



A description of Ocean Forecasting Applications around the Globe

Jennifer Veitch¹, Enrique Alvarez-Fanjul², Arthur Capet³, Stefania Ciliberti⁴, Mauro Cirano⁵, Emanuela Clementi⁶, Fraser Davidson¹⁵, Ghada el Serafy⁷, Guilherme Franz⁸, Patrick Hogan⁹, Sudheer Joseph¹⁰, Svitlana Liubartseva⁶, Yasumasa Miyazawa¹¹, Heather Regan¹², Katerina Spanadouki^{13,14}

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¹Egagasini Node, South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), Cape Town, South Africa

²Mercator Ocean International, Toulouse, France

³ECOMOD, Royal Belgian Institutes of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium

⁴Nologin Oceanic Weather Systems, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

10 ⁵Department of Meteorology, Institute of Geosciences, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Brazil

⁶Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change, Bologna, Italy

⁷Data Science and Water Quality, Deltares, Delft, the Netherlands

⁸Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), Brazil

⁹NOAA, National Centers for Environment Information, Stennis Space Center, Hancock County, Mississippi, United States

15 ¹⁰Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Pragathi Nagar, Nizampet, Hyderabad, Telangana 500090, India

¹¹Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, Kanagawa, Japan

¹²Instituto Geofísico del Perú, Lima – Perú

20 ¹³Coastal and Marine Research Laboratory of the Institute of Applied & Computational Mathematics of the Foundation for the Research and Technology (FORTH-IACM), Heraklion, Crete, Greece

¹⁴Institute of GeoEnergy (IG) of the Foundation for Research and Technology (FORTH), Chania, Crete – Greece

¹⁵Environment and Climate Change Canada

25 *Correspondence to:* Jennifer Veitch (ja.veitch@saeon.nrf.ac.za)

Abstract. Operational oceanography can be considered the backbone of Blue Economy: it offers solutions that can support multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals by promoting sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, livelihoods and job creation. Given this strategic challenge, the community worldwide has started to develop science-based and user-oriented downstream services and applications that use ocean products as provided by forecasting systems as main input. This paper gives an overview of the stakeholder support tools offered by such applications and includes sea state awareness, oil spill forecasting, port services and fishing and aquaculture, among others. Also emphasized is the important role of ocean literacy and citizen science to increase awareness and education in these critical topics. Snapshots of various applications in key world ocean regions, within the framework of the OceanPrediction DCC, are illustrated, with emphasis given on their level of maturity. Fully operational examples can be used as inspiration for export to other areas.

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1 Introduction

The World Bank defines the Blue Economy as the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs while preserving the health of the ecosystem. The Blue Economy has the potential to help address many



of the UN sustainable development goals including: no poverty, zero hunger, affordable and clean energy, decent work and
40 economic growth, climate action and life below water. Various programs and associated actions of the UN Decade of Ocean
Science for Sustainable Development¹ are designed to provide the science to support the Blue Economy as well as to ensure
the resilience of both marine ecosystems as well as coastal populations. A key objective of several of the programs is the
development of improved coast-to-ocean forecasts and predictions and, most essentially, their uptake and usefulness to
coastal stakeholders. To achieve this and to support the development of a sustainable Blue Economy, the operational
45 oceanography community should be able to support the development of downstream applications in which model data is
transformed into tailored information for the end users. These applications are intended to create applied solutions to various
societal, environmental and scientific challenges from which both public entities and private companies can benefit and
actively take part in the implementation of the so-called “value chain”. The ETOOFS (Expert Team on Operational Ocean
Forecasting Systems) guide on Implementing Operational Ocean Monitoring and Forecasting Systems (Alvarez Fanjul et
50 al., 2022) provides a thorough overview of the need for downstream services as well as examples of advanced systems that
includes: portals for the dissemination of sea state awareness (e.g. <https://data.marine.copernicus.eu/>); oil spill forecasting
(e.g. MOTHY², WITOIL³; MEDSLIK-II⁴), port services (e.g. SAMOA⁵ and Aquasafe⁶) ; voyage planning (e.g. VISIR⁷) and
fishing and aquaculture.

In this chapter, we provide only some examples of existing downstream services for eight of the nine regions: the West
55 Pacific and Marginal Seas of South and East Asia, Indian Seas, African Seas, Mediterranean and Black Seas, North-East
Atlantic, South and Central America, North America and the Arctic. The Antarctic region is not included in this review of
downstream services due to the lack of services provided there. The OceanPrediction DCC Atlas of Services, a web portal
that will be launched soon, will contain a more complete list of downstream services in each of the regions.

2 The West Pacific and Marginal Seas of South and East Asia

60 In the West Pacific and its marginal sea region, development of operational ocean forecast systems were initiated by
governmental operational/research agencies related to meteorology, hydrography, and oceanography in several countries
including Australia, China, Japan, and Korea in 2000s and Indonesia in 2010s. There are no significant endogenous research
and development activities targeting operational forecast systems in other countries. Several downstream services led by the
governmental operational agencies have been developed with focusing on support to search and rescue operations and

¹ <https://oceandecade.org/>

² <http://www.meteorologie.eu.org/mothy/>

³ <http://www.witoil.com/>

⁴ <https://www.medслиk-ii.org/>

5 ⁵ <https://www.puertoes.es/>

⁶ <https://hidromod.com/?s=aquasafe>

⁷ <https://www.visir-model.net/>



65 preparation for marine disasters. Recently some industrial applications for fishery and shipping operations have been developed based on close collaborations between scientists and targeted users. Some detailed information is provided below.

2.1 Education

The Sub-Commission of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the Western Pacific and adjacent seas (WESTPAC) develops and strengthens regional and Member States' capacity of ocean model development, data assimilation, model validation, and development of Ocean Forecasting System, through a series of national and regional trainings, scientific workshops, and professional exchanges among partner institutions (<https://ioc-westpac.org/ofs/capacities/>). The Regional Training and Research Center on Ocean Dynamics and Climate (RTRC-ODC) was officially established at the 8th WESTPAC Intergovernmental Session in 2010. The First Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration of China, organized the lecture series on ocean models (2011), ocean dynamics (2012), air-sea interaction and modeling (2013), climate models (2014), climate change (2015), ocean dynamics and multi-scales interaction (2016), development of coupled regional ocean models (2017), ocean forecast system (2018) and climate dynamics and air-sea interactions (2019). In the evaluation period of 2015-2019, 191 young scientists from 36 countries joined the lectures (<https://ioc-westpac.org/rtrc/odc/>).

2.2 Science & Innovation

80 Reanalysis products have been distributed to many users for their scientific research usages (Fujii et al., 2023). On-going regional projects such as Bluelink Reanalysis (BRAN) (Chamberlain et al., 2021), China Ocean ReAnalysis (CORA) (Han et al., 2013b), Four-dimensional variational Ocean ReAnalysis in the western North Pacific (FORA-WNP) (Usui et al., 2017), Japan Coastal Ocean Predictability Experiment (JCOPE) (Miyazawa et al., 2019), and Local ensemble transform Kalman filter-based Ocean Research Analysis (LORA) (Ohishi et al., 2023) are actively working for distributions and improvements of the products. Some global reanalysis products provided from CORA (Han et al., 2013a) and JCOPE (Kido et al., 2022) are also distributed to many users in addition to use of existing major global products (e.g., Simple Ocean Data Analysis (SODA) (Carton et al., 2018)).

Various studies using the reanalysis products have clarified the actual state of oceanic variations that were previously unknown. For example, an unprecedented dynamically consistent eddy-resolving reanalysis product, FORA-WNP (Usui et al., 2017), contributes to elucidate detailed dynamical processes that are responsible for seasonal variability of mesoscale eddies in the Kuroshio Extension (Wang and Pierini, 2020) and mixed layer water mass variability (Geng et al., 2022).

2.3 Extremes, hazards & safety

Operational products are utilized for search and rescue (S&R) operations and oil spill tracking. Korea Ocean Observing and Forecasting System (KOOFS) led by Korea Hydrographic and Oceanography Agency (KHOA) provides forecast



95 information required for S&R operations (Republic of Korea/OceanPredict, 2022). The Japan Coast Guard is operating a support system for S&R using an ocean forecasting product provided from the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) (Asahara et al. 2015). Oil spill tracking models utilizing ocean forecasting products are also developed in several countries including China, Korea, and Japan. For example, an oil spill tracking model coupled with an ocean circulation-tide-wave coupling model was applied for evaluating potential contamination caused by an accident of an oil tanker Sanchi in 2018
100 around the East China Sea (Qiao et al., 2019). Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics (Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi, dan Geofisika, BMKG) is operating downscaled model products for forecasting storm surge and coastal inundation hazards around Jakarta and other port cities in Indonesia (Ramdhani, 2019). Coupling of high-resolution coastal ocean current, wave, river flood models are required for forecasting in real-time and evaluating potential inundation locations in the target cities.

105 **2.4 Natural resources & energy**

Decadal time scale reanalysis products of ocean and wave models are used for assessing feasibility of ocean renewable energy development around Japan coastal seas and their adjacent Asian Seas (Webb et al., 2020). Reliable estimation of the renewable energy potential associated with wave, ocean current, and thermal energy requires sufficiently long-time duration periods for well considering the possible time-dependent natural variability. They have evaluated minimum time duration
110 periods of 20-year for wave and 10-year for ocean current and thermal energy conversion around Japan. The high-resolution wave (NOAA WAVEWATCH III) and ocean and tidal current forecast (JAMSTEC JCOPE) models driven by the atmospheric reanalysis forcing were used for calculation of the energy potential reanalysis.

