



The Bureau  
of Meteorology

# National Report Australia

OPST-8, November 2023

Gary Brassington  
Bureau of Meteorology

# Scope

## Bureau of Meteorology

- Global/Regional
- OceanMAPS, ADEPT
  - Eddy-resolving => Internal-tides
  - large scale HPC/fixed domain
- MOM5 / ROMS / NEMO
- EnKF-C, EnKF/EnOI
- Ensemble forecasting
- Coupled forecasting
- Reanalysis – EnKORe, ADEPT
  - Model climatologies
- Acoustic verification

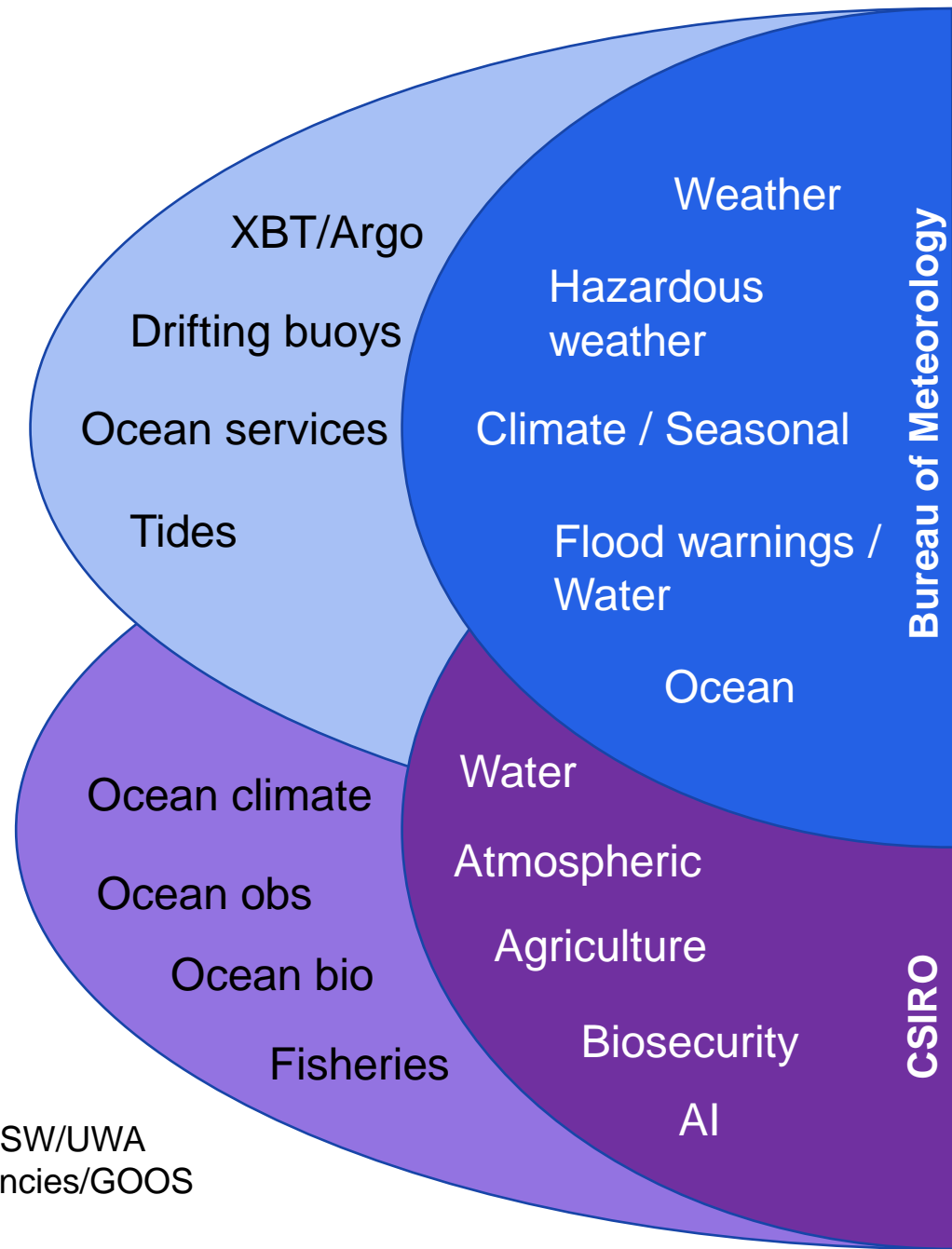
## CSIRO

- Shelf/Coastal/Littoral/Surf/BGC
- BRAN/BRAN-bio
- ROAM
- SHOC/CoMPAS
- ROAM-surf/Bio-ROAM
- Acoustics

**Bluelink partners** – Bureau/CSIRO/Defence

**National partners** – IMOS/COSIMA-2/ANU/UNSW/UWA

**International partners** – UKMO/GFDL/Sat-agencies/GOOS



# Report - in one page

## Operational system – OceanMAPSv4.0i

- **EnKF data assimilation**
- Hybrid EnKF (48-dynamic / 144-stationary)
- Good performance gains and comparisons
- Brassington, Sakov, Divakaran, Aijaz, Sweeney-Van Kinderen, Huang and Allen, 2023, June. OceanMAPS v4. 0i: a global eddy resolving EnKF ocean forecasting system. In *OCEANS 2023-Limerick* (pp. 1-8). IEEE.

## OceanMAPSv4.1i (PRE-OP) (mid-2024)

- Optimized EnKF more gains for all variables
- Greatest gains for SST

## OceanMAPSv4.2 (TRIAL) (2025) – coupled ocean-sea-ice and assimilation of SIC

## OceanMAPSv5 (Research) – NEMO ORCA12 + EnKF

## BRAN2020

- routine updating
- Some developments on multi-scale EnOI
- Extension to include BGC variables

## EnKORe

- 12 year reanalysis

## Coupled NWP – GC5 UM + NEMO ORCA025

- Development ORCA025 + EnKF



## OTHER QUESTIONS

### Plans for digital twins and AI/ML

- No current plans for digital twins within Bluelink
- AI/ML – a lot of interest developing across the Bureau and CSIRO
  - Some small projects scoping the capability

### Relationship and communalities with NWP groups

- Coupled NWP is active with the UM partnership
- Key challenges for merger of capabilities
  - Eddy-resolving or better models
  - Ensemble-based data assimilation vs 4DVar or hybrid-4DVar

### Awareness of OP-DCC interactions (e.g. Atlas), best practice approaches, etc

- Some interest to contribute, discussion on region-33, resource limited





# Operational system

OceanMAPSv4.0i\*

\*Ocean Model, Analysis and Prediction System (OceanMAPS)

v4.0 - Version 4.0

i – interim system (New DA / Persist model)



# OceanMAPS version 4.0i

## System

### Model

OFAM3 (MOM5)  
75S-75N, 0-360  
0.1° x 0.1°, 51 z\*-levels (5m top cell)

### Data assimilation

EnKF-C  
Hybrid-EnKF  
48 dynamic members  
144 low-mode members  
3-day analysis cycle (-3 day BRT)  
FGAT, Restart initialisation

### Atmospheric forcing

ACCESS-G3 (APS3)  
Bulk formulae

### Observations

In situ profiles (GTS, GDAC)  
Satellite altimetry (RADS, JASON3, SARAL, Sentinel-3A/3B, Cryosat-2)  
Satellite SST (AMSR2, NAVOCEANO, NPP-VIIRS, NOAA20-VIIRS)

### Forecasts

EnKF (-3 day analysis) + 3 day hindcast  
Daily 7 day forecasts  
Average restart forecast  
3 synchronous ensemble forecasts  
7 lagged ensemble forecasts

## New features

### Hybrid EnKF

48-dynamic ensemble members  
144-stationary model anomalies

- Anomaly (month– annual mean)

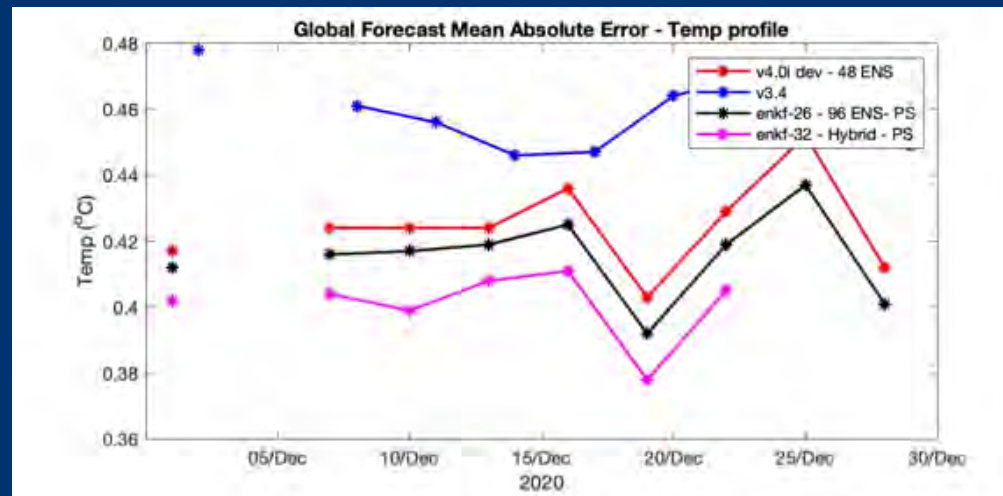
~7 kSU / day

**OPERATIONAL – OCT 2022**

## Impact

### Performance

- Reduction in increment variance
- Improved dynamical balance of increments
- Beats persistence
- Reduction in abyssal noise
- Separation of eddies
- Sustaining low signal to noise eddies



