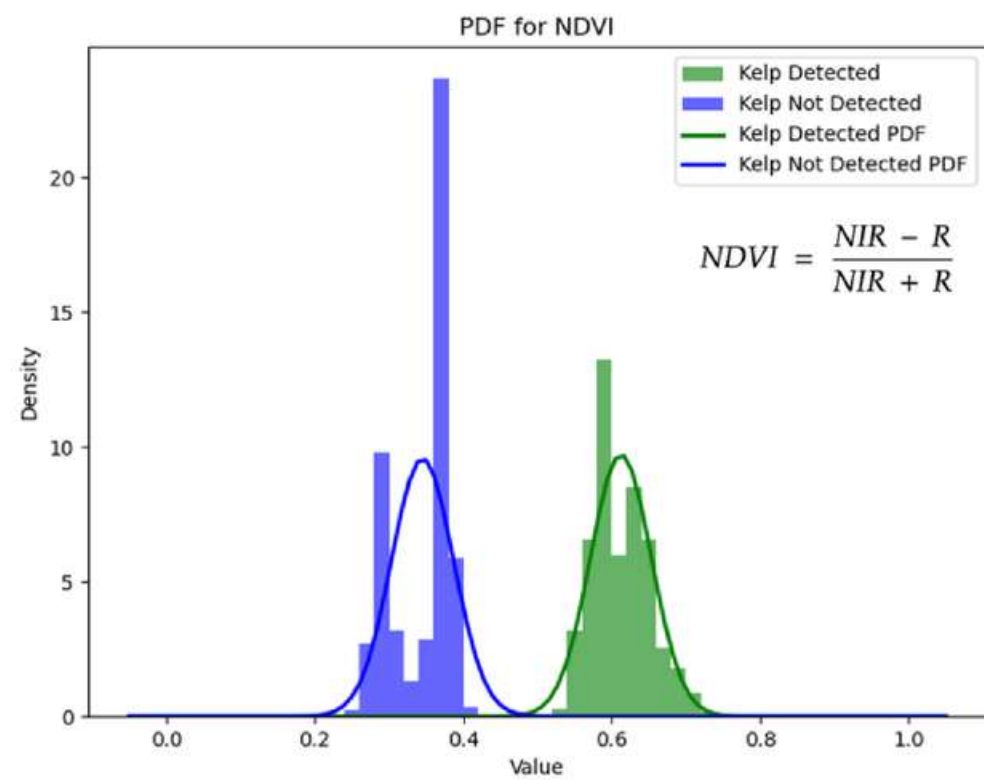
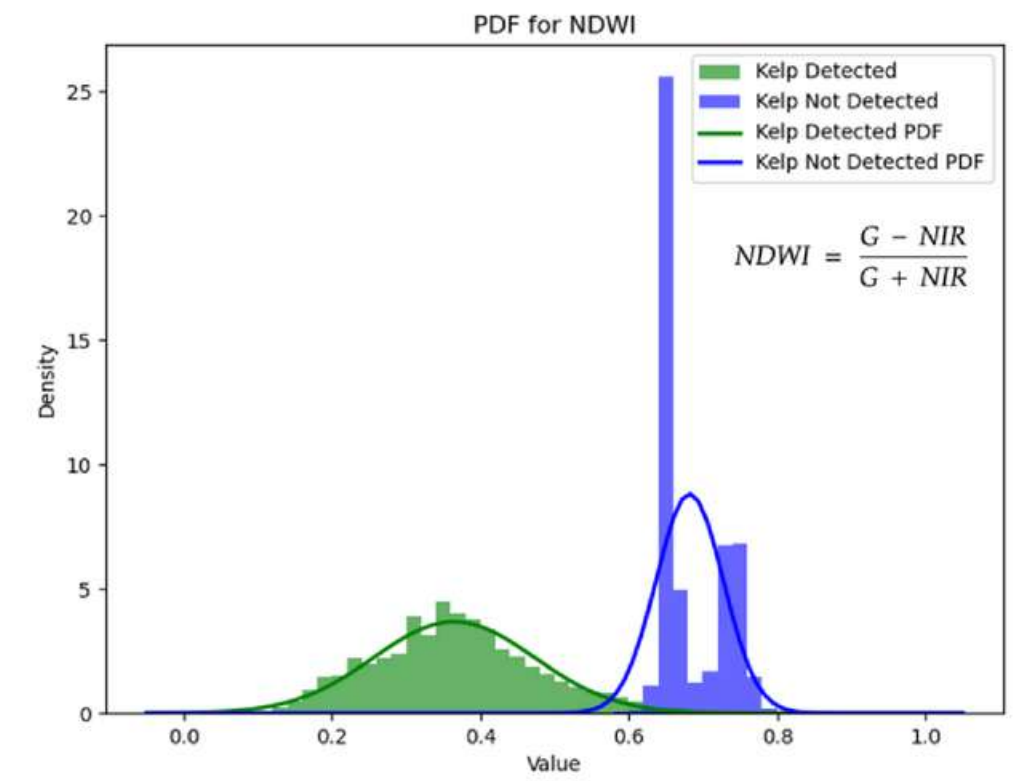
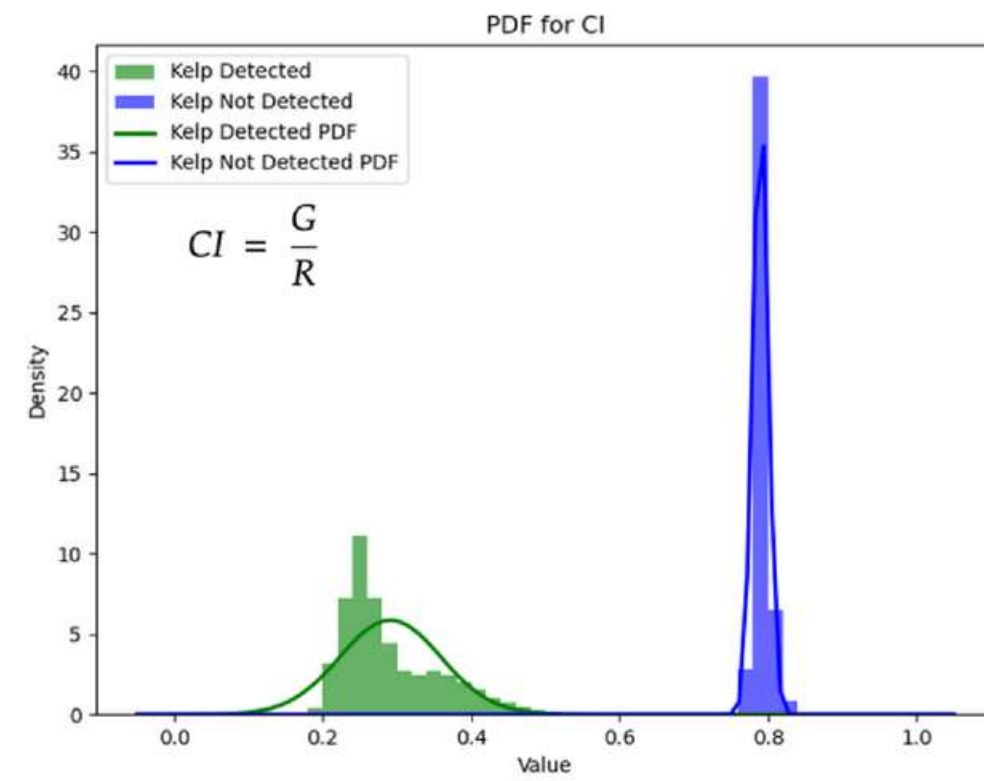
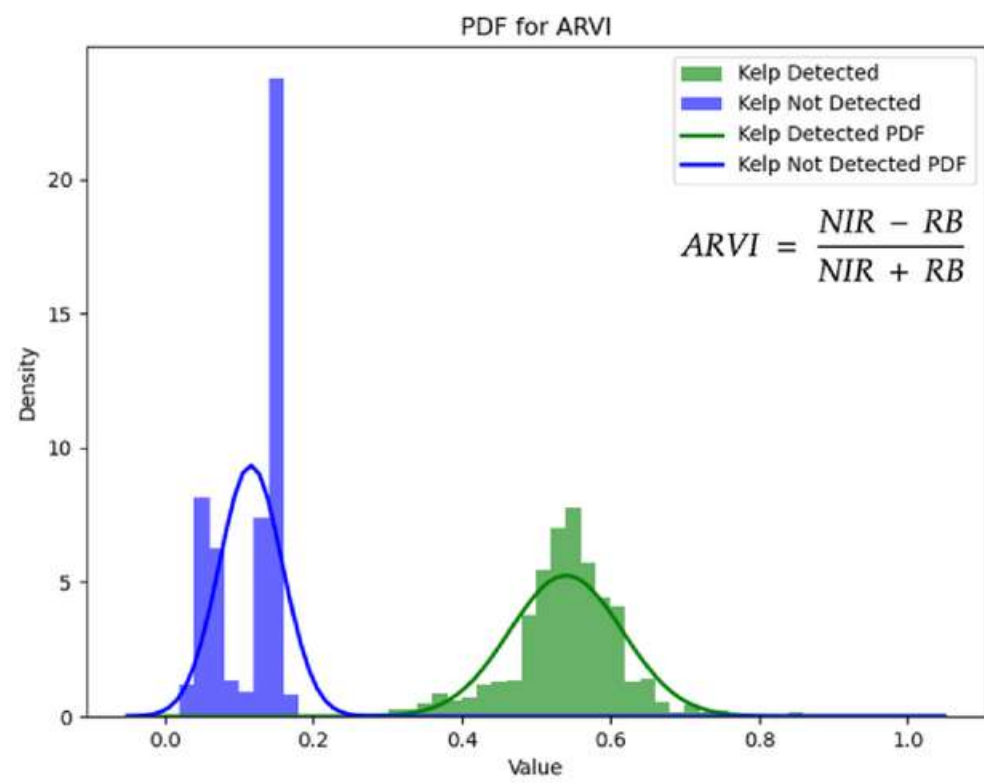