In some cases, ocean forecasting data (JCOPE) has been used for marine environmental assessment for exploration of seafloor resources in the Northwestern Pacific such as cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts (Nagao et al., 2018). Direct velocity
115 measurement using acoustic Doppler current profilers (ADCPs) in deep oceans presents some technical challenges, and combined use of ocean forecasting data and ADCP measurement could be effective for reliable assessment of ocean current variability around the targeted areas (Nagao et al., 2018).

2.5 Natural resources & energy

In Japan, industrial/commercial use of ocean forecasting is being developed for supporting trade ship navigation (Sato and
120 Horiuchi, 2022), and fishery activities (e.g., <https://oceaneyes.co.jp/en/home-2>). An early warning system of the abrupt occurrences of strong currents damaging set-net fisheries is operated under intensive collaboration between universities and local fishery agencies in Japan (Hirose et al., 2017). Close collaboration among universities, research institutes, instruments companies, and fishermen demonstrates significant enhancement of marine observation networks through exchange of ocean



forecasting information and in-situ observation among them (Nakada et al., 2014; Takikawa et al., 2019). In Oceanian Seas,
125 Bluelink⁸ forecast products are widely utilized for maritime transport providers, fishing industries, and tourism operators.

3 Indian Seas

Operational ocean forecast systems and downstream services in the Indian Ocean have several stakeholders, including
government agencies, maritime industries, research institutions, and the public. The operational oceanographic services for
the Indian Seas underwent significant progress during the past 25 years. These functional systems have several components,
130 which include observation networks designed to collect and research teams to analyze, and disseminate oceanographic data,
assimilate the data to numerical models, and provide forecasts to support decision-making, improve safety, and enhance the
understanding of the Indian Ocean environment. Provided below are some key components and applications of these
systems.

3.1 Small Vessel Advisory Services (SVAS)

135 Small Vessel Advisory and Forecast Services System (SVAS⁹) is an innovative impact-based advisory and forecast service
system for small vessels operating in the Indian coastal waters. SVAS warns users against potential zones where vessel
overturning can take place, ten days in advance. This warning system is based on 'Boast Safety Index' (BSI) derived from
wave model forecast outputs such as significant wave height, wave steepness, directional spread and the rapid development
of wind sea.

140 3.2 Search and Rescue Aid Tool (SARAT)

Search And Rescue Aid Tool (SARAT¹⁰) is developed for facilitating individuals/vessels in distress in the shortest possible
time. This has been initiated and developed under the Make in India program. The tool uses model ensembles that account
for uncertainties in the initial location and last known time of the missing object to locate the person or object with high
probability - the movement of the lost objects is governed mainly by the currents and winds.

145 3.3 Oil Spill Trajectory Prediction

The oil spill prediction system operational at INCOIS works based on the GNOME model which uses ocean currents from
an ocean general circulation model and winds from an atmospheric general circulation model to simulate the Lagrangian
drift of oil spills which needs initial location of spill and quantity of the oil and type of oil if available for producing
movement of oil under the influence of winds and currents.

⁸ <https://www.csiro.au/bluelink/>

⁹ https://incois.gov.in/portal/osf/SVA_overview.jsp

10 ¹⁰ <https://sarat.incois.gov.in/sarat/home.jsp>



150 **4 African Seas**

While the development of operational ocean forecast systems and downstream services, optimized for African regional seas and coastal regions is limited, it is ongoing (Uba et al., 2020; de Vos et al., 2021; Hart-Davies and Backeberg, 2023) and various strategies exist to support stakeholders. In the simplest example, local met offices use global services to package alerts for subscribed users via text messages or emails, while others add value to global services by customizing solutions for stakeholders. The most advanced services are in the North of the continent, where downstream applications benefit from the advanced Mediterranean Sea operational services (Cirano et al., 2024), in the Red Sea area where an optimized regional system has been developed (Cirano et al., 2024) and in the far South where a co-designed decision support portal is well established for stakeholders. Examples of approaches to various downstream applications will be provided below.

A more cohesive, regional approach to the provision of operational information to support marine and coastal operations in Africa has been established by Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES¹¹) via MarCOSIO (Marine and Coastal Operations for Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean¹²) and MarCNoWA (Marine and Coastal Areas Management in North and West Africa). These platforms currently make use of global services for earth observations as well as marine forecast products that in some cases are optimized for local conditions. Linked to MarCOSIO is the National Oceans and Coastal Information Management System (OCIMS¹³), developed by the South African Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) in collaboration with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). OCIMS provides customized decision support tools that include coastal flood hazard, operations at sea, fisheries and aquaculture, integrated vessel tracking, marine spatial planning, water quality, marine predators. These tools are co-designed with the key stakeholder groups in annual stakeholder engagement workshops that bring together the developers as well as the end-users that include the aquaculture industry, National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI), marine authorities and navy, municipalities etc. These tools currently make use of operational satellite products, optimized for the South African coastline, as well as global forecast models that are not locally optimized. Limited area operational forecast models are in development (<https://somisana.ac.za/explore>) and will be integrated into the OCIMS DeSTs within the next year.

4.1 Oil Spill

In the case of an oil spill in African waters, global services are generally called upon to assist with the mitigation effort. For example, in the case of the devastating oil spill in the Indian Ocean on 25 July 2020 when the Wakashio Bulk carrier ran aground off Mauritius (Seveso et al., 2021), Mercator Ocean International provided Meteo-France with ocean current forecasts to feed the MOTHY pollutant drift model and the CMCC (Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change) used Copernicus Marine Service near real time products like forecasted currents and ECMWF winds to forecast the weathering and transport of the oil slick.

¹¹ <https://gmes.rmc.africa/>

¹² <https://marcosio.org/>

¹³ <https://ocims-dev.dhcp.meraka.csir.co.za/>



- 180 The SOMISANA team in South Africa have developed a pre-emptive approach in which they release a ‘virtual’ oil spill at each of the ship-to-ship refueling locations within their high-resolution bay-scale models. They use a simple lagrangian particle tracking approach to allow the hypothetical oil spill to be tracked 5 days into the future. Additionally, their oil spill tracking functionality, developed using the OpenDrift software, allows for seamless tracking between the global and coastal/bay-scale forecast models and can be launched on demand.
- 185 The iRED-M1 system (Hoteit et al., 2021) developed at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology provides an ocean-wave-atmosphere coupled forecast system with dedicated web servers for interactive visualization, analytics and queries. These forecasts are used mainly for oil-spill trajectories as well as to provide assessments on extreme weather and wave conditions.

4.2 Marine Litter

- 190 Various studies have been conducted on marine litter dispersion and accumulation on South African beaches (Meakins et al., 2022; Collins and Hermes, 2019; Ryan et al., 2021, among others) and some studies have made use of nurdles as drifters as indicators of ocean currents (Schumann et al., 2019). While no downstream applications exist for tracking marine litter operationally, model studies have been developed to assess the probable trajectories of micro-plastics and nurdles around the South African coastline and South West Indian Ocean region (Collins and Hermes, 2019).

195 4.3 Fisheries management

- Despite fisheries being consistently identified as the most essential coastal activity requiring operational forecast services throughout the African Seas regions, relatively few downstream applications exist to support the industry. One example is ABALOBI (<https://abalobi.org/>) that is a South African-based enterprise that aims to support the sustainability of small-scale fishing communities through technology. ABALOBI provides a mobile application that is designed for users that span the value-chain from small-scale fishers to consumers. The application provides forecast information about marine weather (from the NCEP Global Forecast System) and also notification about red tide events (derived from CMEMS satellite information), but also provides various logging and business management tools. ABALOBI supports the traceability of seafood, fully documented fisheries, fair and transparent supply chains and community cohesion and entrepreneurship (ABALOBI Impact Report, ref.).
- 200
- 205 The fundamental triad of enrichment, concentration and retention along with the transport of fish eggs and larvae from their spawning to nursery areas is critical for the sustainability of the high productivity that supports the lucrative South African fishing industry. Furthermore, connectivity between marine protected areas is an essential component in the health and longevity of marine ecosystems. To this end, many studies have made use of numerical ocean models to force lagrangian particle experiments in order to understand these transport and retention process and their various impacts (Pfaff et al., 2022;
- 210 Heye, 2021).



4.4 Storm surge

Storm surge information was highlighted as being important all of the time in Eastern African countries due to the frequent flooding events that occur in association with cut-off low events and tropical cyclones and that have serious ecosystem, socio-economic and health impacts (Mather and Stretch, 2012; Ravela et al., 2013; Cambaza et al., 2019, Molua et al, 2020; Singh et al., 2023). In South Africa and Mozambique the met services and a local municipality have developed downscaled storm surge models (Section 3.1.4) in order to provide early warnings to coastal stakeholders. These forecasts are provided either on an operational web portal (e.g. https://marine.weathersa.co.za/Forecasts_Surge.html) and/or by early warnings that come in the form of emails or text messages to subscribed users that include port authorities, fishing communities, NGOs and consultants.

220 4.5 Aquaculture

In order to reduce the impact of harmful algal blooms (HABs) on the South African aquaculture industry such as the extreme event that occurred on the South West Cape Coast in 2017 and that caused the mortality of ~250 tonnes of farmed abalone (Groom et al., 2019), OCIMS has incorporated a HAB decision support tool (<https://www.ocims.gov.za/hab/app/>). This operational tool provides a matrix of probability of HABs occurring in key locations along the South African coastline. The spatial and temporal extent of the bloom is captured by remotely sensed chlorophyll data that is provided by the EUMETSAT datastore (Sentinel 3 OLCI & SLSTR) and the Copernicus Marine Service (Global Color chl-a) and chl-a estimates are optimized for high biomass bloom water types (Smith et al., 2018).

4.6 Search and Rescue

The South African OCIMS provides an Operations at Sea decision support tool (<https://www.ocims.gov.za/coastops/>), that operationally disseminates marine weather information that includes NOAA's GFS wind and wave forecasts, historic winds and waves based on the downscaled atmospheric models that are run by the South African Weather Service (SAWS). As an additional tool that has been custom-built for and requires a login from the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI), allows the user to use global wind, wave and current forecasts to optimize search domains.