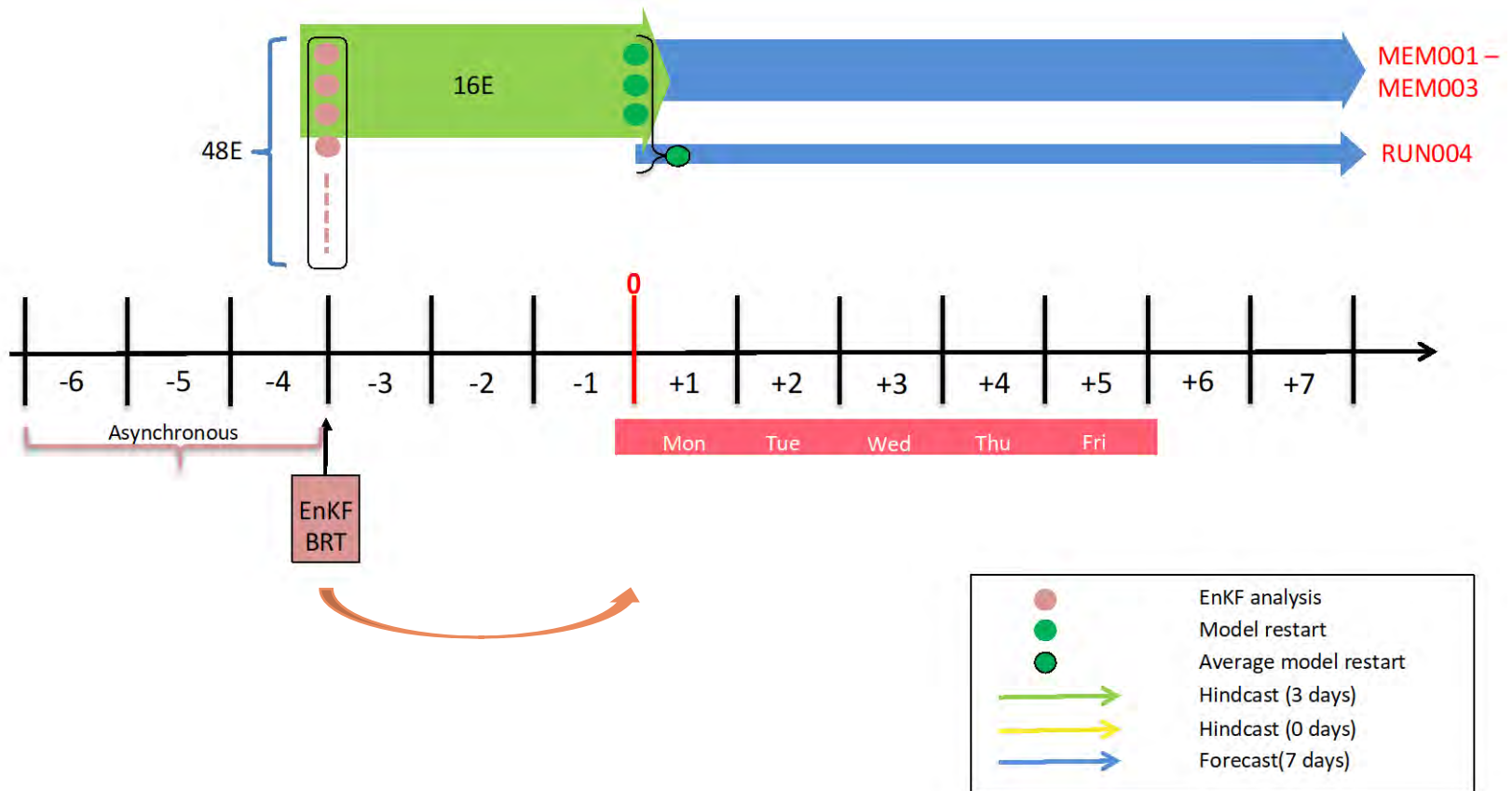
## References

- Brassington, Sakov, Divakaran, Aijaz, Sweeney-Van Kinderen, Huang and Allen, 2023, June. OceanMAPS v4. 0i: a global eddy resolving EnKF ocean forecasting system. In *OCEANS 2023-Limerick* (pp. 1-8). IEEE.
- Sakov, and Oke, P.R., 2008.. *Tellus A: Dynamic Meteorology and Oceanography*, 60(2), pp.361-371.
- Sakov, Evensen, G. and Bertino, L., 2010.. *Tellus A: Dynamic Meteorology and Oceanography*, 62(1), pp.24-29.
- Sakov, 2014.. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1410.1233*.



