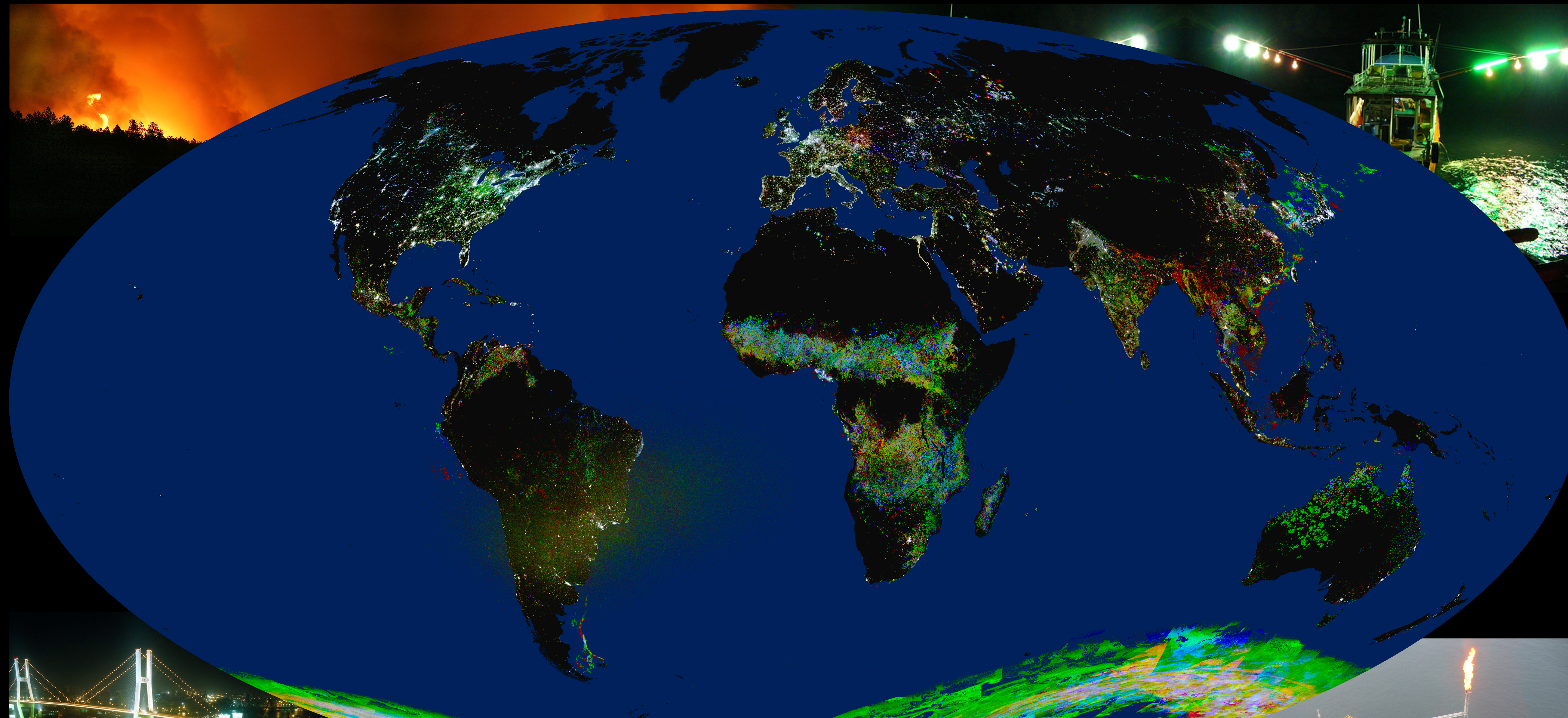


Nighttime Lights of the World: 1992, 2000, 2006

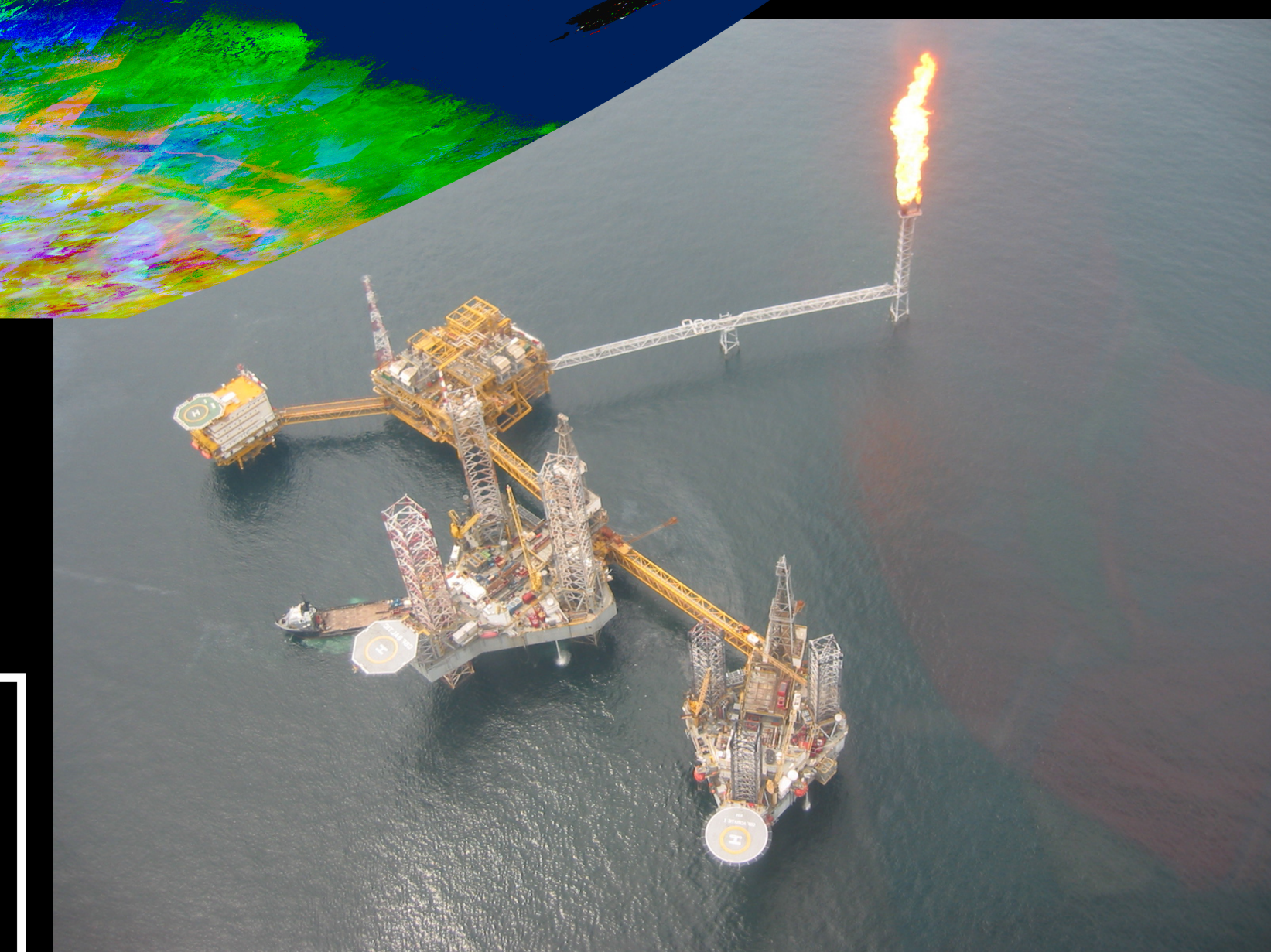


Produced from low-light imaging data acquired by the U.S. Air Force Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) Operational Linescan System (OLS). This is a color-composite formed from three annual cloud-free composites of nighttime lights: 1992 as blue, 2000 as green, and 2006 as red. The colors indicate changes in nighttime lights between the three years. The OLS detects lights from cities and towns, gas flares in oil production areas, heavily lit fishing boats and fires. The green arches in the southern end of the image are the result of lighting detected from the southern aurora. Auroral lights in the northern hemisphere were screened out to present a clear view of the other types of nocturnal lighting. There is an area of noise in the image centered over Southern Brazil, induced by the South Atlantic Anomaly - a persistent disturbance in the ionosphere.

Projection:
The Mollweide is a pseudocylindrical projection in which the equator is represented as a straight horizontal line perpendicular to a central meridian one-half its length. It sacrifices fidelity to angle and shape in favor of accurate depiction of area. It is used primarily where accurate representation of area takes precedence over shape, for instance small maps depicting global distributions.

Color Guide

- 1992 only = Blue
- 2000 only = Green
- 2006 only = Red
- 1992 & 2000 combined = Cyan
- 2000 & 2006 combined = Yellow
- 1992 & 2006 combined = Magenta
- 1992 & 2000 & 2006 combined = White



The data were processed by the NOAA-NESDIS National Geophysical Data Center, Earth Observation Group in Boulder, CO (Chris Elvidge, Kimberly Baugh, Benjamin Tuttle, Ara Howard, Ed Erwin, Tilottama Ghosh).
<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/dmsp>