5 Mediterranean and Black Seas

235 During the last decades, the constant evolutions of increasingly accurate operational forecasting systems in particular in the Mediterranean Sea and, at a lower extent in the Black Sea, from regional to local and coastal scales proving systematic information of the essential ocean variables, has led to the consolidation and to the development of a wide range of scientific and societal applications in the area.



Mediterranean and Black Sea analysis and forecast operational numerical products, such as the ones delivered through the
240 Copernicus Marine Service (<https://marine.copernicus.eu>) by the Med- (<https://marine.copernicus.eu/about/producers/med-mfc>; Coppini et al., 2023) and BS- (<https://marine.copernicus.eu/about/producers/bs-mfc>; Ciliberti et al., 2022) MFCs (Monitoring and Forecasting Centers) are essential to provide a 3 dimensional state of the sea including: currents, temperature, salinity, mixed layer thickness, sea level, wind waves, and biogeochemistry to support many downstream applications and activities.

245 Considering that the two basins are characterized by a large variety of complex physical processes occurring on a wide range of spatiotemporal scales, it is required to develop models that can reproduce specific ocean variables evolutions and to focus on specific processes representation (from wind driven and thermohaline circulation to water mass formation, coastal processes such as upwelling and storm surge, extreme and fast events such as medicanes). Following all these needs, the Mediterranean and Black Sea communities have been implementing models based on different codes and parameterizations
250 properly designed to solve specific problems.

Several downstream applications developed and implemented in the Mediterranean and Black seas are presented hereafter considering: climate change studies, oil spill, ship routing, search and rescue, marine litter, ports, water quality, fish and larvae dispersion, fisheries and aquaculture management as well as adaptation and management strategies. Most of the listed applications are described in a recent book from Schroeder and Chiggiato (2022) who edited an introductory guide on the
255 oceanography of the Mediterranean Sea and in the ETOOFS (Expert Team on Operational Ocean Forecasting Systems) guide from Alvarez Fanjul et al. (2022).

5.1 Climate change studies

Over the last decades, marine heat waves (MHWs) are expected to become more intense, longer and more frequent through anthropogenic warming. Combining high-resolution satellite data and a regional reanalysis, Dayan et al. (2023) have studied
260 MHWs to understand how much each Mediterranean country's Exclusive Economic Zone waters may be affected.

As was stated in the 2nd Edition of the Copernicus Marine Service Ocean State Report, ocean deoxygenation is found to be one of the most pernicious, yet under-reported side-effects of human-induced climate change. This problem is particularly acute in the Black Sea, where Capet et al. (2016) have found the decline of the Black Sea oxygen inventory. The reason for this is that atmospheric warming reduces the ventilation of the lower oxic layer by lowering cold intermediate layer
265 formation rates.

5.2 Ship routing

The GUTTA-VISIR system is a tactical, global-optimization, single-objective, deterministic model system for ship route planning (Mannarini et al., 2016; Mannarini and Carelli, 2019), which has been implemented in the Mediterranean Sea for several applications (i.e. in the Adriatic Sea, Mannarini et al., 2021) using the analysis and forecast wave and current fields
270 from the Med-MFC.



5.3 Oil spills

Oil spill models are forced by meteo-ocean forecasting products providing ocean currents, wind and waves which should be available on a regular basis. Several oil spill models are operated in the Mediterranean and Black seas and specific forecasting systems have also been implemented in areas of oil spill emergencies such as those presented in Cucco et al. (2012). Moreover, oil spill modeling in harbor and port areas have been developed, such as in the Port of Taranto in south Italy (Liubartseva et al., 2021), the Limassol port areas in Cyprus (Zodiatis et al., 2024), the Port of Tarragona in Spain (Morell Villalonga et al., 2020), the Spanish harbors through the SAMOA project launched by Puertos del Estado (PdE). Additionally, MEDSLIK (Zodiatis et al., 2021) and MEDSLIK-II (De Dominicis et al., 2013), Lagrangian oil spill models for short term forecasting, were applied in various areas. Several Decision Support System (DSS) dedicated to oil slicks emergencies and predictions in the Mediterranean Sea have been developed such as: the French MOTHY (Daniel, 1996) drift system, the Italian the WITOIL (Where Is The Oil) multi-model DSS, the MEDESS4MS (Zodiatis et al. 2016; Sorgente et al., 2020). The OILTOX lagrangian oil spill model adapted for the Black Sea environment for oil spill transport and fate has been implemented in the North-western shelf of the Black Sea and Dnipro-Boog Estuary (Brovchenko et al., 2003). The POSEIDON Oil Spill fate and trajectory model is based on the PARCEL model (Pollani et al., 2001) which is able to simulate not only the drift of the oil but also the chemical transformations under the specific environmental conditions.

5.4 Search and Rescue

An advanced web-based and mobile decision support system for search-and-rescue (SAR) in the Mediterranean has been developed by Coppini et al. (2016). The system simulates drifting objects at sea, using the met-ocean data provided by the Copernicus Marine Service as an input. The performance of the service is evaluated by comparing simulations to data from the Italian Coast Guard pertaining to actual incidents in the Mediterranean Sea.

At the national and international level, the National Forecasting Centre of Météo-France provides met-ocean support and drift forecasts to assist authorities in charge of search and rescue operations. The aforementioned MOTHY system can resolve not only search and rescue targets but it also computes the drift of lost cargo containers (Coppini et al., 2022). The system uses the Copernicus Marine Service data among several forcing fields.

The Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) has an agreement with the Hellenic Coast Guard for a SAR service in the Greek seas. The application is developed and hosted at the POSEIDON operational system and provides forecasting of drifting objects.

Currently, under the ever-increasing flow of people trying to reach Europe by crossing the Mediterranean Sea, the efficiency of SAR calls for an enhancement. That requires both improved modeling of drifting objects and optimized search assets allocation.



In the Adriatic basin, Slovenian Environment Agency provides met-ocean support and drift forecasts to assist authorities in charge of search and rescue operations (Ličer et al., 2020) and is based on high-resolution wind forecasts and ocean modeling downscaling of Copernicus Marine Service forecasts for the Med Sea. The system can resolve search and rescue targets, oil spills and cargo containers.

5.5 Marine litter

Marine plastic pollution, usually from anthropogenic sources, is increasingly recognized as an emerging threat to the Mediterranean environment, biodiversity, human health, and well-being (Schroeder and Chiggiato, 2022). Recently, an important shift has been conducted for the Mediterranean Sea from the spatially-uniform distributions of plastic sources to a more realistic representation of land-based and offshore inputs (Liubartseva et al., 2018; Macias et al., 2019; Soto-Navarro et al., 2020; Kaandorp et al., 2020; Tsiaras et al., 2021; Tsiaras et al., 2022a) and for the Black Sea (Miladinova et al., 2020; Stanev and Ricker, 2019, Gonzalez-Fernandez et al., 2022) to identify the accumulation and dissipation of floating litter in such semi-enclosed sea basins.

5.6 Ports

To respond to the need for information on wind, waves and sea level at the scale of ports and harbor, a Spanish initiative has been developed and operationally implemented called SAMOA-2 (Álvarez Fanjul et al., 2018; Sotillo et al., 2019; Garcia-Leon et al. 2022) operating in 31 ports. It is an integrated system based on Copernicus Marine data, the service provides daily forecasts of sea-level, circulation, temperature and salinity fields at horizontal resolution that range from 350 m (coastal domains) to 70 m (port domains). Another example implemented along the Spanish coastal waters is provided by PORTUS (<https://portus.puertos.es/>), an early warning system that employs both the in-situ data and the operational forecasts (Álvarez Fanjul et al., 2018).

5.7 Water quality

The physical-biogeochemical forecasting system for the Northern Adriatic Sea developed in the framework of the CADEAU project (Bruschi et al., 2021) is based on a high resolution (up to around 750m) implementation of the MITgcm-BFM coupled model (Cossarini et al., 2017) targeting water quality and eutrophication, and it uses the daily Med-MFC products for initialization and to constrain the open boundary.

The trophic index (TRIX) eutrophication assessment indicator has been calculated both on in situ data and with a coupled circulation and biogeochemical numerical modeling system. TRIX is defined by four state variables: chlorophyll-a, oxygen, dissolved inorganic nitrogen, and total phosphorus. As an example, the trophic index differences have been computed to evaluate the trophic state of marine waters along the Emilia-Romagna coastlines (Italy) and over the whole Adriatic Sea (Fiori et. al, 2016).



A relocatable modelling system for describing and forecasting the microbial contamination that affects the quality of bathing waters was implemented at five coastal areas in the Adriatic Sea, which differ for urban, oceanographic and morphological conditions (Ferrarin et al., 2021). The modelling systems are all based on the hydrodynamic finite element model SHYFEM (Umgiesser et al., 2022). Pollution events are mainly triggered by urban sewer outflows during massive rainy events, with relevant negative consequences on the marine environment and tourism and related activities of coastal towns.

5.8 Fish larvae dispersion, fishery and marine aquaculture management

The study of larvae dispersion, regional connectivity and their impact on the structure of species populations and fisheries are generally provided using lagrangian models (van Sebille et al., 2018; Laurent et al., 2020; Melaku Canu et al., 2020) and in the Mediterranean sea these have been carried out thanks to the availability of information provided by operational forecasting systems (more information on such applications can be found in Schroeder and Chiggiato, 2022).

Being strongly supported by the policies and initiatives of the European Union, marine aquaculture guarantees food security and reduces the fishing pressure on wild fish stocks. Farm site selection strategy based on an aquaculture suitability index has been developed for the Central Mediterranean (Porporato et al., 2020). The index is based on the outputs of eco-physiological models which were forced using time series of sea surface temperature, significant wave height, distance to harbor, current sea uses, and cumulative impacts. Tyrrhenian and Ionian coastal areas are found to be more suitable, compared to the Northern Adriatic and southern Sicilian ones.