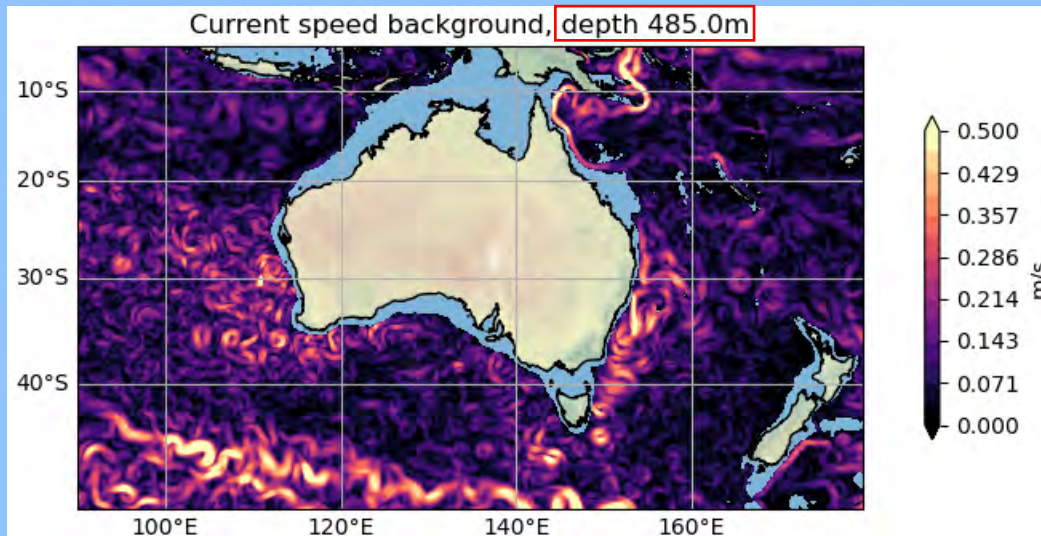
**Bluelink**  
Ocean Forecasting

# OPERATIONAL SCHEDULE



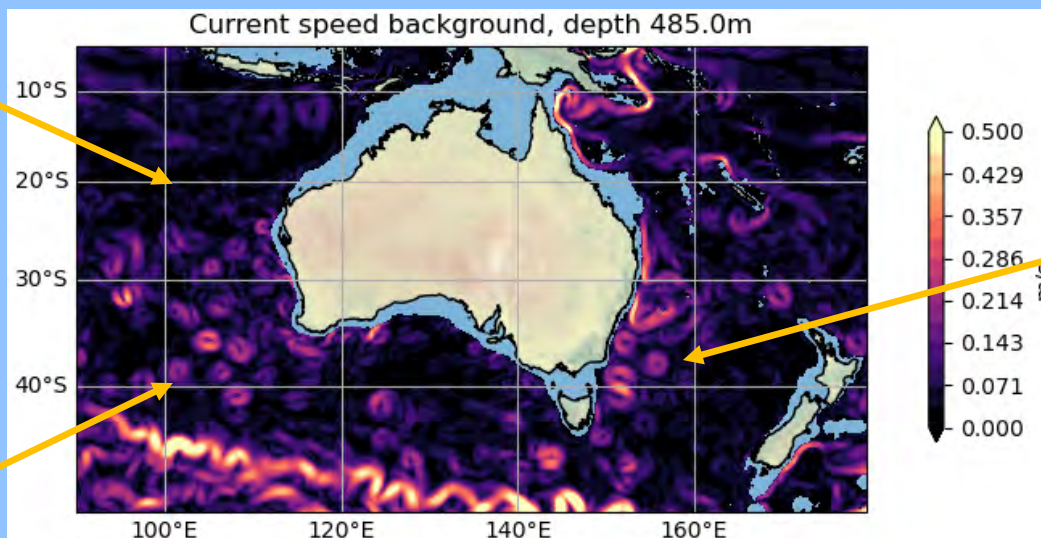
# EnKF vs EnOI

OceanMAPSv3.4



Realistic passive regions

OceanMAPSv4.0i



Clearly defined eddies that are observed

Clear separation of eddies

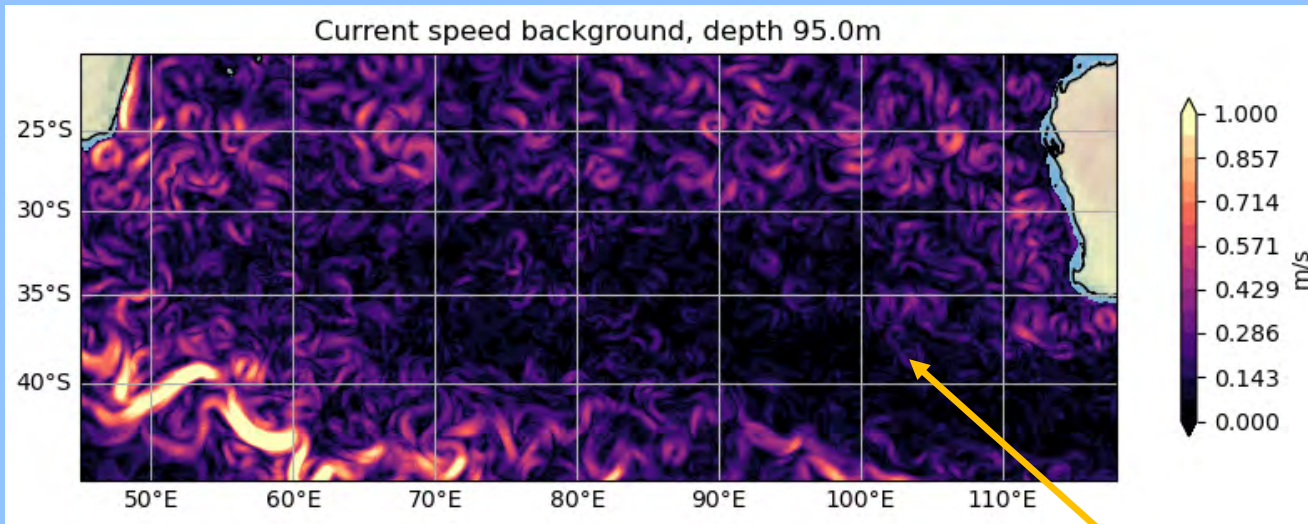




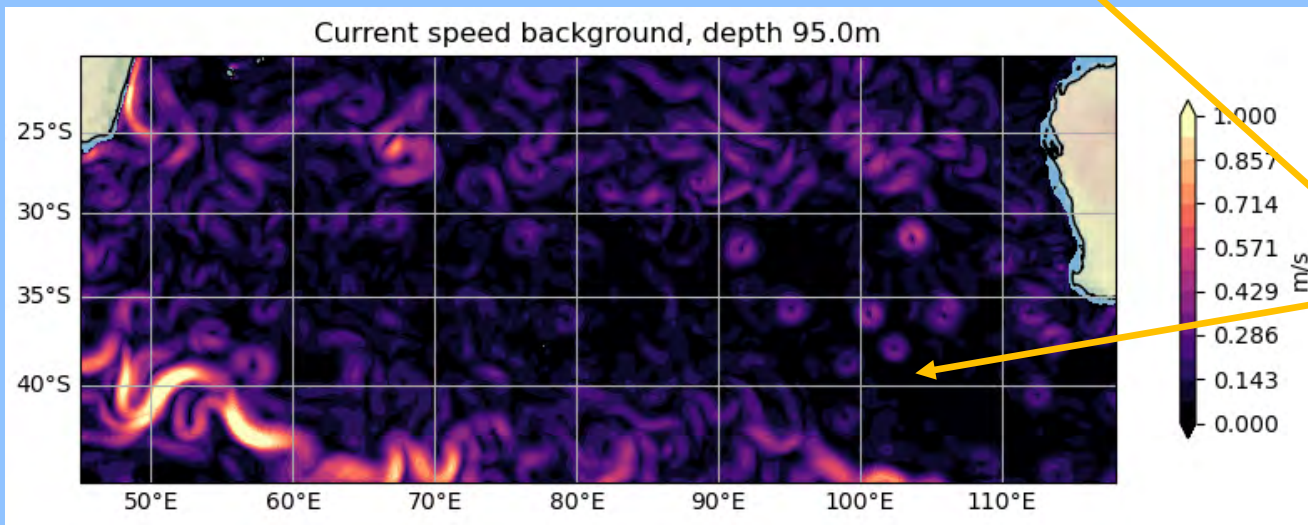
# EnKF vs EnOI

Indian ocean

EnOI



EnKF



EnKF retains eddies

# EnKF vs EnOI

## CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS - (eta,TEMP), (eta, SALT) in the presence/absence of eddies

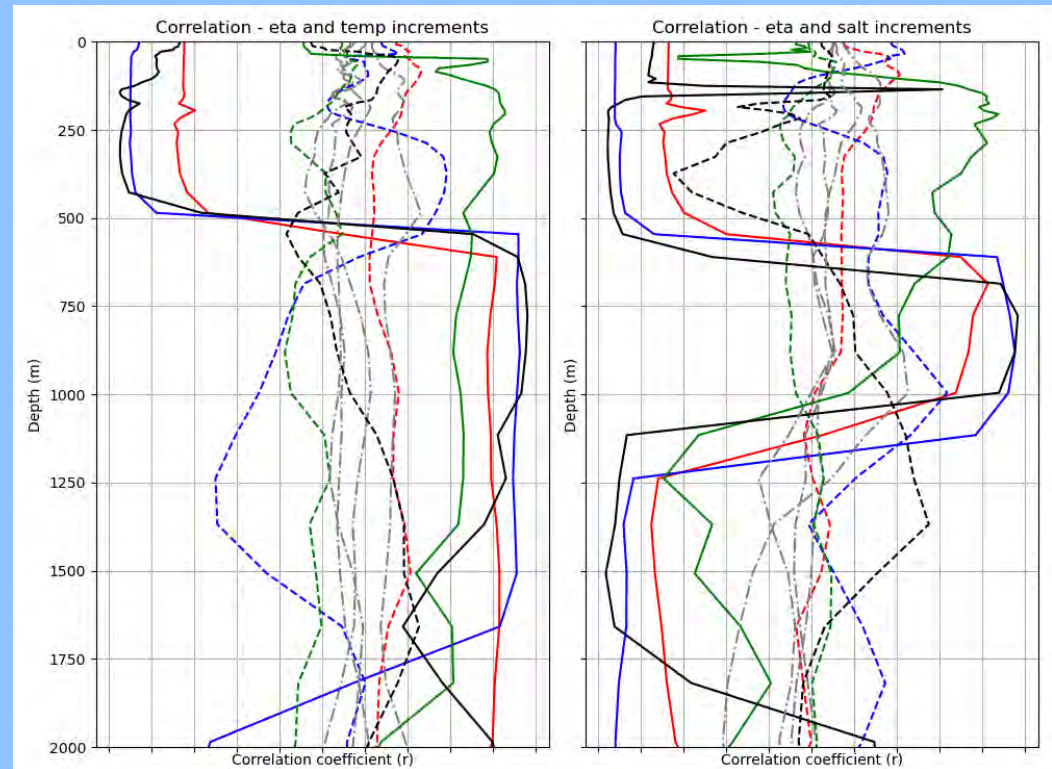
Four eddies (cold-core) from SE Indian Ocean eddy graveyard.

Identified through SLA signature in EnKF ensmean.

**Solid lines** are correlations for EnKF ensemble increments when eddy is present

**Dashed lines** are correlations for EnKF ensemble increments at same location on a different day (no eddy)

**Grey lines** are correlations for EnOI stationary ensemble members at the same location.



# EnKF vs EnOI

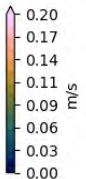
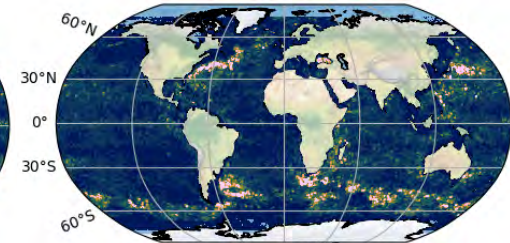
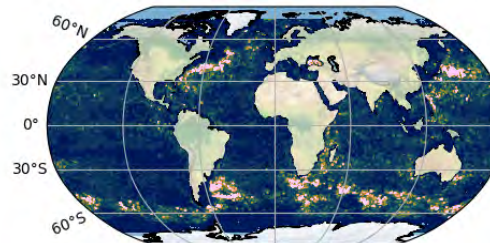
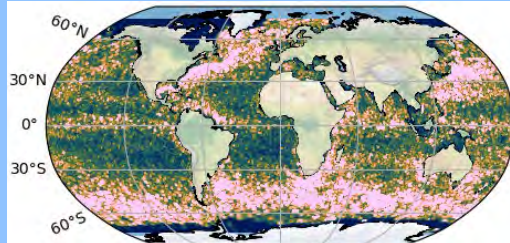
current increments

V3.4 EnOI

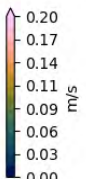
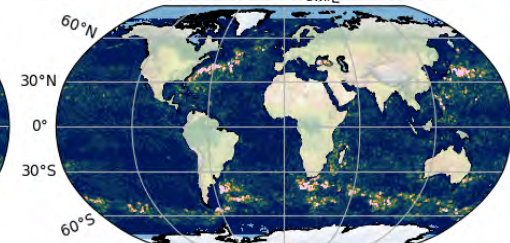
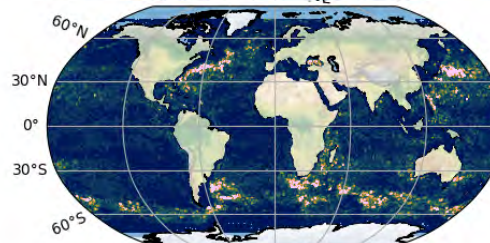
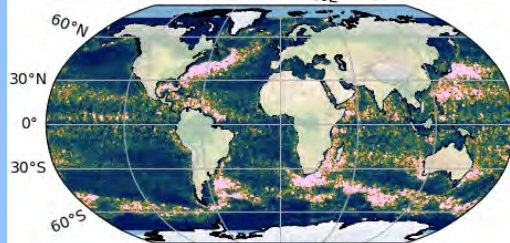
EnKF MBR 001

EnKF ensmean

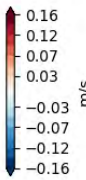
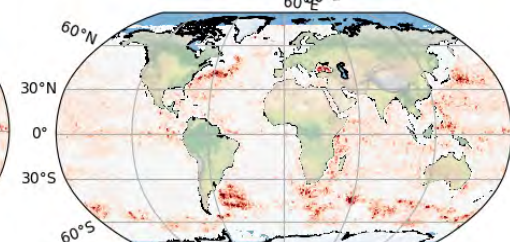
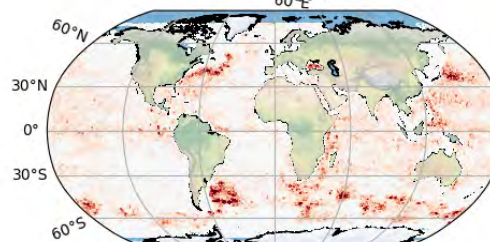
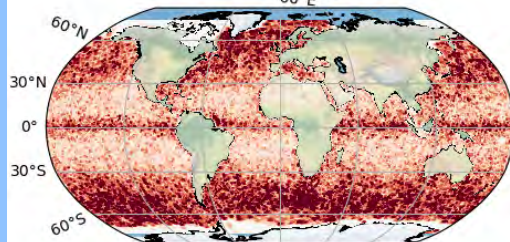
Actual  
 $|u_{inc}|$



Available  
geostrophic  
 $|u_{inc}^a|$

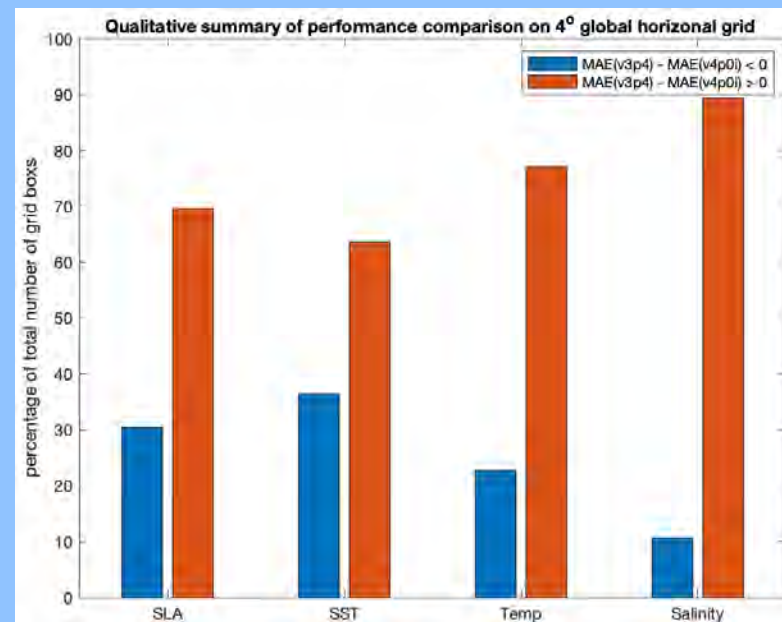
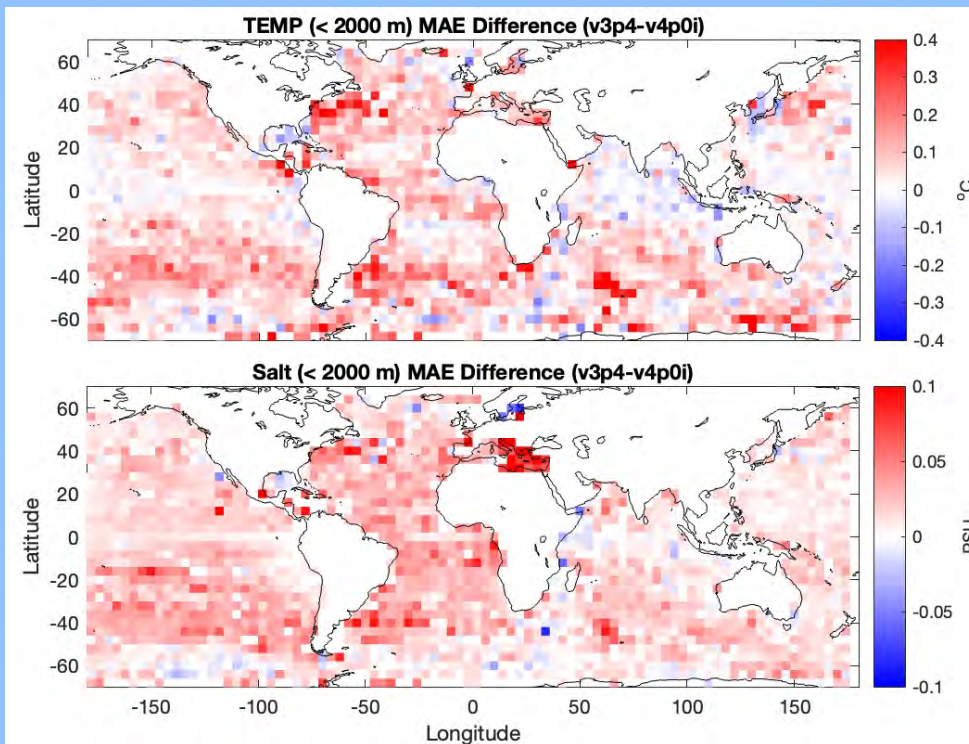