Probability density functions of absence and presence of Kelp



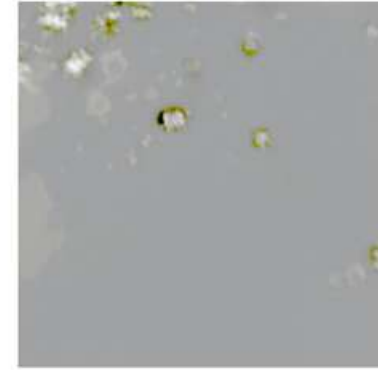
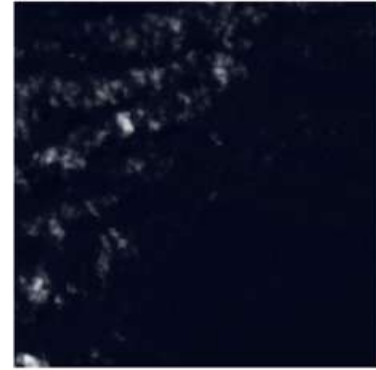
FEATURES EXTRACTED

- **Atmospherically Resistant Vegetation Index (ARVI)**
- **Chlorophyll Index (CI)**
- **Spectral Vegetation Index (SVI)**
- **Modified Normalized Difference Water Index (MNDWI)**
- **Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI)**
- **Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)**

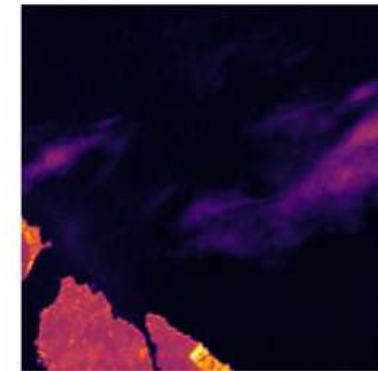
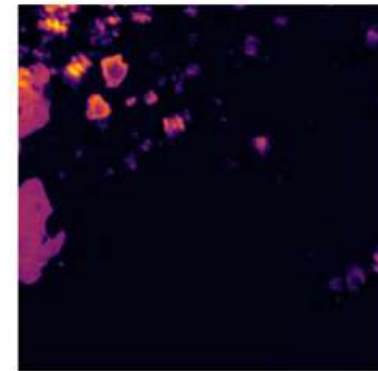
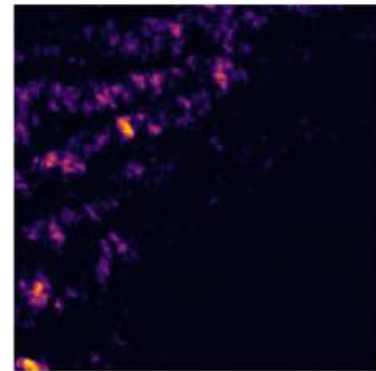
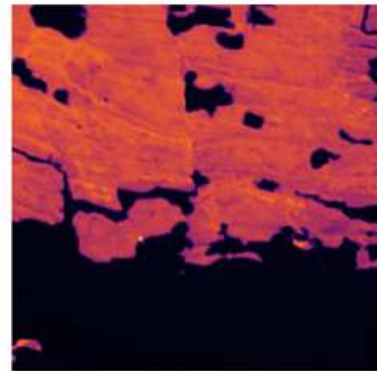