Small pelagic fish play a key role in marine food webs, being the trophic link between plankton and larger fish. Given their pronounced sensitivity to environmental changes, end-to-end (physics-plankton-fish) small pelagic fish two-way coupled models (Gkanasos et al., 2021) are unique tools that can be used to study the impact of climate change and fisheries in a single modeling framework.

Coupled hydrodynamic/biogeochemical models can also be used to evaluate the environmental impact of aquaculture waste and investigate the carrying capacity of coastal marine ecosystems (Tsiaras et al., 2022b; Tsagaraki et al., 2011).

Moreover, Dynamic Energy Budget (DEB) models (Hatzonikolakis et al., 2017), forced with hydrodynamic/biochemical model output (temperature, Chl-a), can be also implemented to simulate the growth of farmed mussels (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) and the potential impact of future climate on their habitat suitability.

5.9 Adaptation and management strategies to address harmful algal blooms and jellyfish outbreaks

In recent years, eutrophication phenomena, prompted by global warming and population increase, have stimulated the proliferation of potentially harmful algal taxa resulting in the prevalence of frequent and intense harmful algal blooms (HABs) in coastal areas of the Mediterranean and Black seas. Drivers of HABs in coastal areas of Eastern Mediterranean were studied by means of a machine learning methodological approach (Tamvakis et al., 2021). Water temperature has been found to have the most powerful effect on genera's presences.



A jellyfish outbreak forecasting system has been developed for the Mediterranean Sea as a preventive and mitigation tool for citizens and coastal stakeholders, aiming to reduce the jellyfish blooms socio-economic impact in coastal areas through a feasible and powerful management strategy (Marambio et al., 2021). The system explores the Copernicus Marine Service output to predict the jellyfish spatio-temporal distributions.

Previously, the high-resolution ocean modeling was applied to examine the transport and stranding of the pelagic stinging jellyfish *Pelagia noctiluca* on the Ligurian Sea coast (Berline et al., 2013). Jellyfishes were modeled as Lagrangian particles transported by sea currents with a diel vertical migration. Two environmental factors were found to be critical: the position of the Northern Current and the wind regime.

6 North-East Atlantic

The structured provision of regional core services and coastal operational forecasting systems in the North-East Atlantic (Cirano et al., 2024) enabled a significant deployment of downstream operational services addressing a wide variety of sectors (Figure 1).

A rich portfolio documenting use-cases of downstream services uptake can be found for instance at the Copernicus Marine Service User Uptake portal and the ETOOFS Guide (Alvarez Fanjul et al., 2022). In particular, the EuroGOOS coastal working group roadmap for operational coastal services (El Serafy et al., 2023) details components of the coastal services value chain in Europe and reviews the status, gaps, and steps needed to improve these services and the sustainability of their provision. A full review of the downstream services that are presently active or upcoming in the established sectors of the European Blue Economy is given in El Serafy et al. (2023). Here we highlight a few examples for selected sectors.

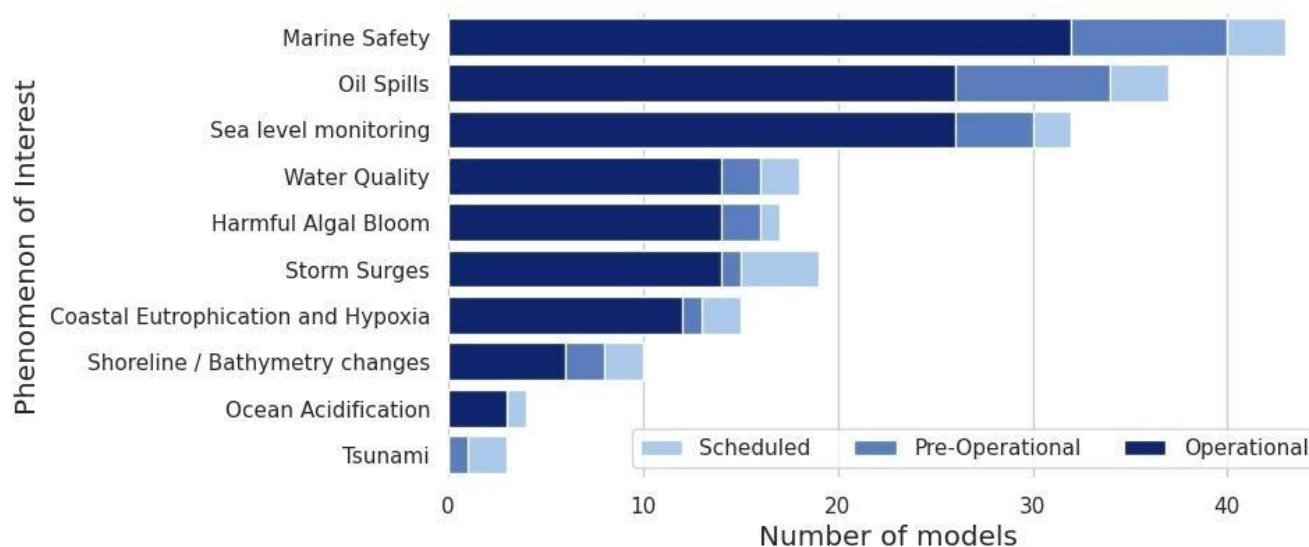


Figure 1: Principal characteristics of CMS regional core services for the North-East Atlantic region and its relation to its downstream use in sectors.



6.1 Aquaculture sector

- 385 Novel coastal services, including mapping of suitable fishing areas, fronts detection, marine conditions and scheduler, land pollution, site prospection, spat capture assistance, and contaminant source retrieval, are provided by FORCOAST (<https://forcoast.eu/>) in aquaculture pilot sites among others regional waters the North Sea, Baltic Sea, and the coastal Atlantic Ocean. These services are Copernicus-based services that incorporate Copernicus products, local monitoring data, and advanced modeling.
- 390 Recent projects that aimed at the co-development with end users and demonstration of Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) forecasting services as one of the societal needs from the coastal observing and forecasting systems include the FP7 Asimuth (Cusack et al., 2016), H2020 AtlantOS (Cusack et al. 2018) and Interreg Atlantic Area PRIMROSE (<https://www.shellfish-safety.eu/>), all providing near real-time and forecast information for the aquaculture industry along Europe's Atlantic coast. Last, but not least, all the data and information produced by operational coastal services may be used in the framework of the
- 395 Maritime Spatial Planning Directive to identify Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA), following national and international guidelines (e.g. FAO, Macias et al. 2019), as shown by use cases as AQUAGIS (European Aquaculture Society - ePoster Viewer).

6.2 Coastal tourism sector

- Various coastal services have been developed following inquiries from the coastal tourism sector. A good example is a
- 400 tailored product based on the North East Atlantic operational forecasting model in Ireland developed by Irish Marine Institute (IMI). Surface currents subsets are provided over five geographical areas around the Irish waters and the English Channel and published in a GRIB format via an ftp site (<https://sftp.marine.ie/>), while ensuring low data volume. The service was developed in collaboration with the sailing community that contacted the IMI to request its development and was notably used during the Fastnet sailing race.
- 405 Another Irish example serves beach goers. The Irish Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with Local Authorities and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government run a webpage <https://www.beaches.ie>, where the latest information on water quality and others is presented for 204 beaches in Ireland. Met Eireann (the Irish national met service) and the Marine Institute contribute to the information provided with current weather and weather forecasts and tidal information, respectively.
- 410 Among the services that provide the latest water quality information, the service carried out in the framework of the CADEAU project (Bruschi et al., 2021) provides data and information to assess the potential impact of bacterial pollution sources on bathing waters (as defined in the EU Bathing Water Directive) and help bathing waters' managers in identifying potential sources of impact and planning mitigation measures.
- National marine forecasting agencies also serve the coastal tourism sector. The Marine Forecasting Centre of Belgium of the
- 415 Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) issues 5-day forecasts of the marine conditions in the North Sea twice a



day with a high resolution for the Belgian part of the North Sea. These forecasts are used in numerous applications among them the tourism and leisure industries. Surfers use the application for mobile devices to schedule their sessions for good waves and current conditions.

6.3 Renewable energy sector

420 The renewable energy sector is a prominent player in the Blue Economy and therefore one of the main potential users of coastal services. Indeed, EU hosted 70% of global ocean energy (wave and tidal) installed capacity, and 86% of the world's total installed offshore wind capacity at the end of 2018 (Díaz and Soares, 2020), while jobs in the offshore wind energy sector have multiplied nine-fold in less than 10 years (European Commission, 2020).

Current bottlenecks relating to the large-scale installation of ocean multi-use activities are addressed by the UNITED project
425 (<https://www.h2020united.eu/>), which demonstrates business synergies and benefits of ocean multi-use; provides a roadmap for deployment in future multi-use sites and potential scaling barriers to be addressed through best practices and lessons learnt. Another example of coastal services for the renewable energy sector is Ireland's Marine Renewable Energy Portal (<http://www.oceanenergyireland.ie/>), an online access point for all relevant information and data related to Irish marine renewable energy activity and resources including maps, tools, and information for renewable energy site assessment,
430 development, and management.