Difference  
 $\Delta u_{inc}$



# EnKF vs EnOI

T/S

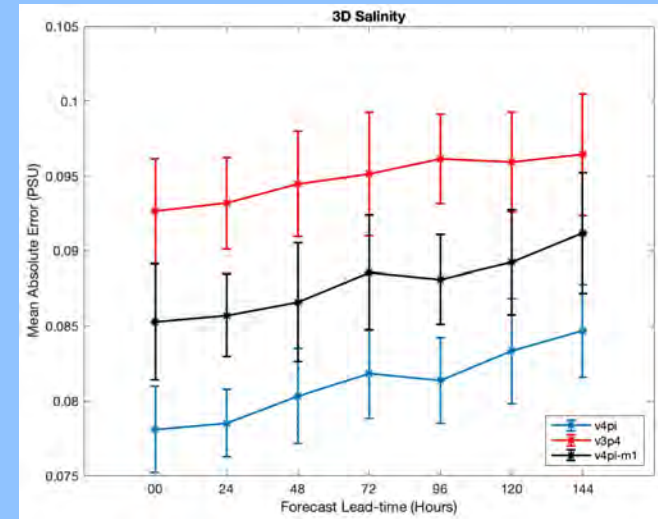
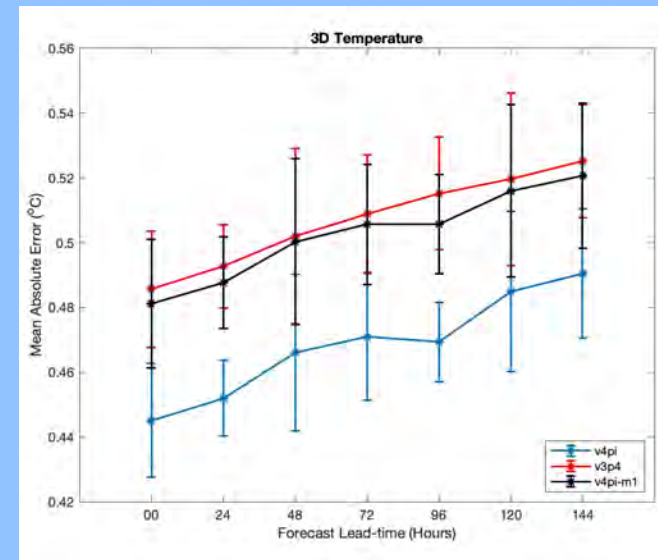
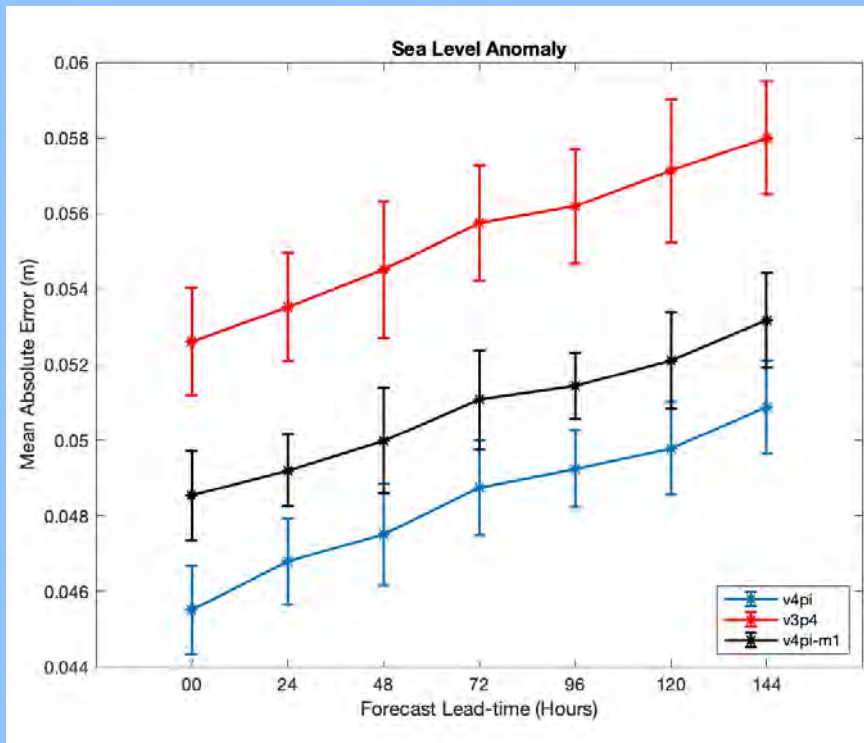


Percentage of negative(blue) and positive(red) bins of MAE difference (v3.4 – v4.0i)

The difference in Mean Absolute Difference (MAD) of OceanMAPSv3.4 minus OceanMAPSv4.0i each compared with a common set of vertical in situ Argo profiles of temperature over the upper 2000m for the hindcast period Jul 2021to Jun 2022. The MAD statistics are applied each 4 x 4 degree bin.