Pre-Processed Images

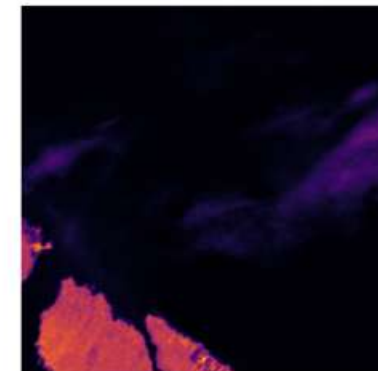
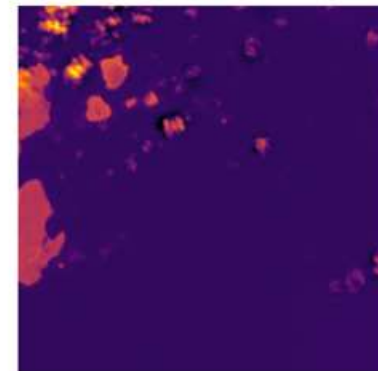
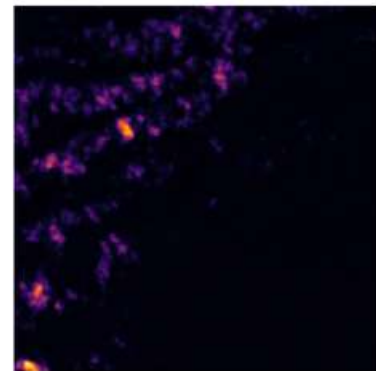
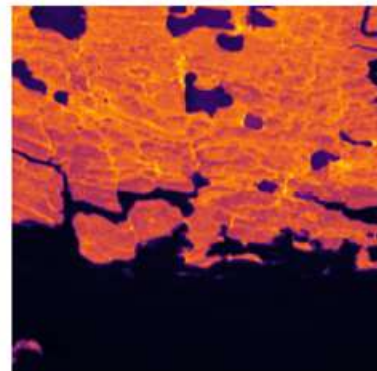
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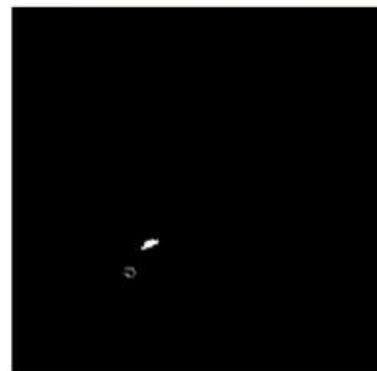
NDVI



NDWI

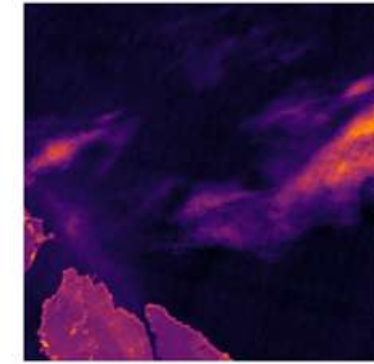
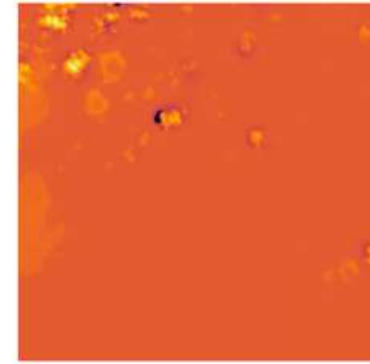
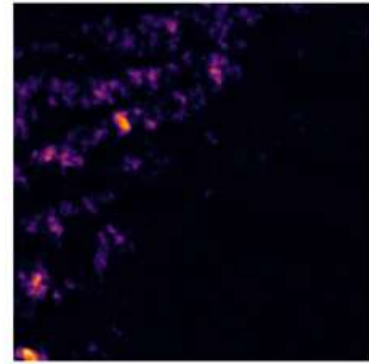
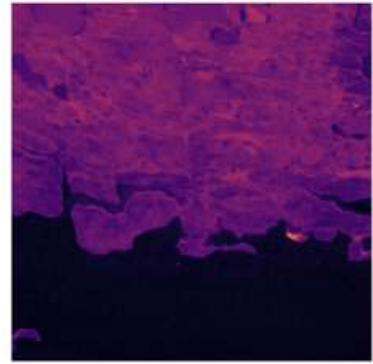


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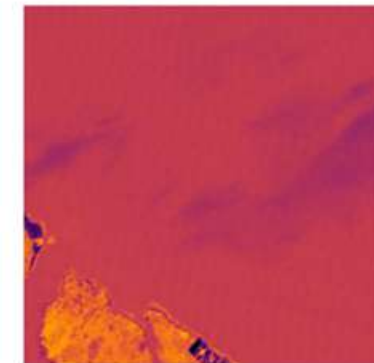
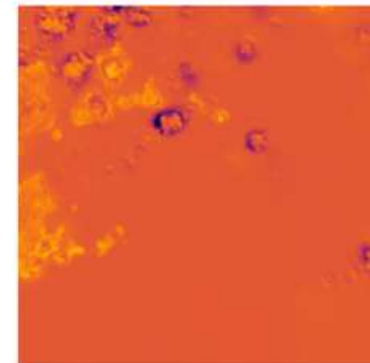
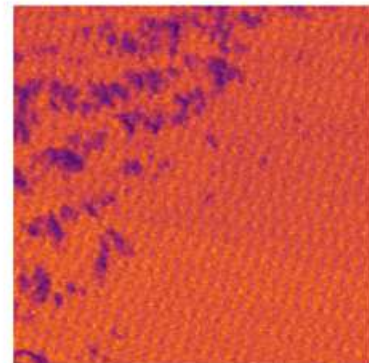
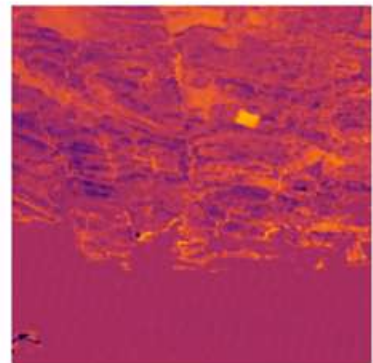