6.4 Oil spills

Coastal areas with industrial ports and harbors are among the locations most at risk from oil spill pollution, which heavily impacts aquatic life and ecology, the coastal infrastructures, and the local economy. This underlines the need for timely and accurate coastal services for operations and disaster response. Oil spill models predicting the fate and the transport of the oil
435 slick have been recently enhanced by downscaling from state-of-art regional models (e.g. Copernicus Marine Service) and to very high-resolution hydrodynamic models for coastal and harbor areas. A coastal service in water monitoring and oil spill pollution is the OKEANOS project (<https://parsec-accelerator.eu/portfolio-items/oceanos/>), a web-based integrated and intuitive service combining open-source satellite observations (i.e., affordable), artificial intelligence and high-resolution ocean modelling (i.e., accurate). Another example of oil spill forecasting is the drift model MOTHY developed by Meteo
440 France, which uses ocean currents from the Copernicus Marine Global Ocean Forecast model. This system allows predictions of the possible trajectory of oil spills and estimates the resulting impacts several hours or days in advance. MOTHY has been operational since 1994 and is frequently activated for actual spills or search and rescue operations.

6.5 Port sector

Coastal information services tailored to the needs of the port sector are provided by the HiSea project
445 (<https://hiseaproject.com/>). The services include early warning service on potential risk factors issuing alerts on storms,



harmful algal blooms, faecal contamination, and other hazards regarding pollution accidents to identify the appropriate responses. It provides key performance indicators regarding fish growth rates, environmental conditions, or the level of vulnerability to storms for vessels, and information for planning operations including accurate and reliable meteorological, hydrodynamic, and water quality forecasts. Further examples of platforms and services for ports are SAMOA and
450 AQUASAFE. The SAMOA service from Puertos del Estado aims to provide high-resolution coastal operational prediction systems in domains such as harbours and nearby coastal waters, for different Spanish Port Authorities (Sotillo et al., 2019). Similarly, the AQUASAFE platform is operational for all Portuguese Ports and in the Port of Santos (Brazil). This platform aims to increase efficiency and safety in port operations, by providing access to real time and forecast information. It is also used to support aquacultures, inland navigation, irrigation, and water utilities.

455 **7 South and Central America**

The lack of available regional core services and coastal operational forecasting systems in South and Central America (Cirano et al., 2024) makes the development of downstream applications difficult. For instance, very few use case demos are described in the Copernicus Marine Service User Uptake for this region. Normally, downstream applications are only developed in partnership with universities or specialized companies capable of implementing operational systems based on a
460 downscale approach from global models.

7.1 Aquaculture

Information on water quality in bays and estuaries is essential for planning and managing bivalve mollusc production (e.g., water temperature, microbiological contamination, salinity and nutrients). These parameters are influenced by marine currents, river flows, solar radiation and winds, as well as by urbanization pressure and consequent contamination of water
465 bodies (Cabral et al., 2020). The numerical modeling system MOHID was applied to the main aquaculture production zone of shellfish in Brazil, located in the bay of Ilha de Santa Catarina, with the objective of integrating the range of environmental data in a hydrodynamic and water quality model capable of simulating the variables of greatest interest in the production of bivalve molluscs, thus serving as a powerful management tool (Garbossa et al., 2023; Garbossa et al., 2021; Lapa et al., 2021). The model was recently implemented in operational mode by the company EPAGRI to provide forecasts,
470 nested within a regional model developed in partnership with universities (e.g., UFPR), as a continuation of the Brazilian Sea Observatory initiative (Franz et al., 2021).

7.2 Oil spills

The Brazilian Oil Research Group (BROIL) was created in response to the oil spill disaster that impacted more than 3,000 km along the north-northeastern Brazilian coastline in 2019, with significant environmental, economic, and social impacts.
475 BROIL comprises institutions in Brazil (e.g., UFBA, UFPE, UFRJ, INPE and PUC-Rio) and abroad (e.g., OOM-Portugal;



IRD/LEGOS-France, HZG-Germany). BROIL works upon three main pillars: (i) detection, through remote sensing techniques; (ii) control, through a set of hydrodynamic and oil spill models; and (iii) remediation, through a set of biota oil-exposure case studies (Franz et al., 2021). Numerical models used to predict oil spill trajectory include the Regional Ocean Modeling System (ROMS) and the Lagrangian model MEDSLIK-II. Recently, a partnership with the Brazilian Sea
480 Observatory will enable the use of forecasts with higher resolution hydrodynamic models and to predict the oil spill trajectory automatically through the MOHID modeling system.

The North Coast Project (<http://www.projetcocostanorte.eco.br/>) also integrated research groups with different expertise for the development of a method for determining the vulnerability of mangroves to contamination by oil and for producing knowledge about the Brazilian North Coast, in cooperation among ENAUTA, the Nucleus of Studies in Geochemistry and
485 Marine and Coastal Ecology (NEGEMC) of UERJ, the Laboratory of Computational Methods in Engineering (LAMCE) of COPPE/UFRJ, the Laboratory of Research in Marine Environmental Monitoring (LAPMAR) of UFPA and PROOCEANO, a Brazilian company of oceanographic technology. The largest continuous area of mangrove forests in the world is found on the north coast of Brazil – located between the states of Maranhão and Pará – totaling around 7,400 km², which corresponds to 4.3% of the entire area of mangrove forests in the world. The main objective of the project was to determine the
490 vulnerability, sensitivity, and susceptibility to oil contamination of the mangroves, based on the development of numerical hydrodynamic models with multiple resolution scales and the use of data assimilation techniques to represent large and mesoscale oceanographic phenomena, with seasonal and interannual variability, to small-scale phenomena with daily variability, such as tidal currents in floodplains. The hydrodynamic modeling results were used as input data for the modeling of the transport and dispersion of oil.

495 **7.3 Civil protection**

The water level increase due to storm surges can be of the same order of magnitude as tide amplitude along the south-eastern Brazilian coast (Franz et al., 2016). Following a downscaling approach, water level forecasts are available to this region, aiming to help civil protection actions. Water level forecasts, as well as data from several tide gauges along the Santa Catarina coast, are available for the public in general on the EPAGRI's company website¹⁴. The water level forecasts of
500 high-resolution models (e.g., Babitonga Bay) are also available for port operation. The operational models developed by the Brazilian Sea Observatory initiative (Franz et al., 2021) were updated in collaboration with EPAGRI, considering GEOGloWS¹⁵ flow predictions for major rivers.

¹⁴ <https://ciram.epagri.sc.gov.br/index.php/maregrafos/>

15 <https://geogloWS.ecmwf.int/>



7.4 Coastal Engineering

Coastal models developed by the Centre for Marine Studies (CEM - UFPR) within the scope of the Brazilian Sea
505 Observatory initiative, through the application of the MOHID modeling system, were used to support local companies in the
design of submarine outfalls and study of environmental impacts of bridge construction.

7.5 Education

The Baía Digital project (<http://baiadigital.com/en/>) focuses on developing an operational digital platform to provide
environmental, social, and economic information in the region of Guanabara Bay and its surroundings. The diagnostic and
510 prognostic information generated comes from different sources, such as historical databases, data collection platforms, and
numerical computational models. Atmospheric and oceanic regional model forecasts represent temporally and spatially the
marine and atmospheric dynamics of the Guanabara Bay region. The digital platform has been developed and improved from
the interaction between professionals from different areas of science and students from different educational levels, investing
515 in the technical and scientific training of researchers. In addition, extension activities involving students from the school
segment will be planned to aim at promoting a scientific culture based on knowledge of Guanabara Bay. The project base is
the Laboratory of Computational Methods in Engineering (LAMCE), located in the UFRJ Technological Park, in partnership
with other laboratories and teaching and research institutions. The project represents a pioneering effort associated with the
regional initiatives of the Atlantic International Research Center (AIR Centre).

7.6 Climate change adaptation

520 The BASIC Cartagena is an applied research project on Basin Sea Interactions with Communities in the coastal zone of
Cartagena (Colombia). Located on the Caribbean coast in the north of Colombia, Cartagena and its surrounding beaches
represent the Country's principal touristic destination. The first phase of the project started in July 2014 and was completed
in June 2017 under the title "Reducing the risk of water pollution in vulnerable coastal communities of Cartagena, Colombia:
Responding to climate change." The second phase of the project, titled "Building Resilience in Cartagena Bay," is currently
525 being implemented since February 2018. Its general objective is to contribute to the improved environmental governance of
Cartagena Bay by providing scientifically based advice toward climate-compatible and sustainable development policies.
Studies of fluvial hydrology are dedicated to the research of the Magdalena River basin, with a focus on surface waters that
flow from the Dique Canal towards Cartagena Bay. Analysis of the watershed's human development and climatic conditions
permit modeling of the watershed's runoff processes. Future scenarios of climate change and human development will be
530 used to generate prognostics of freshwater discharge from the Dique Canal into Cartagena Bay. In the coastal zone, studies
focus on the monitoring of water quality and sediment in Cartagena Bay. Analysis of physicochemical and microbiological
parameters, as well as contaminants, will permit an impact assessment of human activities and climate variation on the sea,



as well as the generation of vulnerability maps. Hydrodynamic modeling will be used for prognostics of the dispersion of fresh water from the Dique Canal into Cartagena Bay under future watershed scenarios.

535 7.7 Ports

Within the objective of increasing navigation security, São Paulo (Brazil) Harbor Pilots (Praticagem de São Paulo in Portuguese) has been using the AquaSafe platform (<https://aquasafe.hidromod.com/landing-page/about>), developed by the Portuguese company HIDROMOD and locally implemented in partnership with the University of Santa Cecília (Unisantia) (Ribeiro et al., 2016). The data provided by the platform assists in choosing the better entering and leaving periods of the harbor. The AquaSafe platform is connected to a real-time sensor data stream (tide gauge, weather station, and ADCPs) from Praticagem's Center for Coordination, Communication, and Traffic Operations (C3OT). Furthermore, are also available high-resolution forecast solutions for wave parameters, sea level, wind, and other meteo-oceanographic parameters.

