Towards a coastal ocean forecasting system in the Mediterranean Sea.

The pilot implementation of the Southern Adriatic Northern Ionian seas.

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Overview

1 Ocean Modelling and Downscaling

- From Global Ocean ...
- .. to Regional Scale ...
- ... to sub-regional and coastal zones

1 The unstructured-grid modelling

- SHYFEM. 3D model for hydrodynamics and tracers
- The SANIFS operational system

① Operational Activities and Applications

- Forecasting System
- Decision Support Systems

Sea Situational Awareness User-centered Services Why? For whom?



Sea Situational Awareness Services: how we produce them





Decision-makers, stakeholders and users needs in coastal areas





From Global Ocean

... to Regional Scale ...

... to sub-regional and coastal zones

global ocean



CMEMS GLO-MFC, Mercator-Ocean products



-2.00 1.89 5.78 9.67 13.56 17.44 21.33 25.22 29.11 33.00

Temperature (° C)

(image/png, 1015x578 px, 87.1 kB)







open-sea **Med-MFC Physics: analysis and forecast numerical model Ocean General Circulation Model** Wave model (OGCM) based on NEMO code v3.4 WaweWatch-III (WW3) v3.14 Current Velocity, m/s 20/04/2015 00:00 UTC Significant Wave Height, m Surface 20/04/2015 00:00 UTC 44°N 44°N 2-way 42°N 42°N hourly 40°N 40°N 38°N 38°N coupling 36°N 36°N 34°N 34°N 32°N 32°N ING\ 10°E 10°W 30°E ٥° 10°E 10°W 20°F 30°E 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.6 1.4 1.6 Hor. Res. = $1/16^{\circ}$ (~6 km) 1° time step Hor. Res. = $1/16^{\circ}$ (~6 km) 1 hour 1 hour 1 hour Vert. Res. = 72 z-levels NEMO NEMO NEMO Spectral discretization: partial cells * 30 freq. bins (0.05-0.79 Hz) ΔΤ, U.V * 24 directional bins WW3 WW3 WW3

The two-way coupling consists of inputting currents to the wave model (for wave refraction) and air-sea temperature difference (for wind speed correction) and computing the wind stress drag coefficient from waves information to force the momentum flux in NEMO

Med-MFC Physics: analysis and forecast Atmo/Land forcings/OBC

The external forcings to the model are:

ECMWF 1/8° atmospheric fields:

- mean sea level pressure (MSLP)
- cloud cover
- 2m relative humidity
- 2m air temperature
- 10m zonal and meridional winds components

CMAP precipitations: monthly mean climatology

The land river runoff: vertical boundary condition for 7 major rivers:

Ebro, Rhone, Po, Vjosë, Seman, Buna-Bojana, Nile (climatological monthly mean seasonal cycle values)

The Dardanelles inflow is also parameterized also as a river

System (GLO-MFC) @ 1/12° horizontal resolution, 50 vertical levels





Temporal resolution:

Boundary conditions in the Atlantic daily real time analyses and forecasts from Global Ocean Forecasting

<u>For forecasts</u>: 3hr time resolution for the first 3 days and 6 hours time resolution fields for the remaining 7 days For analysis: 6 hours time resolution



Med-MFC Physics: analysis and forecast Data Assimilation model



Model solutions are corrected by the data assimilation

The real time data assimilation system is the **3D variational scheme** adapted to the oceanic assimilation problem.

The assimilation cycle is daily, using a background error correlation matrix varying seasonally and in different sub-regions of the Mediterranean Sea.

The assimilated data are:



Non-solar heat flux correction is achieved through satellite SST nudging















 harbour
 coastal
 shelf

 Downscaling
 is
 accepted
 as
 the

 preferred
 methodology
 to
 propagate
 the
 large
 scale
 dynamics
 into
 Coastal

the large scale dynamics into Coastal Ocean Forecasting Systems, through **lateral open boundary conditions** from Large scale Ocean Forecasting Systems

Parent Model (MFS)

MFS is based NEMO finiteon difference code with a horizontal 1/16° resolution of (6-7 km approximately) and **72** unevenly spaced vertical levels.

The forecasting system is provided by a **data assimilation** system based on the 3DVAR scheme developed by Dobricic and Pinardi (2008).

Downscaled model (SANIFS)

To simulate correctly the water masses properties and circulation characteristics propagating from open ocean to coastal zones, downscaling approach needs to be supported by an **appropriate** (high) open-sea resolution (also) in nested model.





The operational chain



The operational chain provides 3-day forecasts and is based on two configurations:

- (i) SANIFS-ECMWF forced via ECMWF atmospheric data (12.5 km space resolution);
- (ii) SANIFS-COSMOME forced via COSMOME atmospheric data (6.5 km space resolution).