Pre-Processed Images

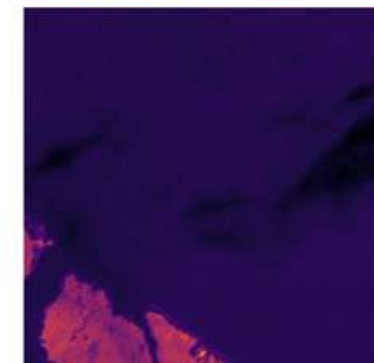
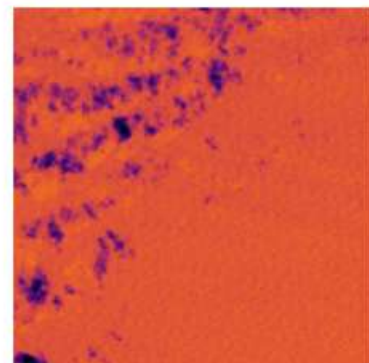
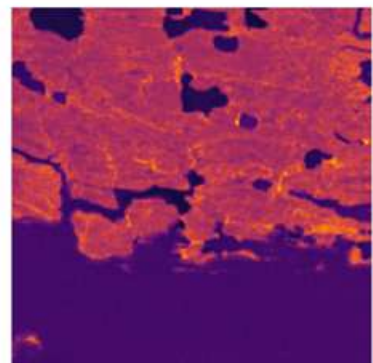
MNDWI



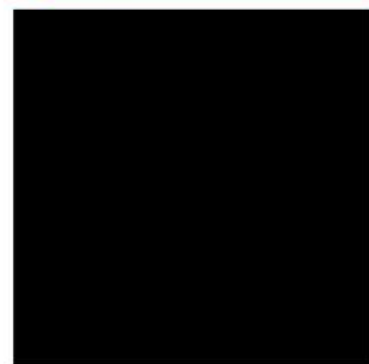
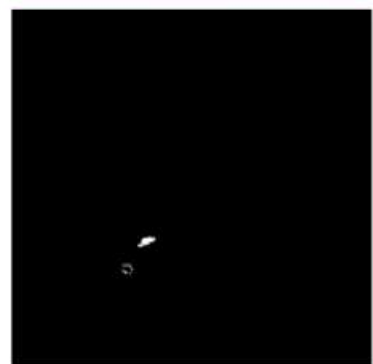
SVI