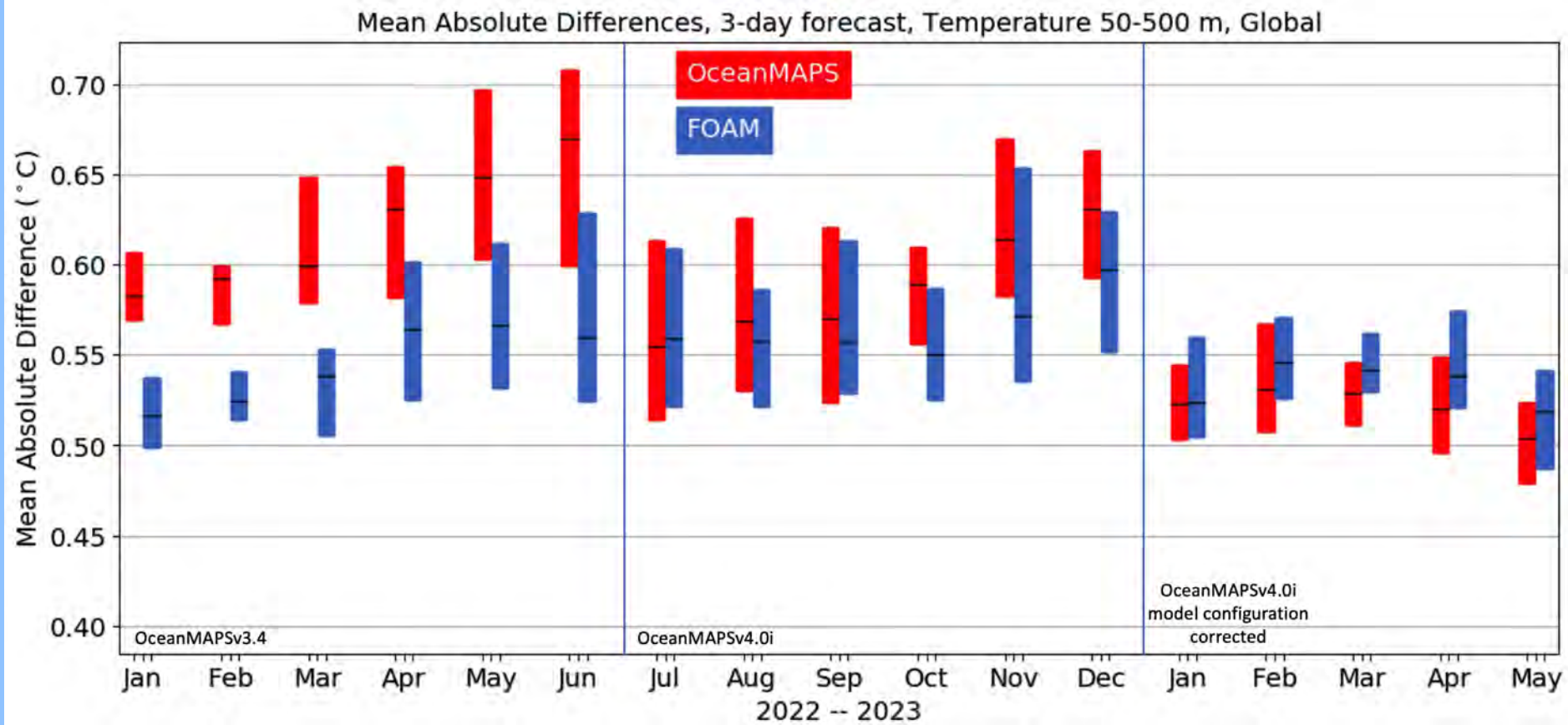


# EnKF performance



# EnKF comparison

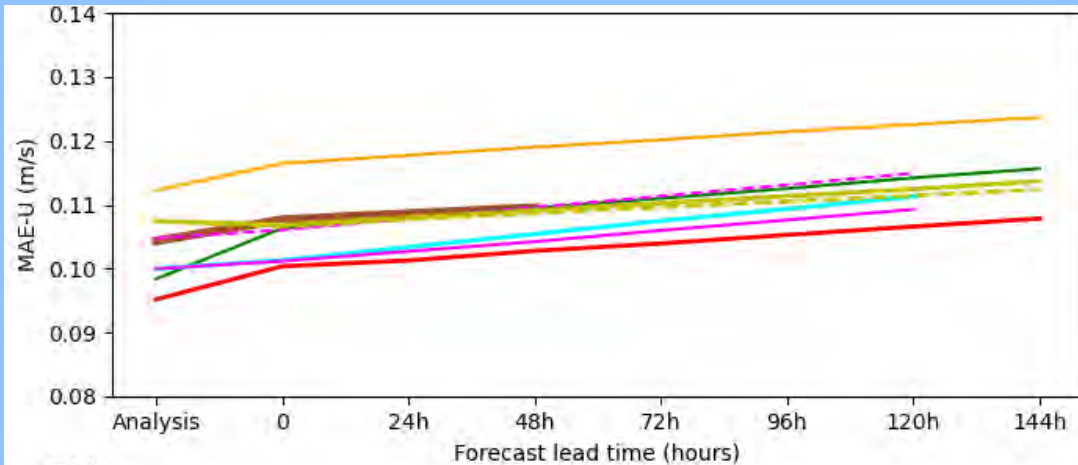
Temp



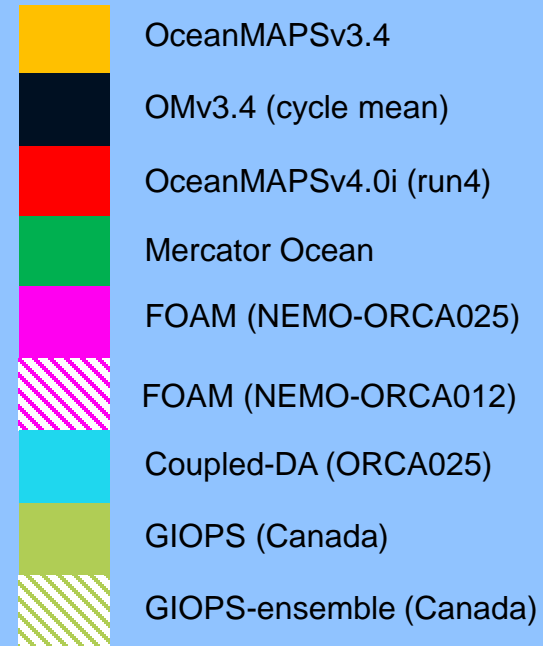
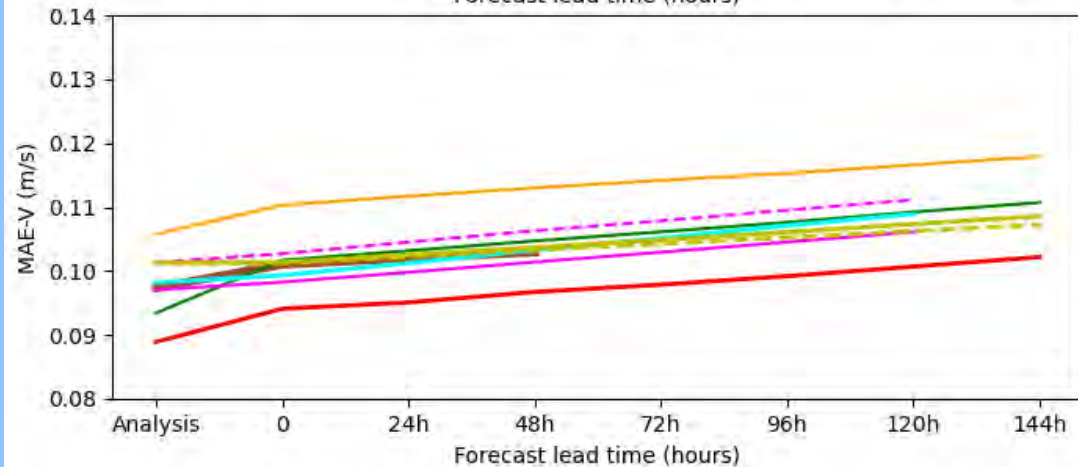
# EnKF comparison

## Currents

Zonal  
Current  
MAE (ms-1)



Meridional  
Current  
MAE (ms-1)



Period  
 20 May 2021 - 16 May 2022  
 OMAPS, ENS-OMAPS, Moi, GDPS, GEPS  
 6 Jan 2021 - 16 May 2022  
 OMAPSv4.0i  
 20 May 2021 - 28 Feb 2022  
 FOAM, FOAM12, and CPLDA

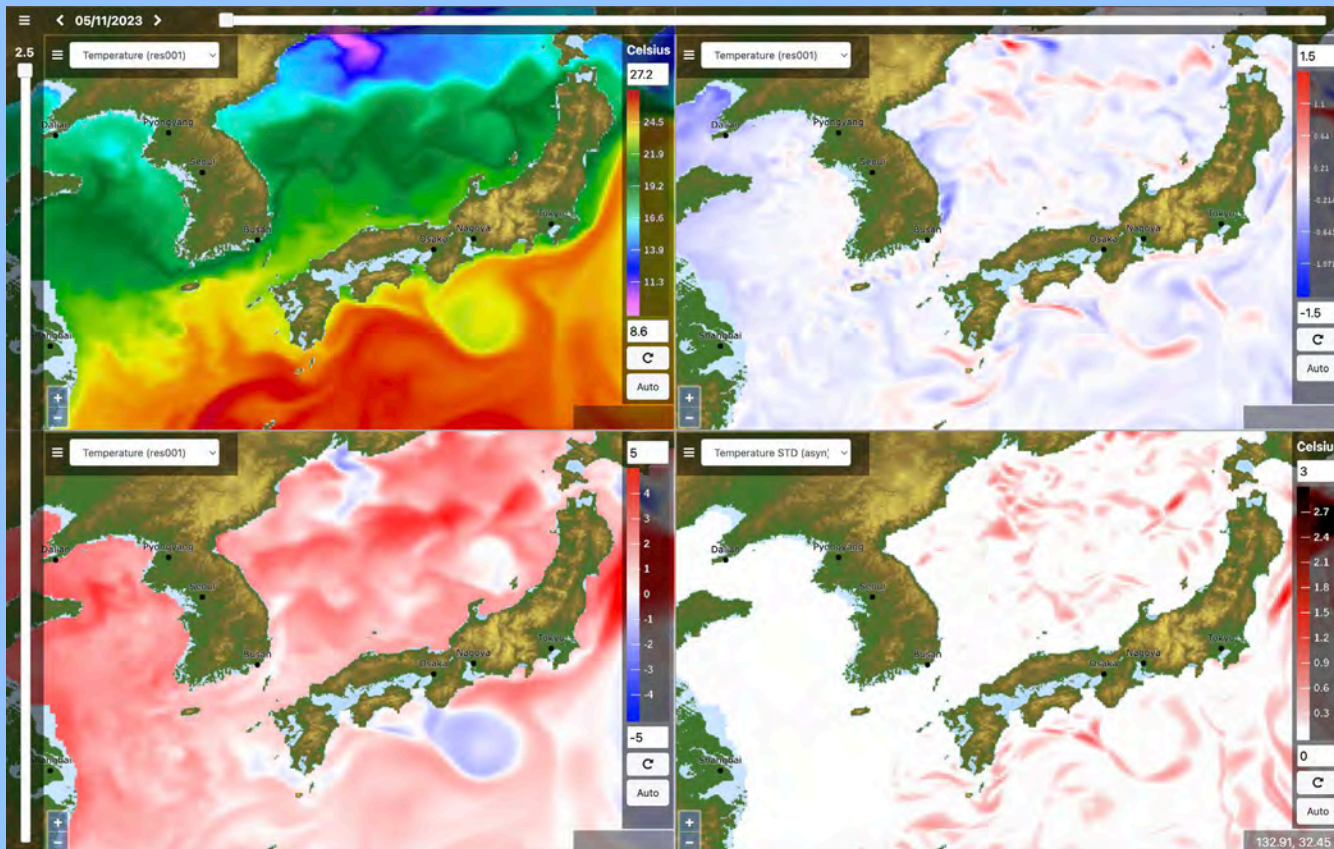


# Forecast/hindcast products

7 day forecasts - average restart, member 1, 2 other members

Synchronous(3-mem)/Asynchronous(7-mem) ensemble std. dev.

48-member ensemble average/std. dev. hindcast



Tendency

Seasonal anomaly

Asynchronous Std. Dev.

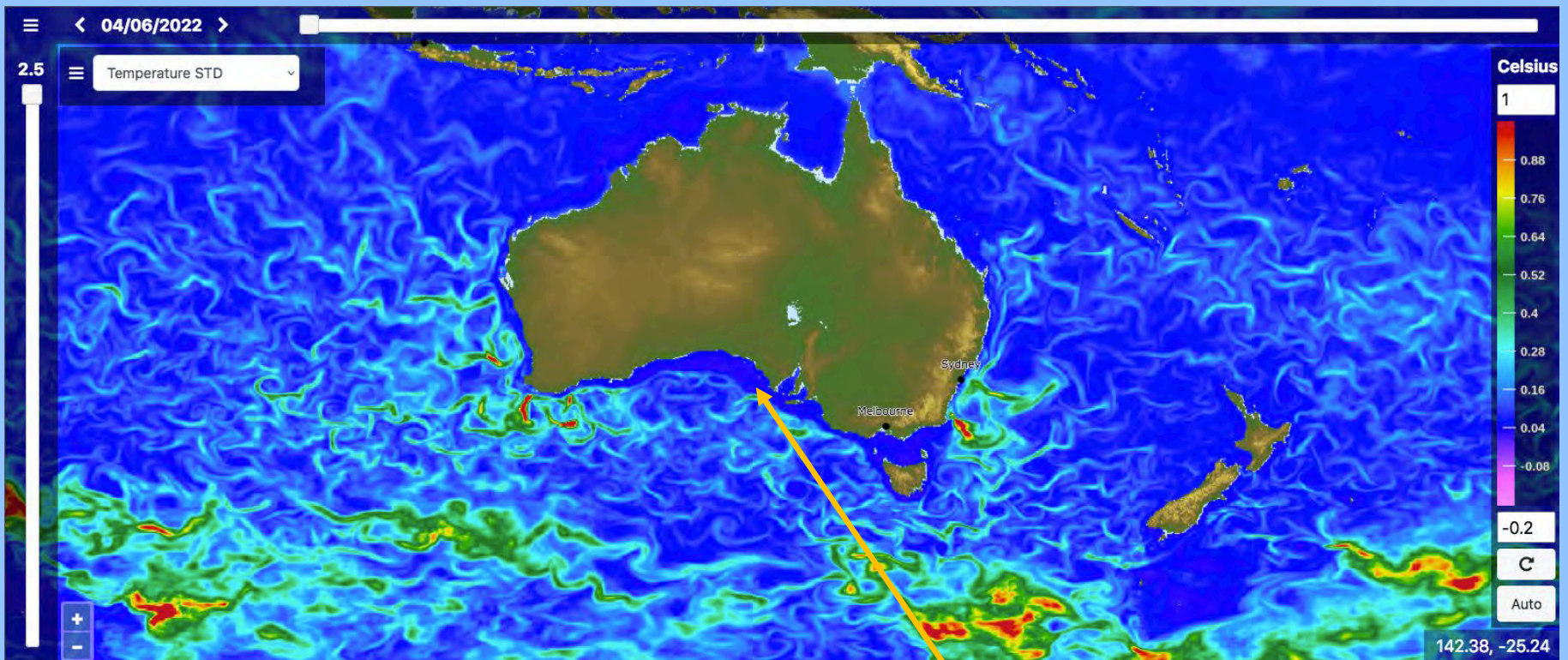


# Forecast/hindcast products

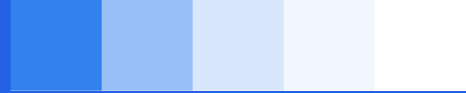
7 day forecasts - average restart, member 1, 2 other members

Synchronous(3-mem)/Asynchronous(7-mem) ensemble std. dev.

