

Also in the Pylos area the optical noise has been measured on several occasions and with different devices. A number of free-drop experiments have been performed since 1996, at a depth of 4000 m, with an apparatus composed of two optical modules. The NESTOR floor deployed and operated in 2003 was also used to study the optical background [41]. A data sample of 100 s duration is shown in Figure 5-23 [42]. From the analysis of the full data sample it is concluded that bioluminescence occurs during $1.1\% \pm 0.1\%$ of the time, consistent with earlier measurements using autonomous optical modules.

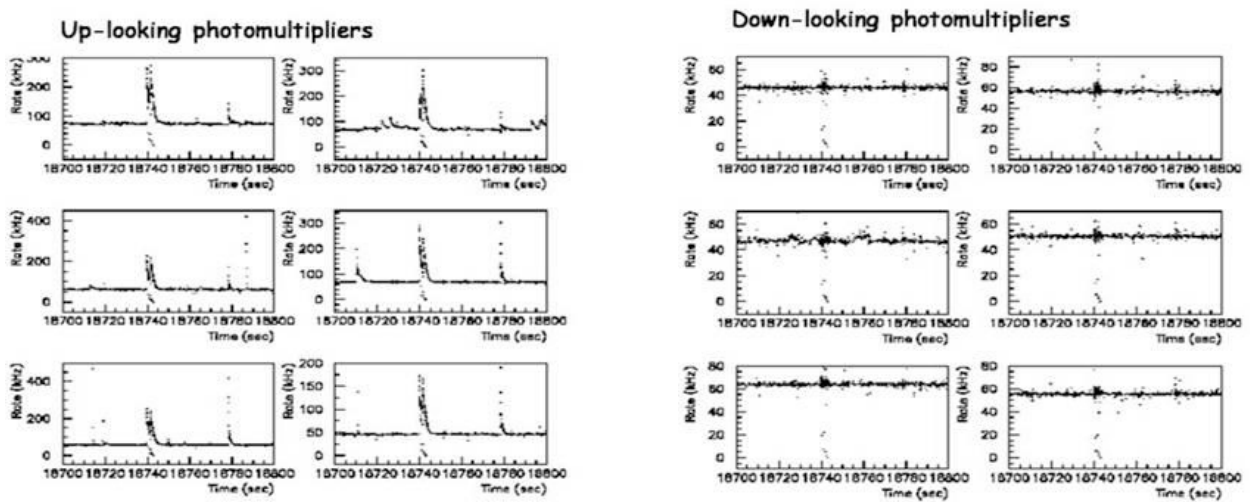


Figure 5-23: Count rates measured with the 12 optical modules of the NESTOR floor operated in 2003. A period of 100 s is covered.