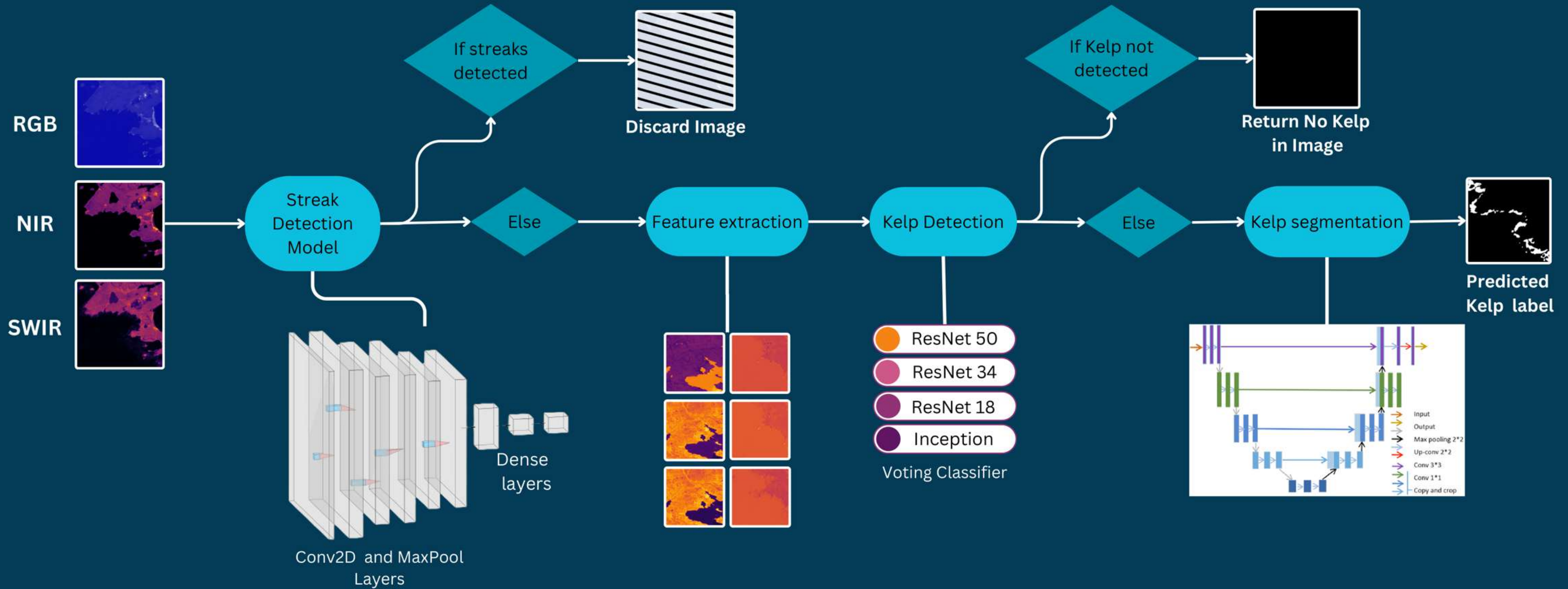
ARVI



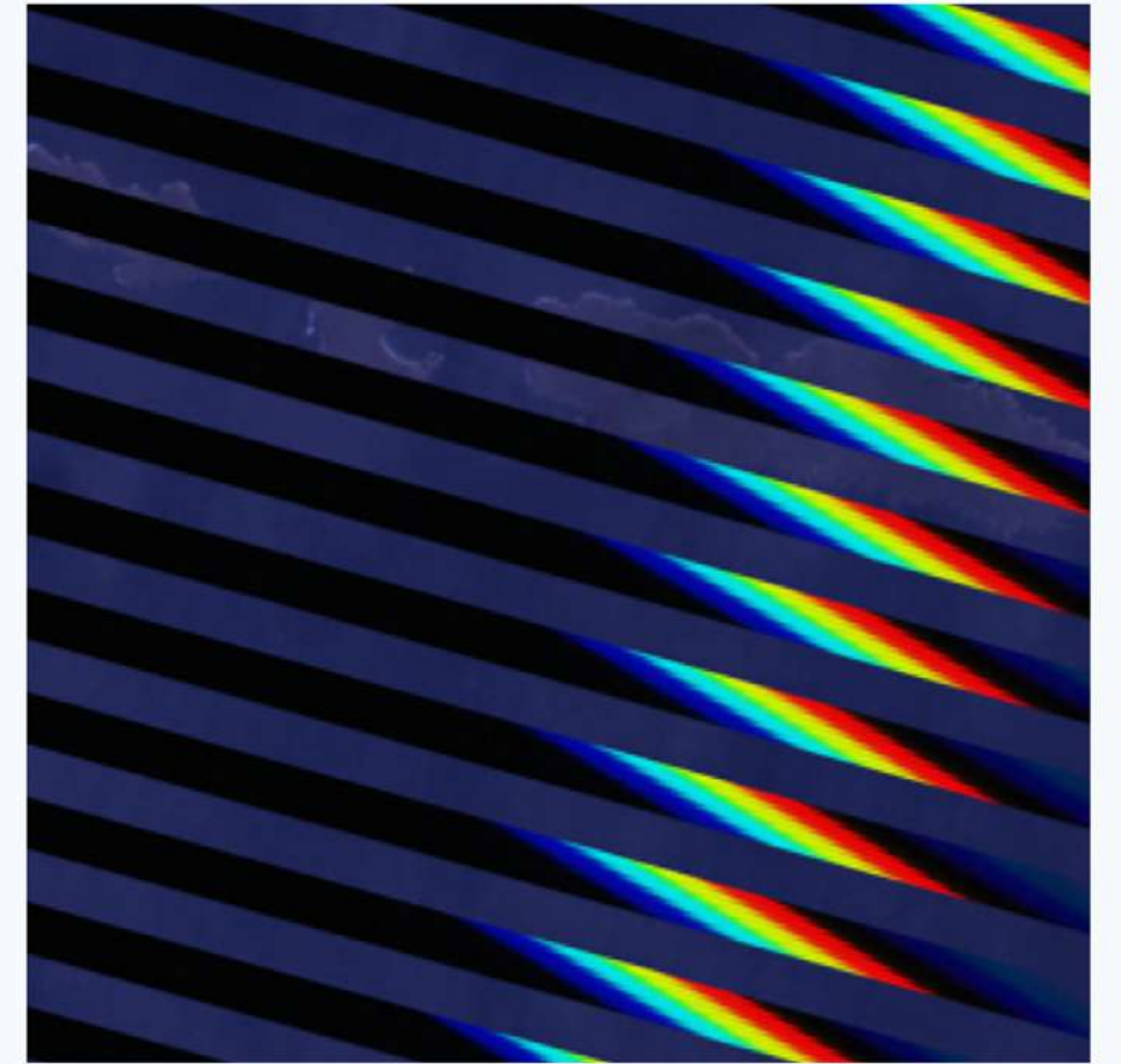
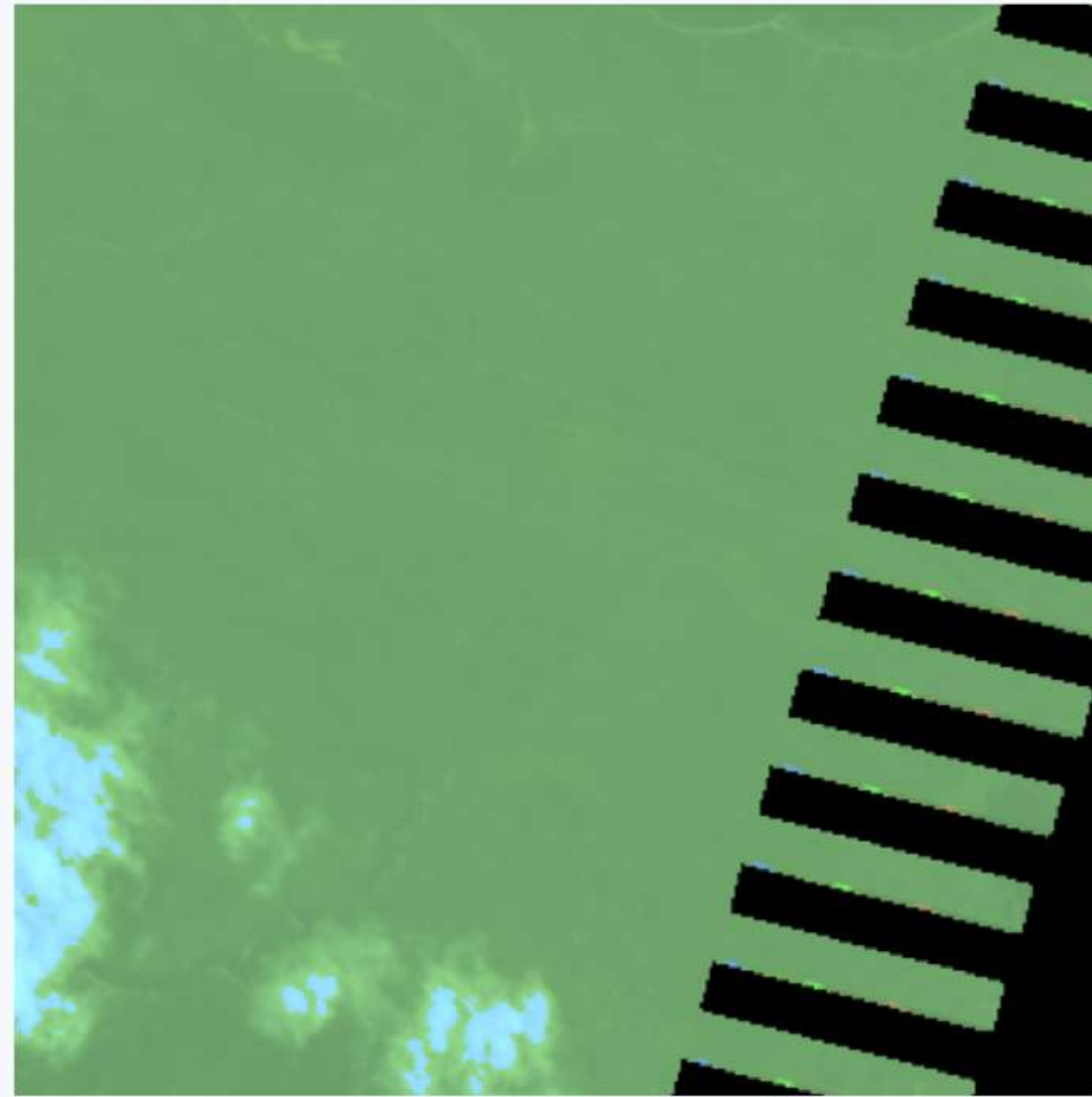
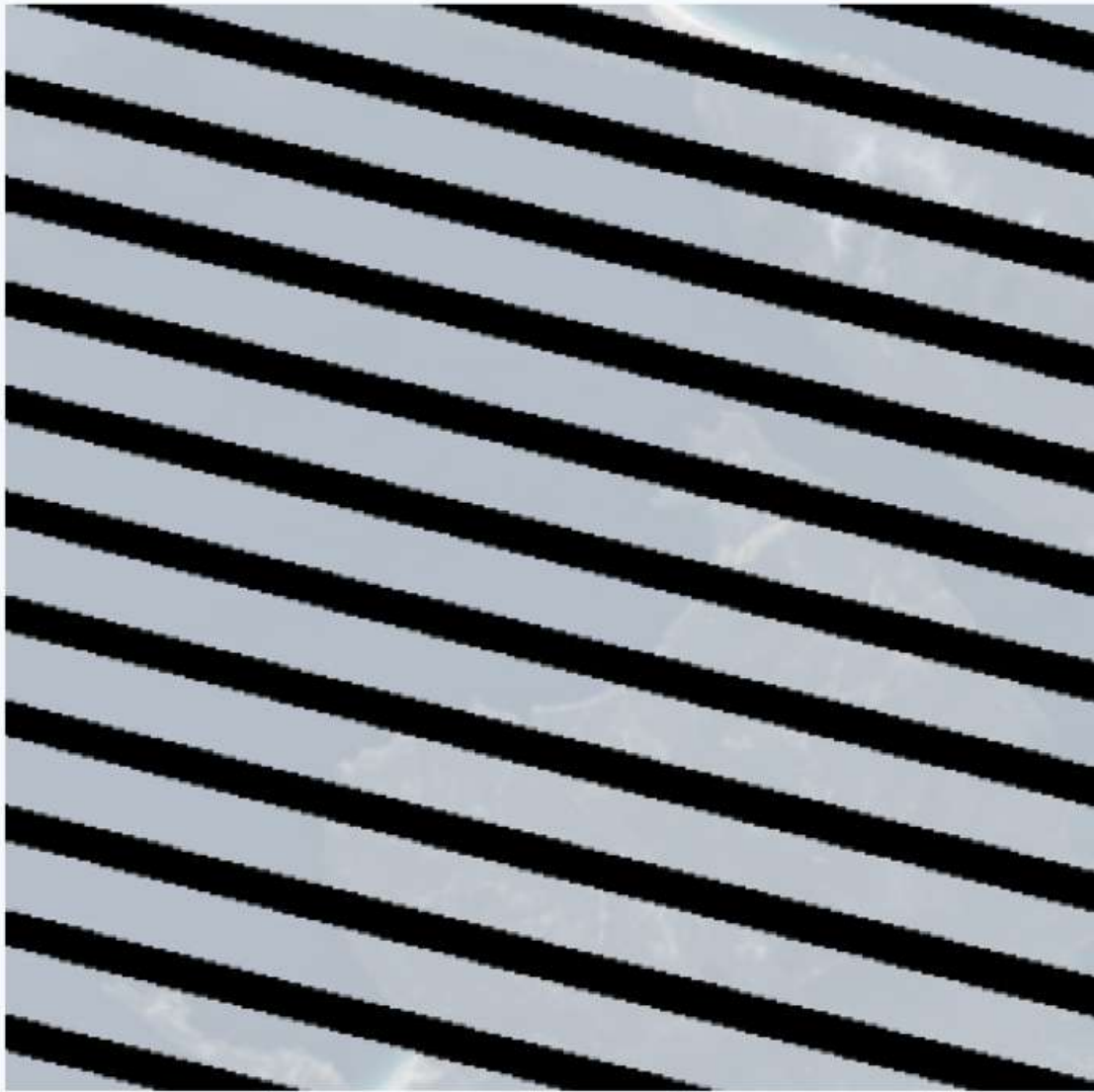
Label