48-member ensemble average/std. dev. hindcast



Underestimated



# Known upgrades

OceanMAPSv4.1i (mid-2024)

OceanMAPSv4.2 (2025)



# OceanMAPS version 4.1i

## System

### Model

OFAM3 (MOM5)  
75S-75N, 0-360  
0.1° x 0.1°, 51 z\*-levels (5m top cell)

### Data assimilation

EnKF-C / Hybrid-EnKF  
48 dynamic members  
144 low-mode members  
1-day analysis cycle (-3 and -2 day BRT)  
FGAT, Restart initialisation

### Atmospheric forcing

ACCESS-G4 (APS4)  
Bulk formulae

### Observations

In situ profiles (GTS, GDAC)  
Satellite altimetry (RADS, JASON3, SARAL, Sentinel-3A/3B, Cryosat-2)  
Satellite SST (AMSR2, NAVOCEANO, NPP-VIIRS, NOAA20-VIIRS)

### Forecasts

EnKF (-3 day analysis) + 3 day hindcast  
Daily 7 day forecasts  
Average restart forecast  
3 synchronous ensemble forecasts  
7 lagged ensemble forecasts

## New features

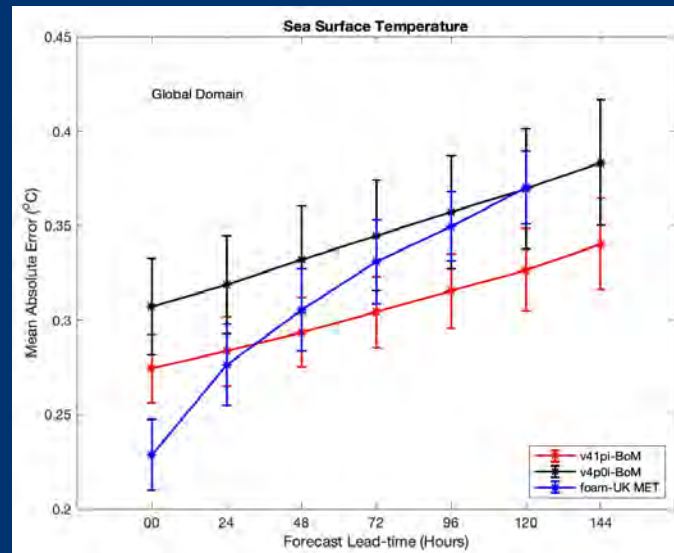
1-day analysis cycle  
-3 and -2 day analyses  
G4 fluxes  
Ready for full ensemble forecasting

STATUS - PRE-OPERATIONAL TRIAL  
TARGET - mid-2024

## Impact

### Performance

- Improved forecast skill for all prognostic variables
- Significant performance gains for SST



## References

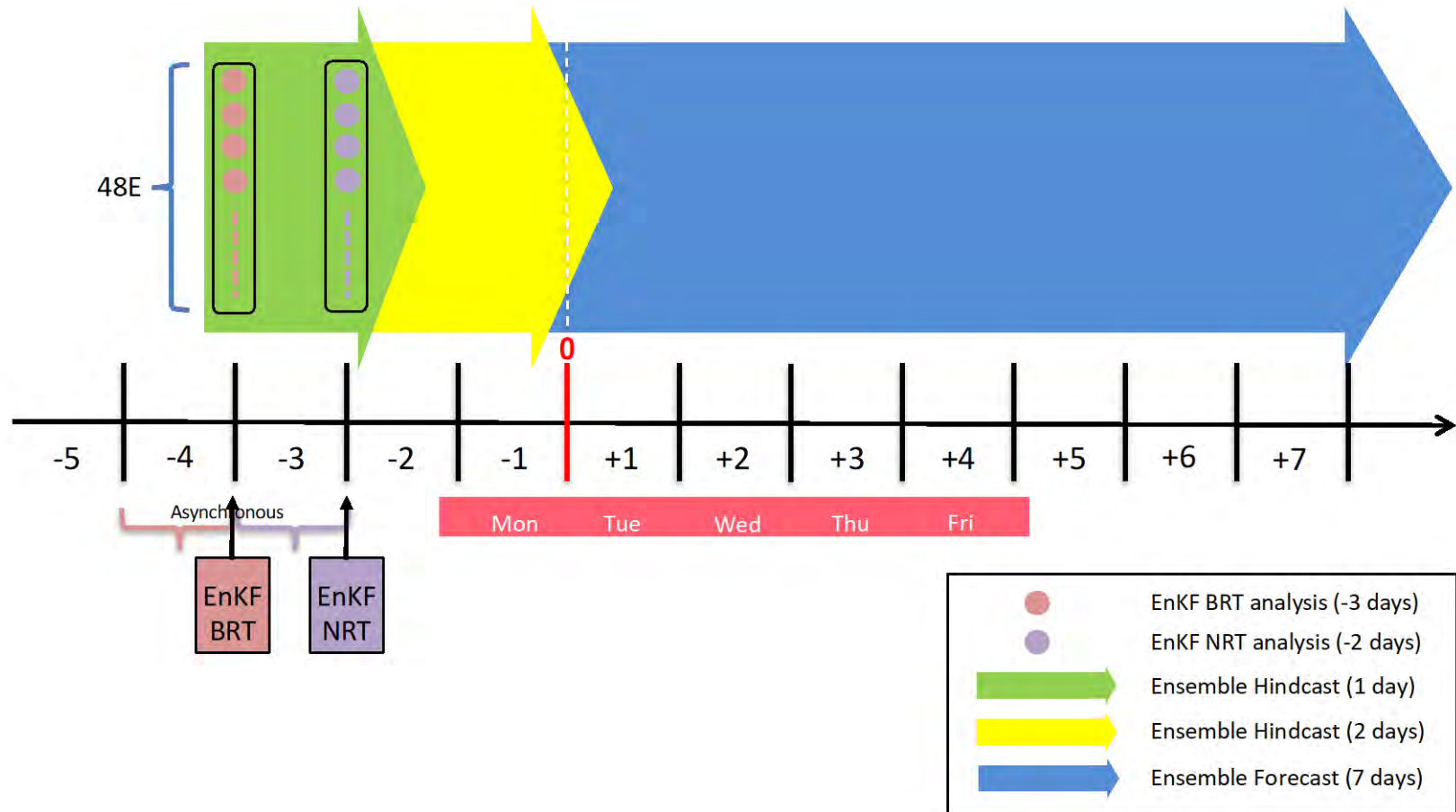
- Brassington, Sakov, Divakaran, Aijaz, Sweeney-Van Kinderen, Huang and Allen, 2023, June. OceanMAPS v4. 0i: a global eddy resolving EnKF ocean forecasting system. In *OCEANS 2023-Limerick* (pp. 1-8). IEEE.
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- Sakov, 2014.. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1410.1233*.



Bluelink  
Ocean Forecasting

# TRIAL SCHEDULE

DAILY  
CYCLE

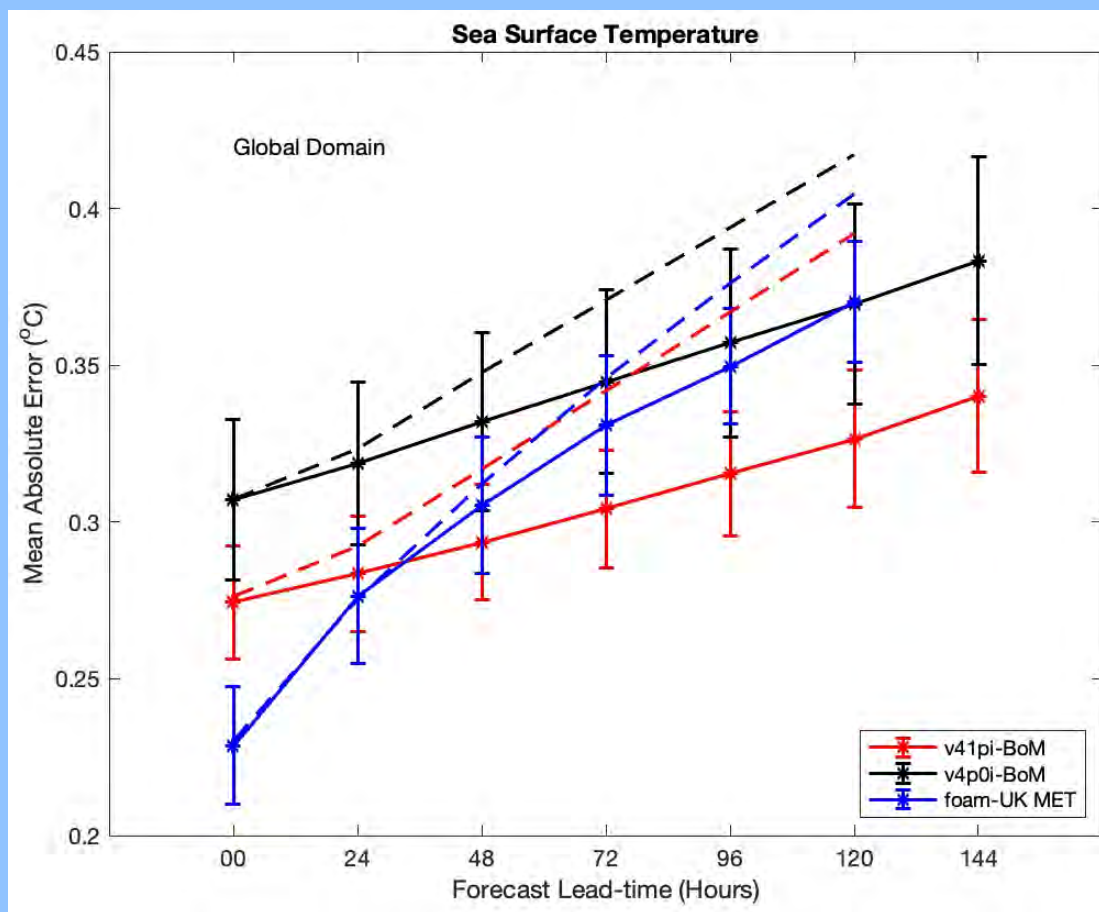


Foundation for ensemble-based probabilistic forecasting  
Optimisation required on the ensemble atmospheric forcing