8 North America

North America is a vast continent with lengthy continental coastlines that includes densely populated areas with busy harbors and vast remote isolated coastlines. Core ocean forecasting services are anchored by national meteorological centers that increasingly trend towards prediction services of the full earth system. This includes the the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA), as well as the Canadian Meteorological and Environmental Prediction Center within the federal department of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). Benefiting ocean forecasting services in North America are mature collaborations between government departments, universities and industry including the US Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) (<https://ioos.us>) partnership with 11 regional associations and the CIOOS, the Canadian IOOS (<https://cioos.ca>) networks with 3 regional associations. In Canada, the CONCEPTS initiative coordinates ocean prediction that regroups several federal government departments together including National Defense, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (including the Canadian Coast Guard, the Canadian Hydrographic Service, and the Meteorological Service of Canada).

In the United States, Canada, and Mexico, various ocean forecast systems provide a wide range of outputs essential for maritime navigation, coastal management, fisheries, environmental monitoring, and emergency response. These outputs include information on sea conditions, currents, temperature, salinity, and biological factors. Many of these are described below for different applications. These forecast outputs, available from federal agencies like NOAA and DFO, regional IOOS associations, academic institutions, and collaborations with Copernicus Marine Service, form the foundation of marine operations, environmental protection, and coastal



resilience activities across North America. Overall the objectives (as is the case for other regions) of these broad initiatives are to provide ocean information in forms and at frequencies required by decision makers to address various societal needs, such as maritime & coastal safety, natural hazards, the blue economy, and human impacts on marine life.

Navigation

With the advent of new standards for marine navigation (IHO Reference), Implementations and applications of ocean prediction systems for E-Navigation and port management are expanding in North America. National providers of real time oceanographic data and other navigation products include USA NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) and the Canadian Hydrographic Service (Under the department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada).

The need for ocean/river information along navigation routes and channels to maintain shipping fluidity and safety is rapidly increasing, with the continuous increase in commerce, increasing ship size and draft depths, as well as the changing climate. Forecasting precisely arrivals at ports for container shipping is vital.

Ocean forecast systems are essential for safe and efficient maritime navigation in North America, providing data on currents, tides, waves, and weather that influence vessel operations in coastal and open-ocean environments. Refer to Table 1 for key forecast systems used for navigation.

Oil Spills

In the US, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is the primary federal agency for responding to oil spills in navigable waters and deep water ports, although other agencies also play prominent roles, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), NOAA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and State Agencies. The USCG relies on several ocean forecast systems to monitor and predict oceanographic and meteorological conditions critical for navigation, search and rescue, and environmental protection, primarily those run by various NOAA entities (National Weather Service, Ocean Prediction Center, OFS, and NCEP). These systems provide data on currents, wave heights, sea surface temperatures, and other factors that impact maritime operations.

NOAA responds to over 150 oil and chemical spills in U.S. waters. These spills can threaten life, property, and public natural resources as well as substantially disrupt marine transportation with potential widespread economic impacts. The Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) is charged with responding to oil spills, chemical accidents, and other emergencies in coastal areas. Under the National Contingency Plan, NOAA is responsible for providing scientific support to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) (the U.S. Coast Guard for marine



590 spills) for oil and hazardous material spills. When dealing with oil and chemical spills, there are many questions that need to be answered. *What was spilled? Where is the spill likely to travel in the water? How is the local environment affected now — and how might it be affected down the road? What's the best way to clean up the spill? How will balance be restored to the environment after the damage has been done?* NOAA brings scientific expertise to the table to help answer these questions.

595 Within OR&R, the Emergency Response Division (ERD) develops tools, guidelines, and small, field-oriented job aids to assist preparedness for response communities. In addition, NOAA provides standard techniques for observing oil, assessing shoreline impact, and evaluating and selecting cleanup technologies that have been widely accepted by response agencies.

Some of ERD's more widely distributed products include the [Environmental Sensitivity Index \(ESI\) maps and data](#), which are used to identify vulnerable resources and habitats in advance of emergencies so that appropriate response actions can be planned. ERD works with local experts to develop or update ESI maps throughout the country. The maps are [available for download](#) in a variety of formats. Another is the [CAMEO® software suite](#) (EPA) which helps emergency planners and responders deal with chemical incidents. ADIOS (Automated Data Inquiry for Oil Spills), developed by NOAA, provides rapid analysis of how different oil types weather in various marine conditions. By predicting how oil properties change (e.g., evaporation, dispersion), ADIOS helps responders plan effective cleanup strategies.

In North America, ocean forecast systems are critical for oil spill response, as they provide real-time and predictive data on currents, winds, and wave conditions to help responders track, contain, and mitigate oil spills. These systems are used by agencies like the U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA, and the Canadian Coast Guard to forecast the spread of oil, determine its impact, and support cleanup efforts. Key ocean forecast systems used in oil spill response can be found in Table 1.

Coastal Engineering

In North America, ocean forecast services are essential to coastal engineering projects, as they provide accurate predictions of oceanographic and atmospheric conditions critical for designing and maintaining coastal infrastructure, managing erosion, and preparing for extreme events. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) provides a suite of tools for predicting coastal changes, especially during storms. These tools forecast factors like coastal erosion, overwash, and inundation, which help engineers evaluate potential changes in shoreline position



and design resilient coastal infrastructure. Their Coastal Change Hazards Portal integrates data on sea-level rise,
620 coastal erosion, and sediment transport, which are critical for long-term coastal engineering projects. A
comprehensive list of forecast systems that provide services for coastal engineering can be found in Table 1.

Search and Rescue

In the U.S., several agencies are responsible for marine search and rescue operations, and act in accordance with
specific aspects of search and rescue situations. These include the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), NOAA, the U.S.
625 Navy, the FBI, and State and Local Agencies. In most cases the USCG leads S&R efforts by coordinating overall
rescue operations.

NOAA's National Environmental, Satellite, Data, and Information Services (NESDIS) Line Office operates the
Search And Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (SARSAT) System to detect and locate people in distress.
Mariners, aviators, and recreational enthusiasts can all access the satellite system in an emergency using a
630 portable radio transmitter called a [406 distress beacon](#). These beacons can send an SOS signal from anywhere on
earth, at any time, including in most extreme weather conditions.

SARSAT is an integral part and founding member of the international humanitarian search and rescue system
called [Cospas-Sarsat](#). Cospas-Sarsat now includes 45 nations and two independent SAR organizations, all with
the common goal of saving lives. Cospas-Sarsat brings together a worldwide network of [satellites](#), [ground](#)
635 [stations](#), [mission control centers](#), and [rescue coordination centers](#) to achieve this. No other distress-alerting
system can match its global reach and distress detection capabilities.

Ocean forecast systems are crucial in North America for search and rescue (SAR) operations, as they provide
data on currents, winds, wave heights, and other marine conditions that affect the drift and trajectory of people
and vessels in distress. These systems are used by the U.S. Coast Guard, Canadian Coast Guard, and other SAR
640 agencies to locate and reach those in need quickly. Refer to Table 1 for the primary ocean forecast systems used
for SAR.

Fisheries

NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and includes five regional offices, six science centers, and more than
645 20 laboratories around the United States and U.S. territories. NOAA Fisheries is responsible for the stewardship
of the nation's ocean resources and their habitat. NMFS provide vital services for the U.S, such as ensuring



productive and sustainable fisheries, safe sources of seafood, the recovery and conservation of protected resources, and the maintenance of healthy ecosystems.

NOAA's NMFS plays a crucial role in enforcing regulations and policies to sustain fish populations and ensure
650 healthy marine ecosystems, which is especially significant in the context of environmental laws and regulations. The resilience of the U.S. marine ecosystems and coastal communities depend on healthy marine species, including protected species such as whales, sea turtles, corals, and salmon. Under the [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#) and the [Endangered Species Act](#), NOAA Fisheries works to recover protected marine species while allowing economic and recreational opportunities. Additionally, using the [Magnuson-Stevens Act](#) as the guide, NOAA
655 Fisheries assesses and predicts the status of fish stocks, sets catch limits, ensures compliance with fisheries regulations, and reduces bycatch. [Eight fishery management councils](#) are key regional partners in U.S. fishery management.

In North America, ocean forecast systems (Table 1) play a critical role in supporting fisheries management by providing data on ocean conditions, ecosystem health, and fish stock dynamics. These systems help fisheries
660 agencies, researchers, and fishermen make informed decisions on sustainable practices, habitat conservation, and resource allocation.

Water quality

Several U.S. government agencies are involved in supporting marine water quality. Key agencies include (a) the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which sets water quality standards, regulates pollutants, and monitors
665 coastal and marine waters; (b) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which conducts research on ocean health, manages marine resources, and supports programs like the National Estuarine Research Reserve System; (c) the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), which Coast Guard monitors and responds to marine pollution incidents and ensures maritime safety; (d) the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), which Corps manages coastal projects and assesses impacts on water quality from dredging and construction; (e) the Fish and
670 Wildlife Service (FWS), which FWS protects fish and wildlife habitats and works to restore ecosystems, which directly impacts water quality; and (e), the National Park Service (NPS): The NPS manages marine protected areas and conducts water quality monitoring within national parks.

Ocean forecast systems play a key role in monitoring and managing water quality in North America, particularly in coastal and nearshore areas. These systems help detect pollution, harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, and other
675 water quality issues that can affect ecosystems, human health, and economic activities. The main systems used



for water quality activities are shown in Table 1 and help address a range of water quality issues, from managing pollution and algal blooms to improving beach safety and protecting aquatic life. By providing critical real-time and predictive data, they support water quality management efforts across North America’s diverse coastal environments.

680 **Tourism**

Several U.S. agencies support ocean tourism through various initiatives and programs. Key agencies include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which manages marine sanctuaries and promotes sustainable tourism practices to protect marine resources (more below); the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which oversees national wildlife refuges that often include coastal areas and promotes eco-tourism; 685 the National Park Service (NPS), which manages coastal national parks and provides resources for visitors, enhancing ocean-related tourism; and State Tourism Offices. Many states have tourism offices that promote coastal and ocean tourism, often in partnership with local businesses and conservation organizations.