Model Pipeline



Images with Streaks



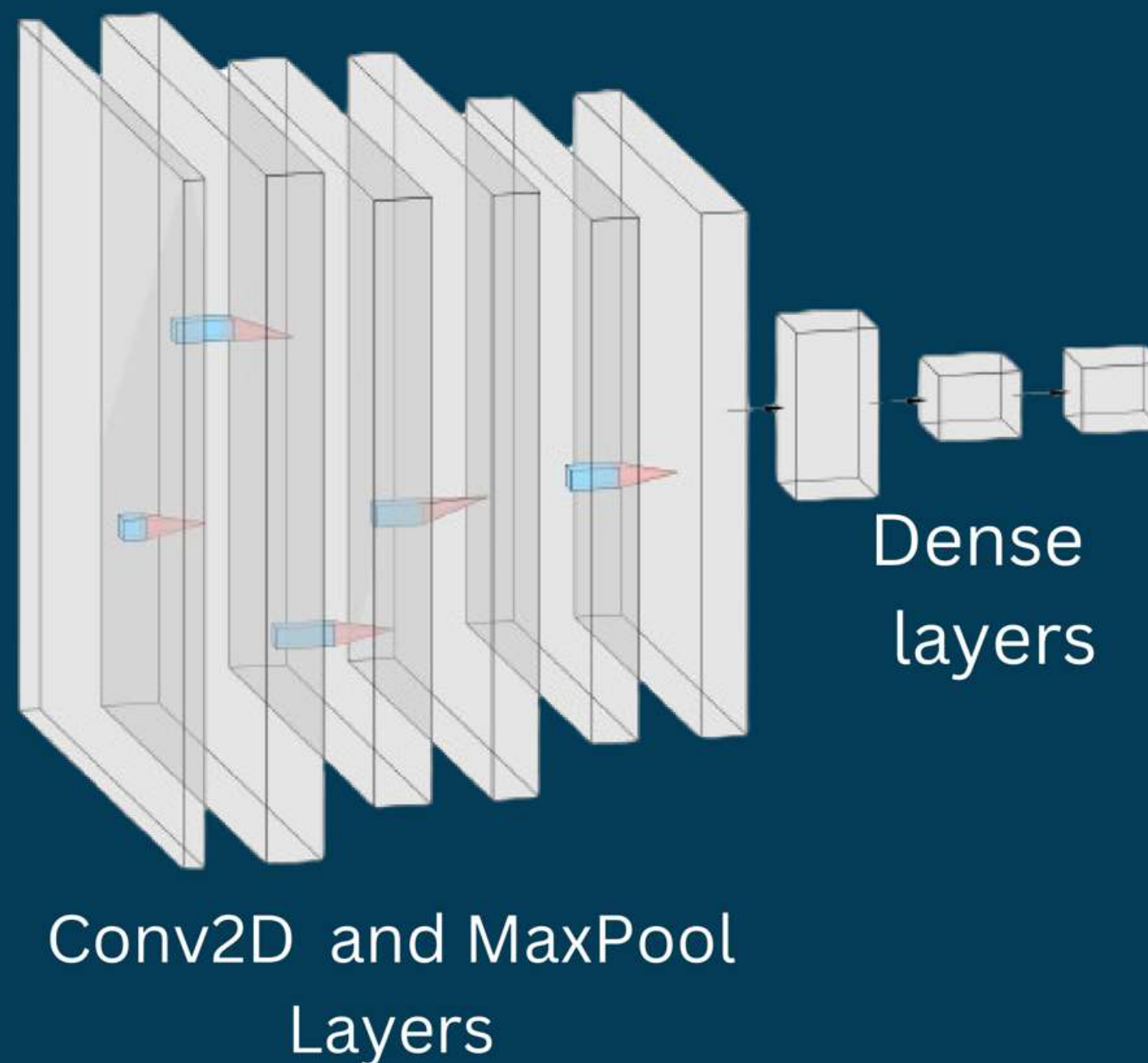
Streak Finder Model

Dataset Statistics:

- **Number of Images with Streaks:** 848
- **Number of Images without Streaks:** 4787
- **Ratio:** 0.1505

Performance Metrics:

- **F1 Score:** 0.952
- **Balanced Accuracy:** 0.954



Detection Models

Model Architecture	Accuracy	F1 score
ResNet50	0.7734	0.7531
ResNet34	0.7713	0.7593
ResNet18	0.7129	0.6913
Inception	0.716	0.6732
Voting Classifier	0.7812	0.8387

Segmentation Model

Model: UNet

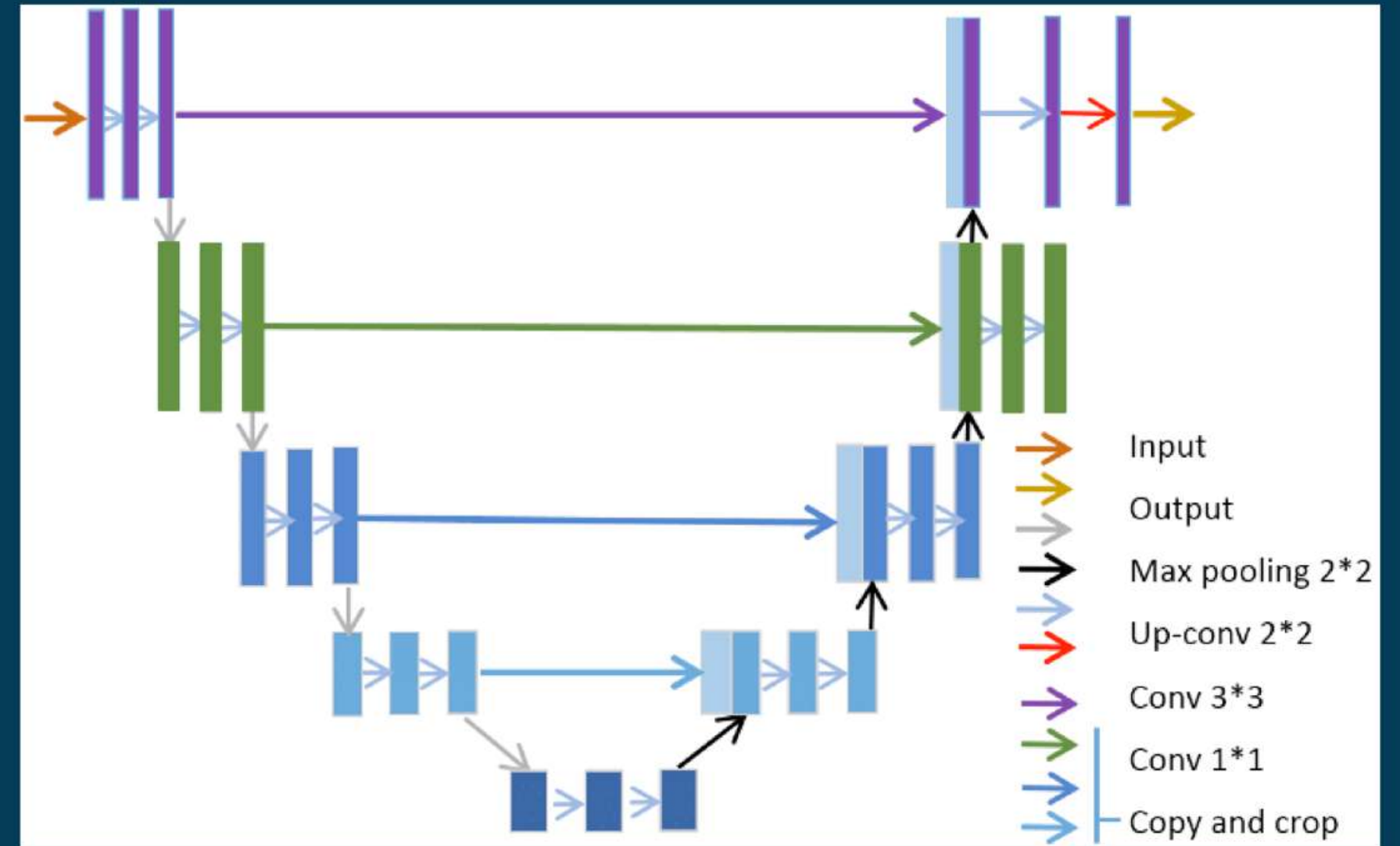
Index: MNDWI

(Modified Normalized Difference Water Index)