# How do we compare?

SST

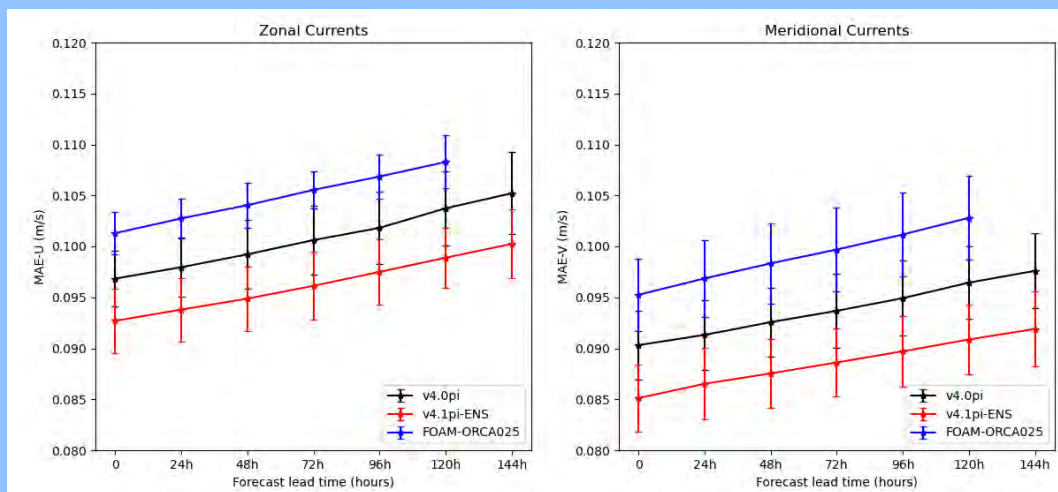


Comparison of global sea surface temperature forecasts against in situ drifting buoy observations for Jan 2023. The mean and standard deviation of the daily Mean Absolute Error (MAE) is shown versus forecast lead time. The three systems include the ensemble mean of the proposed OceanMAPSv4.1i (red), the average restart forecast of the operational OceanMAPSv4.0i (black) and the operational UKMO FOAM ORCA025 system (blue).

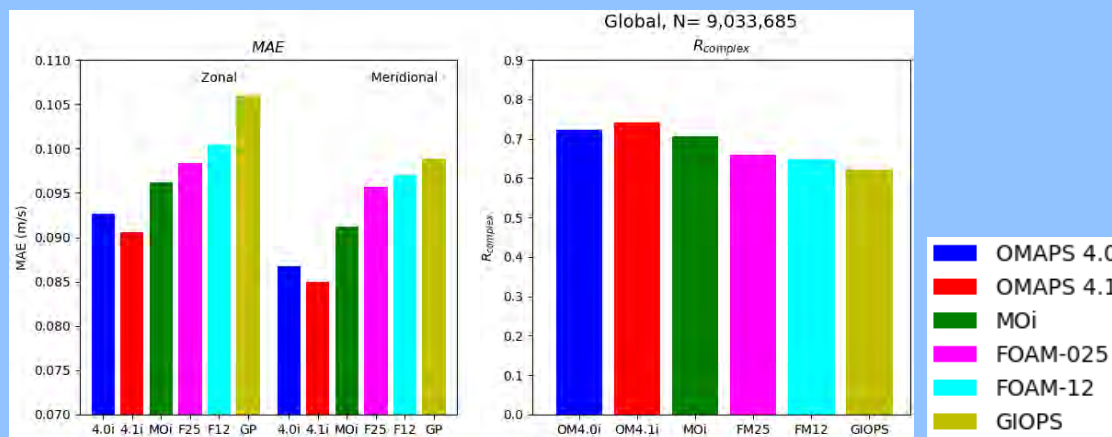


# How do we compare ?

## currents



Comparison of global ocean currents (15m) forecasts against drifting buoy observations for Jan 2023. The mean and std. dev. of the daily Mean Absolute Error (MAE) is shown versus forecast lead time. OceanMAPSv4.1i (red), the average restart forecast of OceanMAPSv4.0i (black) and UKMO FOAM ORCA025 (blue). The Lagrangian trajectories are 24 hr av. filtered and corrected for Stokes Drift.



$R_{complex}$  – complex correlation



# OceanMAPS version 4.2

## System

### Model

ACCESS-OM2-01 (MOM5/CICE5)  
85S-90N, 0-360  
0.1° x 0.1°, 75 z\*-levels (1.1m top cell)  
5 thickness categories

### Data assimilation

EnKF-C / Hybrid-EnKF  
48 dynamic members  
144 low-mode members  
3-day analysis cycle (-3 day BRT)  
FGAT, Restart initialisation

### Atmospheric forcing

ACCESS-G4/GE4 (APS4)  
Bulk formulae

### Observations

In situ profiles (GTS, GDAC)  
Satellite altimetry (RADS, JASON3, SARAL, Sentinel-3A/3B, Cryosat-2)  
Satellite SST (AMSR2, NAVOCEANO, NPP-VIIRS, NOAA20-VIIRS)  
Satellite SIC (AMSR2, SSMI/S)

### Forecasts

EnKF (-3 day analysis) + 3 day hindcast  
Daily 7 day forecasts  
Average restart forecast  
3 synchronous ensemble forecasts  
7 lagged ensemble forecasts

## New features

### Model

Coupled ocean-sea-ice  
Full global ocean  
75 vertical levels  
1.1m top cell

### Data assimilation

SIC (AMSR2, SSMI/S)

### Atmospheric forcing

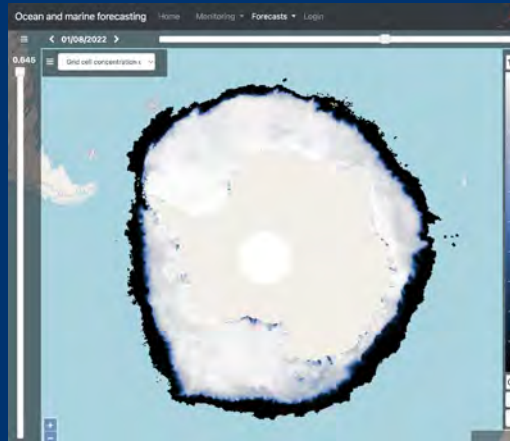
ACCESS-GC5/GCE5

**STATUS - RESEARCH DEMONSTRATOR**

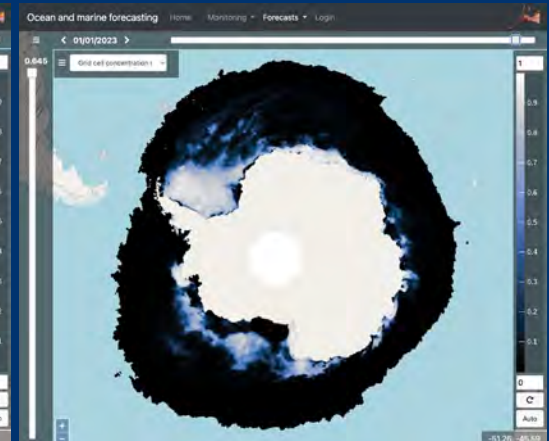
## Impact

### Performance

- First sea-ice forecasts at Bureau
- Sea-ice skill for growth phase
- Underprediction sea-ice melt
- Realistic MIZ forecast tendency
- Interior sea-ice underspread