Within NOAA, several entities support ocean tourism through various initiatives that promote sustainable practices and conservation. Some of the initiatives include Marine Protected Areas (MPA’s), research and 690 monitoring, education and outreach, collaborative partnerships, and coastal zone management.

Forecast systems employed in North America support tourism by providing essential information on marine conditions for coastal recreation, water sports, and cruise industries. In addition to the systems listed in Table 1, there are also private industry services like Magicseaweed and Surfline, which leverage NOAA data and integrate local observations, making wave forecasts accessible for beachgoers and surfers. Finally, there are Marine 695 Weather Portals and Apps such as Windy, SailFlow, and PredictWind which aggregate data from multiple forecasting models, providing tourists with accessible and accurate ocean and weather information.

Offshore Energy

U.S. agencies that support offshore energy development each have specific roles and responsibilities. The key 700 agencies include the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) (responsible for managing the development of the nation’s offshore energy resources, including oil, gas, and renewable energy projects like wind and wave energy); the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) (oversees safety and environmental protection for offshore energy operations, ensuring compliance with regulations); the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (NOAA plays a critical role in assessing environmental impacts and



705 managing marine resources, providing data and guidance for sustainable offshore energy development); the
Department of Energy (DOE) (supports research and development of renewable energy technologies, including
offshore wind and ocean energy, and works on initiatives to improve energy infrastructure); the U.S. Coast Guard
(which ensures the safety and security of offshore energy operations, including navigational safety and
environmental protection); and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (responsible for issuing permits for activities
710 that may affect navigable waters and wetlands, including some offshore energy projects).

For the offshore energy sector in North America, ocean forecast systems are essential to ensure the safety and
efficiency of operations, particularly for oil, gas, and renewable energy projects like offshore wind farms. These
systems provide critical information on ocean currents, waves, winds, and other environmental conditions. Key
forecast systems that contribute to the offshore energy industry can be found in Table 1. In addition, research
715 centers, like the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution,
produce specialized models for specific energy projects. Hindcast data help model historical ocean conditions,
and operational forecasts aid in planning and real-time decision-making. Companies like Fugro, Woods Hole
Group, DNV GL, and RPS Group offer tailored ocean forecasting and metocean services that provide high-
resolution, localized ocean and weather forecasts to support the offshore energy industry. These forecasts are
720 often customized for specific platforms, rigs, or turbines.

These forecast systems and services provide crucial data to help offshore energy companies make informed
decisions regarding deployment, maintenance, and operational safety, especially in challenging or remote ocean
environments. The oil and gas energy industry have specific ocean forecast requirements depending on the
application, such as diver operations, unmanned vehicles operations, rig installation, production, etc. In the Gulf
725 of Mexico, a leading area for exploration and production, the Loop Current Eddy (LCE) shedding is a process of
great interest, as current speeds of extended or detached LCE's often have current speeds in excess of 2-3 m/s,
speeds which often require repositioning of equipment or temporary cessation of operations.

Climate Change Adaptation

Like many other categories, several U.S. agencies play a role in the rapidly evolving marine climate change
adaptation efforts. These include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S.
730 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Park
Service (NPS), the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Department of the Interior (DOI), and the Federal
Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



NOAA conducts extensive research on climate change impacts on marine ecosystems, including ocean
735 temperatures, sea level rise, and habitat changes. They monitor these changes to understand trends and inform
adaptive strategies. They also collect and disseminate data on ocean conditions, weather patterns, and climate
trends, information which is vital for stakeholders, including policymakers, scientists, and coastal communities,
to make informed decisions. NOAA also collaborates with various organizations, including local governments,
NGOs, and international bodies, to enhance adaptive capacity. Holistically, NOAA contributes to national and
740 regional policies that address climate change impacts on marine resources, ensuring that adaptation measures are
integrated into broader environmental and economic planning.

For climate change adaptation activities in North America, ocean forecast systems provide essential data on sea
level rise, coastal erosion, extreme weather events, and ocean warming. These systems help communities,
governments, and industries develop resilience strategies, make informed decisions, and mitigate the impacts of
745 climate change on coastal and marine environments. Key ocean forecast systems for climate adaptation can be
found in Table 1.

Ecological and Biological Studies

Many of the US government agencies focus on ecological and biological studies, often addressing issues like
750 biodiversity, conservation, climate change, and resource management. NOAA's key programs include the
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which monitors marine biodiversity, conservation, and sustainable
fishing practices, and the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), which conducts oceanographic,
atmospheric, and climate science. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has an Endangered Species Program which
protects threatened and endangered species and habitats, as well as the National Wildlife Refuge System, which
755 manages a network of habitats for biodiversity conservation. The Environmental Protection Agency works to
protect human health and the environment, and conducts research on ecosystem health, pollution, and sustainable
management through the Office of Research and Development (ORD). The National Park Service has the
Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Directorate which conducts ecological research in national parks, as
well as the Climate Change Response Program, which studies climate change impacts on park ecosystems.

760 Within each agency are targeted ecological and biological studies and programs. Within NOAA, these include
Marine Species Monitoring and Habitat Studies (tracking the populations and distributions of marine specie) such
as fish, whales, corals, and seabirds); Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) (modeling entire ecosystems,



understanding predator-prey relationships, and evaluating human impacts, such as fishing, pollution, and climate change); Coral Reef Research and Restoration (NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program supports reef restoration projects and promotes coral reef health through scientific research and policy guidance); Endangered Species Conservation (NOAA is heavily involved in the conservation of threatened marine species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Research includes tracking endangered species, understanding their reproductive behaviors, and mitigating threats from human activities); Climate Change Impact Studies; Coastal Ecosystem Health Monitoring (NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) monitors coastal ecosystem health, studying phenomena such as harmful algal blooms (HABs), nutrient pollution, and wetland loss); Marine Biodiversity Research; Ocean Exploration and Mapping (NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER); and Human and Natural Hazards.

In North America, ocean forecast systems are instrumental in supporting ecological and biological studies by providing real-time and forecasted data on ocean currents, temperature, salinity, nutrient distribution, and more. These systems help researchers monitor marine ecosystems, track biological events, and study the effects of climate change on oceanic environments. Forecast systems used for ecological and biological studies are highlighted in Table 1.

Table 1: Forecast Systems used in the provision of downstream applications and services in North America.

System	Provider	Navigation	Oil spills	C. Eng.	S&R	Fisheries	Water quality	Tourism	Offshore Energy	Climate change	Eco & Bio
RTOFS ¹	NOAA	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX			XX	XX	XX
GFS ²	NOAA	XX	XX		XX	XX		XX	XX		
CONCEPTS ³	ECCC	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		XX	XX	XX	XX
NOS Tide and current	NOAA	XX		XX		XX		XX	XX		XX



System	Provider	Navigation	Oil spills	C. Eng.	S&R	Fisheries	Water quality	Tourism	Offshore Energy	Climate change	Eco & Bio
predictions ⁴											
SPARROW ⁵	USGS	XX					XX				
GNOME ⁶	NOAA		XX						XX		
WW III ⁷	NOAA		XX	XX	XX			XX	XX		
ROMS ⁸	various		XX	XX		XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
CO-OPS OFS ⁹	NOAA			XX				XX	XX		XX
PORTS ¹⁰	NOAA	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX			XX
SLOSH ¹¹	NOAA			XX					XX		
STOFS ¹²	NOAA			XX					XX		
SEDTRANS ¹³				XX					XX		



System	Provider	Navigation	Oil spills	C. Eng.	S&R	Fisheries	Water quality	Tourism	Offshore Energy	Climate change	Eco & Bio
NWPS ¹⁴	NOAA				XX						
SAROPS ¹⁵	NOAA				XX						
EBFM ¹⁶	NOAA					XX					XX
HAB-OFS ¹⁷	NOAA					XX	XX		XX		XX
WASP ¹⁸	EPA						XX				
DFO ¹⁹	ECCC					XX			XX	XX	XX
CFS ²⁰	NOAA			XX		XX				XX	XX
HAFS ²¹				XX	XX		XX	XX	XX		

¹Real-Time Ocean Forecast System (RTOFS) (NOAA/NWS/EMC)

780 ²Global Forecast System (GFS) (NOAA/NWS)

³Canadian Operational Network of Coupled Environmental Perdition Systems (ECCC)

⁴NOS Tide and current predictions

⁵Spatially Referenced Regression on Watershed Attributes (SPARROW)

⁶General NOAA Operational Modeling Environment (GNOME)

785 ⁷Wave Watch III (WWIII)

⁸Regional Ocean Modeling System (ROMS)

⁹Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) Operational Forecast System(s) (OFS)

¹⁰Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS (NOAA)

¹¹Sea Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH)

790 ¹²Storm Surge & Tide Operational Forecast (STOFS)

¹³Sediment Transport Model (SEDTRANS)

¹⁴Nearshore Wave Prediction System (NWPS)

¹⁵Search and Rescue Optimal Planning System (SAROPS)



- 795 ¹⁶Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM)
¹⁷Harmful Algal Blooms – Operational Forecast System (HAB-OFS)
¹⁸WASP
¹⁹Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
²⁰Climate Forecast System (CFS)
²¹Hurricane Analysis Forecast System (HAFS)

800

9 Arctic

The Arctic environment is evolving quickly. Short-term models allow users to monitor changes to the landscape, particularly at the ice edge and responses to short-term events (such as storms). This information is valuable for national environment agencies, especially those with Arctic coastlines. As detailed in Section 3.1.9, there are a number of short-term (up to 10
805 day) forecasting systems available in the Arctic. Nine of these are global models, eight are regional, and five are coastal. It is important to note that many of the Arctic forecast system outputs are used as inputs to other models. This can be specific modelling in response to an event - for example, oil spill trajectory modeling, as described in Nordam et al. (2019) - or for monitoring the state of a specific parameter that is not present in the main forecasting system, such as the use of TOPAZ4 to force a coastal 800 m resolution ocean model for a weekly monitoring and assessment of the sea-louse
810 (<https://www.globalseafood.org/advocate/norwegian-researchers-develop-sea-lice-tracking-model/>). The latter example is currently only applied to the coastline of mainland Norway at present, but as fishing extends further and further north, such forecasts may also become more relevant further into the Arctic.