Average dice Coefficient: 0.553

$$\text{Dice coefficient} = \frac{2 * |X \cap Y|}{|X| + |Y|}$$

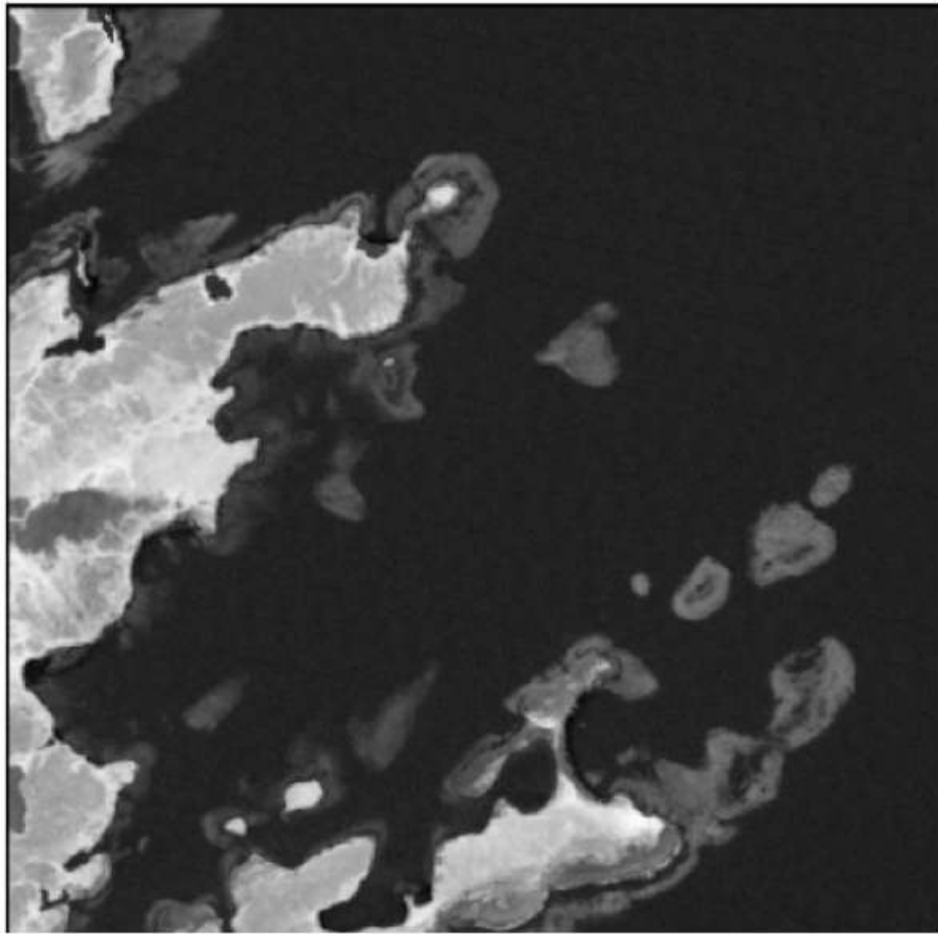
Model Architecture:



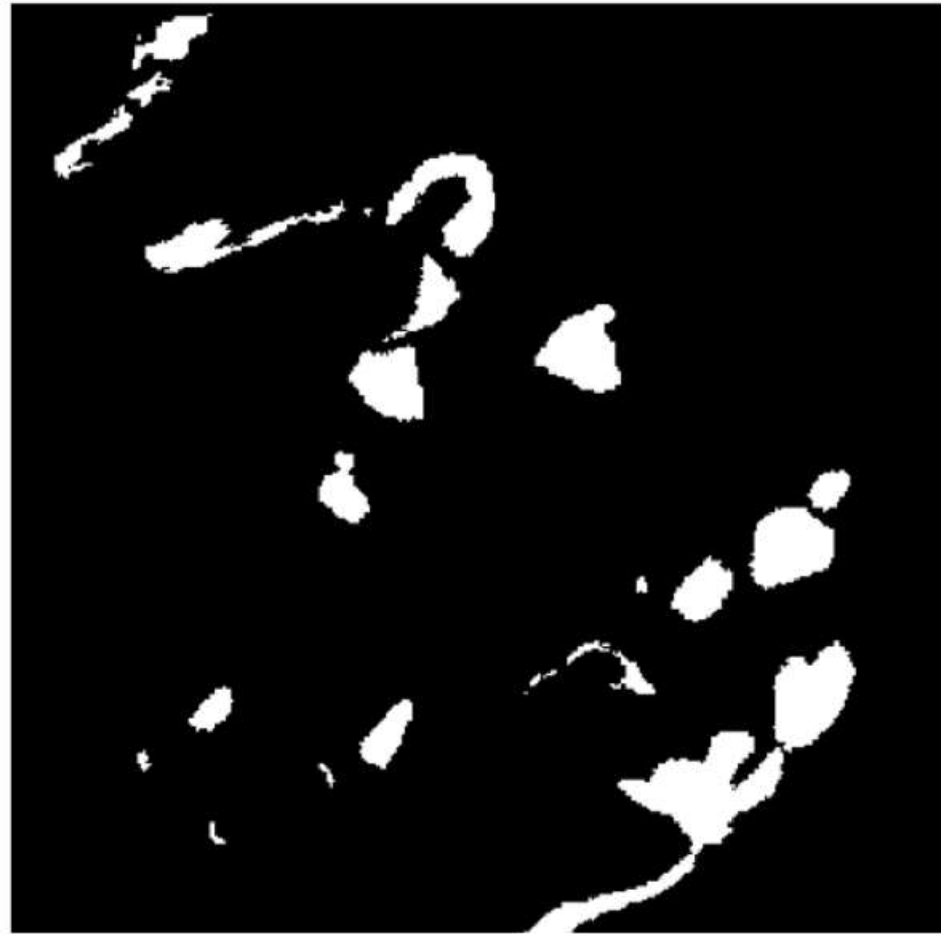
Graphic Courtesy: Y Ding, F Chen, Y Zhao, Z Wu "A Stacked Multi-Connection Simple Reducing Net for Brain Tumor Segmentation" IEEE Access, vol. 7, pp 99 5, 2019. [Online]. Available: 10.1109/ACCESS.2019.2926448.

Segmentation Model Output

IMAGE



GROUND TRUTH



MODEL OUTPUT



DataDriven Competition Leaderboard

1st Place: Epoch IV

- **Model Used:** A mixed ensemble of models trained on different feature sets, including UNets with VGG encoders, SwinTransformers and a ConvNext model.
- **Results:**
Dice Coefficient: 0.7332
- Gradient boosting decision tree was also used with the already trained models.

Reference: <https://github.com/TeamEpochGithub/iv-q2-detect-kelp>

2nd Place: xultaeculcis

- **Model Used:** The model was a UNet with EfficientNet-B5 encoder pretrained on ImageNet.
- **Results:**
Dice Coefficient: 0.7318
- They even tried XGBoost and SAHI(Slicing Aided Hyper Inference) as alternate pretrained model options that gave them Dice Coefficients of 0.5125 and 0.6848 respectively.

Reference: <https://github.com/xultaeculcis/kelp-wanted-competition>

Sources

[1] Eger, A.M., Marzinelli, E.M., Beas-Luna, R. et al. The value of ecosystem services in global marine kelp forests. Nat Commun 14, 1894 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-37385-0>

[2] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (n.d.). Ocean oxygen. NOAA's National Ocean Service. Retrieved from <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/ocean-oxygen.html>

An underwater scene featuring a dense forest of kelp. The kelp stalks are dark brown and rise from the bottom, with long, thin, yellowish-green blades that sway in the water. The water is a clear, vibrant blue, and the lighting is bright, creating a serene and natural atmosphere. The kelp is the central focus, filling most of the frame.

THANK YOU