

# Ocean science satellite set to launch after delay

June 10 2011

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In this image provided by NASA the Delta II rocket with its Aquarius/SAC-D spacecraft payload is seen as the service structure is rolled back on Thursday, June 9, 2011, at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. The joint U.S./Argentinian mission is set to launch June 10. It will map the salinity at the ocean surface, information critical to improving our understanding of two major components of Earth's climate system: the water cycle and ocean circulation. (AP Photo/NASA - Bill Ingalls)

A rocket ferrying an Earth-observing satellite is set to launch on a mission to measure the saltiness of the ocean from space.

The Delta 2 rocket is scheduled to blast off at 7:20 a.m. (10:20 a.m. EDT) Friday from Vandenberg Air Force Base after a 24-hour delay so crews could review an issue with the rocket's [flight plan](#).

Weather looks good for liftoff.

The Argentine-built satellite carries a NASA instrument that will chart changes in ocean salt levels over three years. Other instruments from Canada, France and Italy will collect environmental data.

Scientists hope the \$400 million mission will help better predict future [climate change](#) and short-term [climate phenomena](#) such as El Nino and La Nina.

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