The MREA14 experiment in Gulf of Taranto and Mar Grande

- The MREA14 multi-scale sampling strategy, which is designed to cover three scales (<u>large</u>, <u>shelf-coastal</u> and <u>coastal-harbour</u>), is perfectly tailored to assess the capabilities of the downscaling methodology and to validate the SANIFS forecasts at the three scales.
- Three cruises were organized together with data acquisition in the Gulf of Taranto and Mar Grande









DOWNSCALING procedures: INITIALIZATION and SPIN-UP PROCEDURES

- SANIFS methodology is based on the high resolution **model re-initialization** every day, similarly to the **short term limited area** atmospheric **modelling** practice (Mesinger et al., 1988)
- Limited area ocean models may require a **spin-up time** to produce dynamically adjusted fields after initialization from the interpolation of coarser ocean model fields (Simoncelli et al., 2011).









- A sensitivity study carried out using the **two alternative atmospheric forcings** (COSMOME and ECMWF).
- SANIFS-ECMWF produces more accurate forecasts than SANIFS-COSMOME for the eight most open-sea stations of the SCS campaign (red histograms) thus confirming the higher reliability of ECMWF as large-scale general circulation model (25 km resolution).
- The skills of SANIFS forced by the higher-resolution (6 km) atmospheric limited area model COSMOME are slightly greater in the remaining stations, closer to the coasts (blue histograms).



• Modelled hourly time-series of sea temperatures at a 5 m of depth from the surface compared with the measured series.

• The two local minimum peaks of temperature in observations may be due to the **effect of total precipitation** since the maximum events of rainfall match with two local minimum temperatures. This suggests the need to introduce the temperature effects of rain.



• The tidal analysis reports errors of 6.2% and 14.1% for amplitude and phase of K1 component, and errors of 2.4% and 1.5% for amplitude and phase of M2 component.



- Large scale circulation characterized mainly by an anticyclonic structure (G1).
- LS1: weak cyclonically-oriented vortices in shelf-coastal areas (V1, V2 and V3)
- Intense coastal current (C1) impacting on the Adriatic coastal circulation
- LS2: Intensification of large-scale anticyclonic gyre (G1) causing the three cyclonic vortices to vanish.

The Gulf of Taranto circulation structure affects the WACC entrance in the Gulf and along the Apulia coasts. Weaker G1 \rightarrow WACC reversed. Stronger G1 \rightarrow southward oriented WACC











MFS

SANIFS







MFS

SANIFS

Decision Support Systems (DSS)



VISIR - www.visir-nav.com

VISIR[®] is a commercial service providing optimized nautical routes in the Mediterranean Sea. The optimization regards total navigation time, taking into account safety of navigation.

- Web
- Android
- iOS





OCEAN-SAR - http://www.ocean-sar.com

OCEAN-SAR, the Maritime Search and Rescue Service in the Mediterranean Sea.

- Web
- Android
- iOS





WITOIL - http://www.witoil.com

WITOIL, our service for predicting the fate and transport oil spills in the Mediterranean Sea.

- Web
- Android





Marine Environment www.marinenvironment.com

MARINENVIRONMENT is a service to provide and display information on the environmental quality of the Mediterranean Sea.

- Web
- Android
- iOS





Early warning - www.marine-ew.com

Marine Early Warning is a service provided to decrease risk disaster at sea reducing loss of life and the economic and material impact.

- Web
- Android
- iOS





Summarizing the methodology

- The coastal ocean circulation is driven by a combination of **local** (winds, atmospheric fluxes, tides, etc.) and **deep-ocean forcings** (along the shelf slope).
- Both of these influences must be included in Coastal Ocean Forecasting Systems (COFS).
- **Downscaling** is accepted as the preferred methodology to propagate the large scale dynamics into COFS, through boundary conditions from Large scale Ocean Forecasting Systems (LOFS) (Auclair et al. 2001; Dombrowsky et al. 2009, Kourafalou et al. 2015).
- To simulate correctly the water masses properties and circulation characteristics propagating from open ocean to coastal zones, downscaling approach needs to be supported by an **appropriate (high) open-sea resolution (also) in nested model**.
- COFS has been designed **also to provide accurate forecasts in open ocean**, exploiting high resolution horizontal e vertical discretization.
- Implementation (and validation) of techniques and parametrizazions consolidated in classical regional model (e.g. atmospheric bulk formulae, LOBC treatment, etc.) in new modelling tools (unstructured-grdi models).
- Reduce parametrization tuning/calibration

Conclusion and Perspectives

- A methodology of downscaling from the Global Ocean to the Coastal-Harbour scale
- The pilot study of the Southern Adriatic Northern Ionian seas will be extended to the entire Mediterranean coastal seas
- Downscaling approach is integrated to the new modelling tools based on variable resolution (unstructured grid model)
- The modelling component is continuously run in operational mode to provide short-term forecast.
- The operational products can be exploited by several types of DSS (coastal erosion, risk mapping, oil spill, ship routing, search-and-rescue, etc.)

Thanks for your attention