They are also used to feed into weather forecast models, an Arctic-specific application mirroring the standard process of forcing ocean models with weather forecast outputs that is often used in other regions. This is because ice conditions can
815 have important feedback to the atmosphere, and models developed specifically for ice can represent these conditions well. The NOAA ice drift is primarily used for this purpose (https://mag.ncep.noaa.gov/docs/NCEP_PDD_MAG.pdf), to provide sea ice conditions for the NWS global atmospheric model: this has been the case since 1998.

In the following subsections, the other main applications of Arctic forecasts are provided, focusing on direct applications of the forecasts themselves.

820 9.1 Policy & governance

There are a few relevant policies that are considered by users working in the Arctic. The first is the Polar Code, which is the International Marine Organisation's international code for ships operating in polar waters, in place since 1st January 2017 (<https://www.imo.org/en/ourwork/safety/pages/polar-code.aspx>); it is relevant for navigation (and, as part of this, design and capabilities of ships wishing to work in polar waters) and operational procedures, search and rescue, and protection of
825 ecosystems. Mandatory measures cover safety and pollution prevention, and ships going into the polar regions require a Polar Ship Certificate determining what conditions the ship is suited to



(<https://www.dnv.com/maritime/polar/requirements.html>). Forecasts can contribute to helping users abide by the Code, for example by assessing whether ships will be able/authorized to operate in upcoming sea-ice conditions. The definition of “environmental conditions” is evolving in the Polar Code and may in the future include variables that can be skillfully
830 forecast.

There are also fisheries agreements in the Arctic, for example, the Agreement to prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the central Arctic Ocean, in place since 25th June 2021 (<https://arctic-council.org/news/introduction-to-international-agreement-to-prevent-unregulated-fishing-in-the-high-seas-of-the-central-arctic-ocean/>), which aims to ensure that future fishing in the Arctic as sea ice declines can be carried out sustainably.

835 **9.2 Fisheries**

Short-term forecasts could help to inform users about conditions suited to fish stocks and to reduce the chance of operating in risky conditions which could lead to oil spills. As noted by Neis et al., (2020), “When harvesters adjust their activity or move into new fishing grounds, forecasts become critical tools for anticipating dangerous conditions and ‘learning’ an unknown environment or working context (e.g., different gear)”, which suggests that even if the central Arctic Ocean
840 remains tightly controlled, an increase in fishing activities in the northern peripheral seas as ice declines (Fauchald et al., 2021) may increase the need for forecasts.

9.3 Education

With ongoing Arctic Sea ice decline, scientific results from the region are more frequently appearing in national news and the general public are more aware of the Arctic environment and how it is changing. The freely accessible forecast maps
845 from most services, with an interface that can select given variables and watch as they run forward in time, provide a useful tool to demonstrate how changeable, for example, the ice edge is in response to forcing even on the short term, which can be used to engage with wider audiences and educate about the Arctic as a dynamic system. For example, Coursera, a website offering a number of free online courses for studying in evenings, has a course entitled “Frozen in the Ice: Exploring the Arctic”, based out of the University of Boulder, Colorado (<https://www.coursera.org/learn/frozen-in-the-ice>); the course
850 allows participants to act as virtual participants on the MOSAiC Arctic research campaign, and one of the six modules is based around Arctic forecasting. Activities such as this allow the public to get closer to polar research, and many large research campaigns now include outreach as part of their programs.

9.4 Recreation (e.g. tourism)

Arctic tourism has been increasing in recent decades (Larsen and Fondahl, 2014f), particularly the concept of “last chance
855 tourism” (Eijgelaar et al., 2010). As well as requiring forecasts for navigation in waters where ships have been built for comfort rather than operational purposes, tourism is often focused on reaching the ice edge or ecosystems to spot wildlife.



This can require accurate forecasts of sea ice conditions and the limit of the Marginal Ice Zone which is a hotspot for biological activity in the Arctic (and attracts the more audacious fishermen as a result). Search and rescue-based forecasts for such purposes is also relevant as ships aim to get close to the ice rather than avoid it.

860 **9.5 Science & innovation**

Forecasts of the Arctic Ocean can be used to inform new developments or deployments of equipment for scientific purposes. One such example is the Sea Ice Drift forecast Experiment (SIDFEx¹⁶). Two of the main aims of the campaign were to gather information on available sea ice drift forecasts in order to a) decide on an optimal starting position for the research icebreaker Polarstern to commence a year-long study of conditions while frozen into the sea ice, and b) use the drift forecasts to inform where to order high-resolution satellite images of the local domain around the ship for the coming days as they become available. Using sea ice drift models to selectively download these images saved limited bandwidth and image fees. Another example of the use of short-term forecasts is the use of the VENUS (VEssel Navigation Unit support System), a forecasting platform which can use a variety of domains to provide forecasts for research ships on demand. This was successfully deployed in a cruise in 2018 (Dethloff et al., 2019). The ice-strengthened ship MIRAI could only go a) where ice thickness was less than 70cm and concentration less than 0.1, and b) where air temperature was greater than -15 degrees C (Inoue, 2019). Scientists were deploying equipment near the marginal ice zone in order to investigate the predictability of conditions during autumn freezing; further, the ship needed to gather as much data as possible while being able to exit through the Bering Strait before ice blocked it for the winter (Dethloff et al., 2019). Using VENUS, which combines forecast from ECMWF, sea ice forecasts from ICEPOM (University of Tokyo) and passive microwave data helped to inform these. Such use of forecasts can also feed back into the development - for example, on the MIRAI cruise, the bandwidth was such that it was hard to download data; therefore 2D fields were more valuable (Inoue, 2019).

9.6 Extremes, hazards & safety

As more activities happen at the ice edge and in the marginal ice zone, there is an increase in the risk of both harm to humans and negative consequences of their activities, and there have been some incidents in the last decade (for example, <https://barentsobserver.com/en/nature/2013/09/tanker-accident-northern-sea-route-09-09>). Marchenko et al. (2015) note “the main operational risk factors faced include geographical remoteness, climate-change related aspects and weather, electronic communications challenges, sea ice, lack of precise maps or hydrographic and meteorological data”. Forecasting models can be used both to reduce risk and to target the response to an incident. For example, the Barents-2.5km model, used by MET Norway, acts as one of the main inputs to further modeling of pollutants (such as drift of oil spills from ships) and iceberg drifting, which are all based on the same type of Lagrangian drift calculations (Sutherland et al., 2020). It is also used in

¹⁶ <https://www.polarprediction.net/key-yopp-activities/sea-ice-prediction-and-verification/sea-ice-drift-forecast-experiment/>



search and rescue operations, where information on where a lost person or vessel may drift in the short term is very important.

9.7 Coastal services (e.g., storm surge models)

890 Coastal models play an important role in understanding the short-term behaviour of a region. One such example is the storm surge model, which provides both coastal forecasts (useful for those with activities in coastal waters, such as fishing) and a warning system for storm surges along the coast of mainland Norway and Svalbard. Users receive an alert when an extreme weather event is likely; for example, during the storm “Elsa” in February 2020, it was found to be a useful tool to both monitor the development and to send warnings out (Kristensen et al., 2024).

9.8 Natural resources & energy

895 As sea ice declines, more opportunities to exploit natural resources such as oil and gas extraction arise, although the safety of fixed assets and persons will still be at risk of storms, high waves, sea ice and incoming icebergs. To reduce ocean pollution and carbon footprint from transportation of people/resources to and from destinations, as well as minimise risk from ending up in thick ice, companies must choose the best routes for transportation. Short-term forecasts in conjunction with available real-time observations can be very important for this (Grigoryev et al., 2022).

900 9.9 Trade & marine navigation

Reductions in summer sea ice, and thinner ice, open new routes to traverse the Arctic (for example, the Northeast Passage), providing more efficient routes across the globe, as well as providing opportunities for many of the above users to work further into the Arctic Basin away from the coast. In all the cases currently described, there is an aspect of navigation driving a need for forecasts. One of the main considerations when navigating is sea ice jams and ice accumulation, which can prevent further progress to ships and cause hull damage (for example, the case where two cargo ships were stuck and damaged in Frobisher Bay, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/ice-damages-hull-of-sealift-ship-near-iqaluit-1.1230034>). Depending on the ability of the ship (ice-strengthened or icebreaker), different sea ice conditions can be the limit of safe operations. Given the ice can vary quickly, recent efforts have been made to include a dynamical ice edge in fully coupled model for weather prediction (Day et al., 2022) and improve forecasts of the ice edge itself (Posey et al., 2015) A typical use of sea ice short-term forecasts is to assess whether the ice edge is advancing or retreating (which would then feed into decisions related to navigation on the short-term, such as whether or not it is safe for a ship to either stay in a given location for deployments, or to navigate in a certain direction; for example, the use of VENUS for monitoring sea ice in Bering Strait, Section 3.1.9). One of the main limitations of accessing information from a ship is a reliable internet connection, meaning forecasts must be readily available and not hard to download. A number of users still rely on manual ice charts drawn by experts.



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Competing interests

The contact author has declared that none of the authors has any competing interests.

Data and/or code availability

This can also be included at a later stage, so no problem to define it for the first submission.

1260 Authors contribution

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