1st Aug 2022



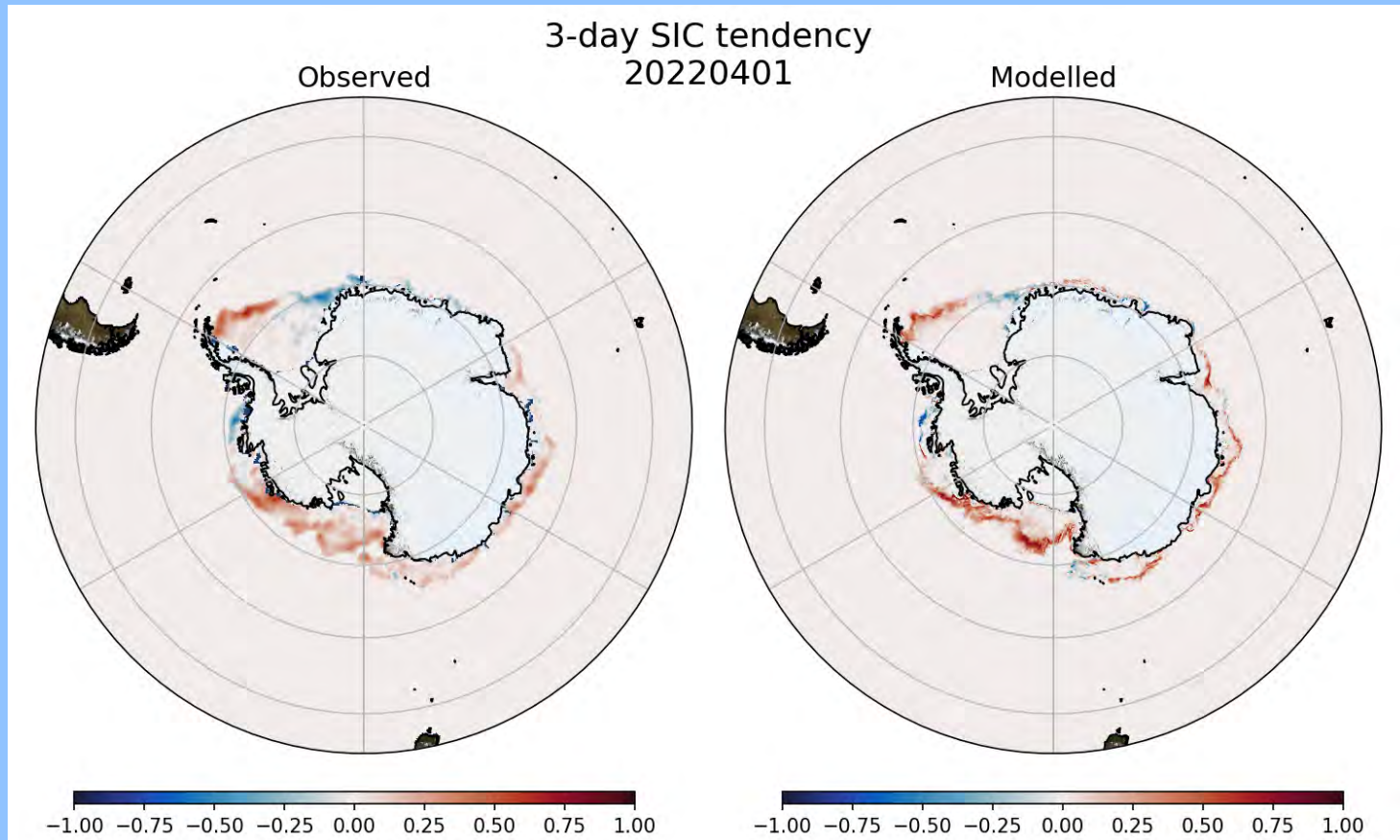
1st Jan 2023

## References

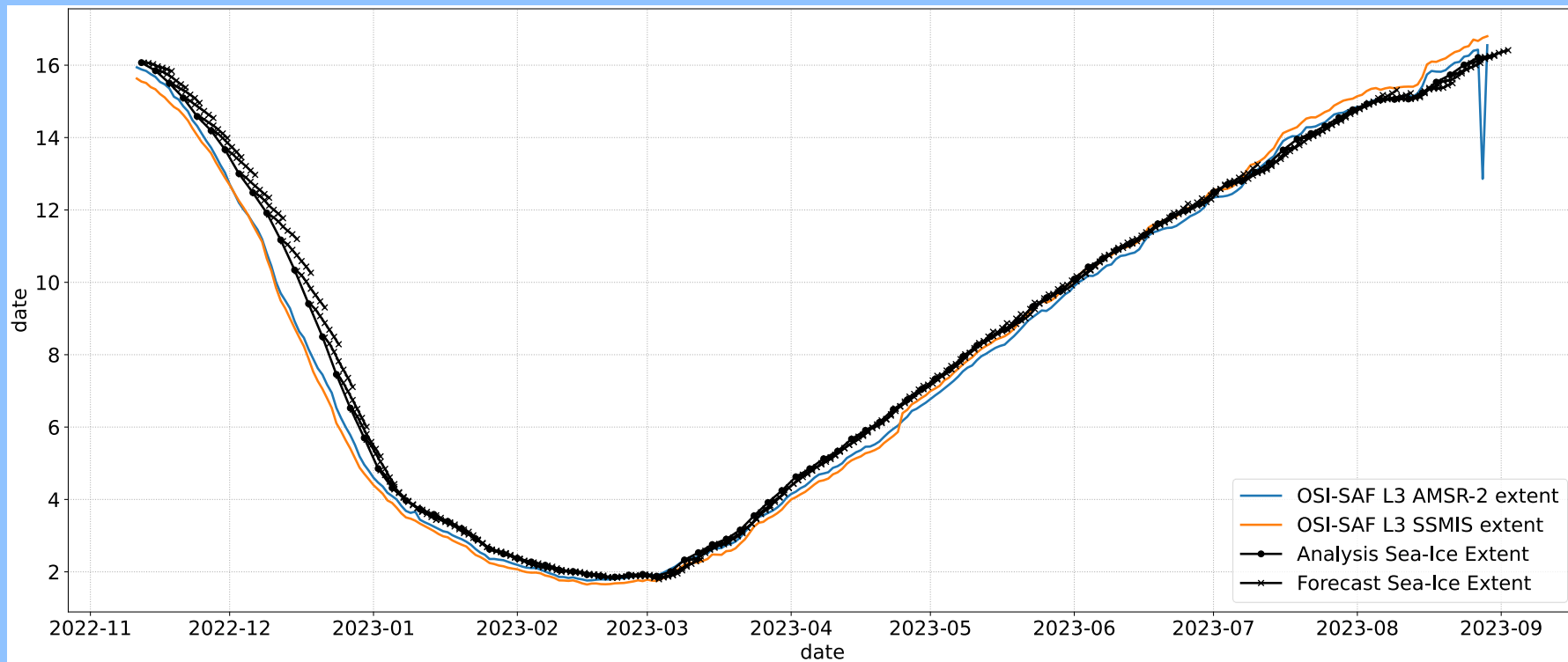
- Brassington, Sakov, Divakaran, Aijaz, Sweeney-Van Kinderen, Huang and Allen, 2023, June. OceanMAPS v4. 0i: a global eddy resolving EnKF ocean forecasting system. In *OCEANS 2023-Limerick* (pp. 1-8). IEEE.
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- Sakov, 2014.. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1410.1233*.



**Bluelink**  
Ocean Forecasting







Analysis and forecast Antarctic sea-ice extent since 12 Nov 2022



# Other developments

## ACCESS-GE

- Optimise EnKF
- Ensemble forecasting

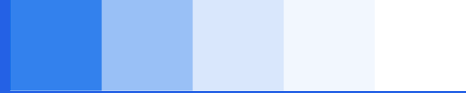
## NEMO

- NEMO ORCA025 + EnKF => Coupled NWP
  - Encouraging performance
- NEMO ORCA12 (computational optimisation)

## Coupled NWP

- GC5 UM + NEMO ORCA025
- Decision EnKF vs NEMOVAR





# Other activities



## Machine learning/AI

Series of activities being explored across portfolio

Couple of projects funded

Scope for many areas but no specific successes at this stage

## Digital twins

No specific activities being explored within Bluelink

Some scenario work has been undertaken in other coastal projects

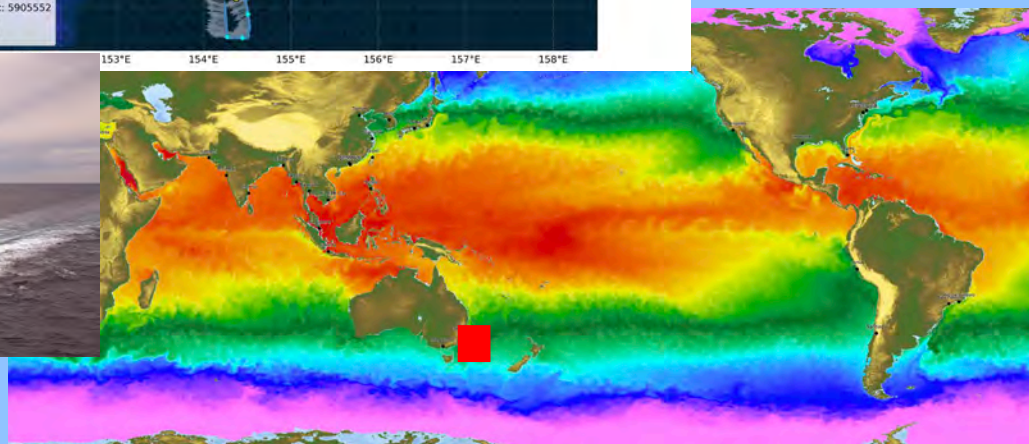
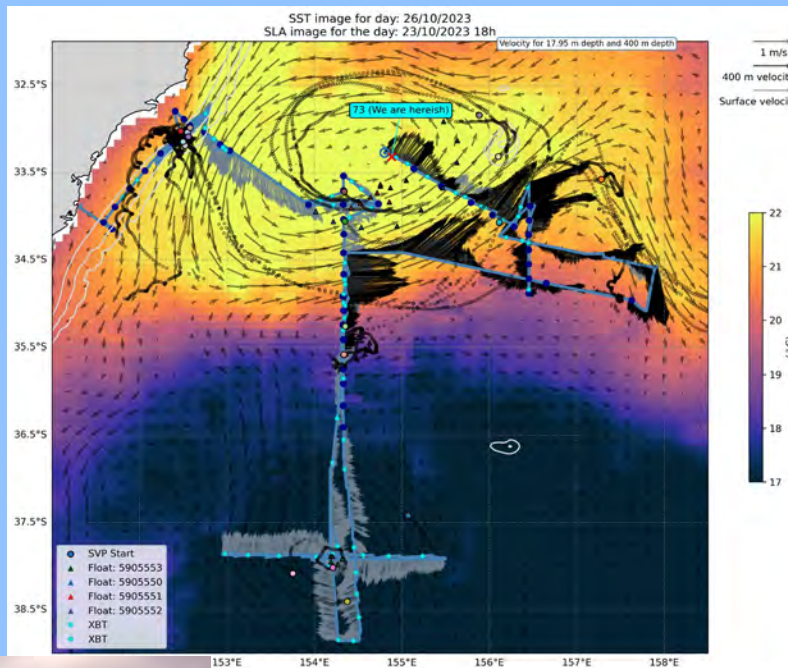


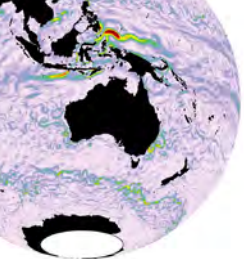
# MNF Cruise

Tasman Sea  
9<sup>th</sup> Oct – 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2023

Eddy depth structure  
Eddy evolution  
SWOT assimilation

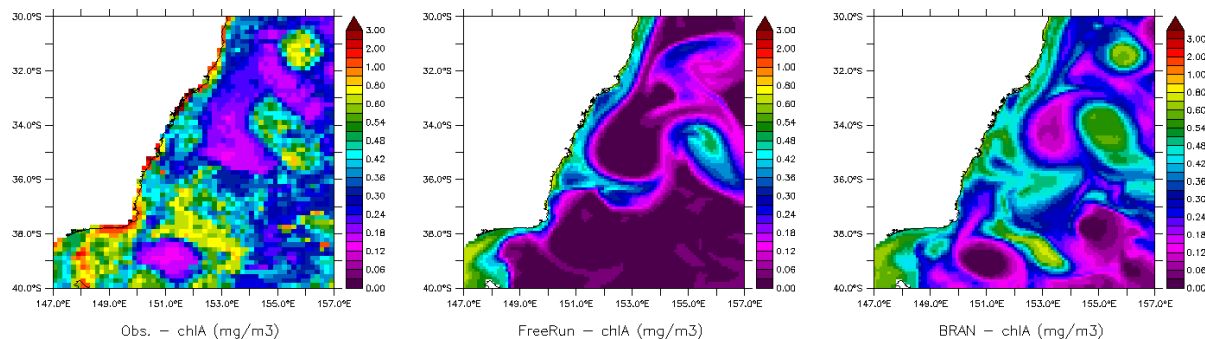
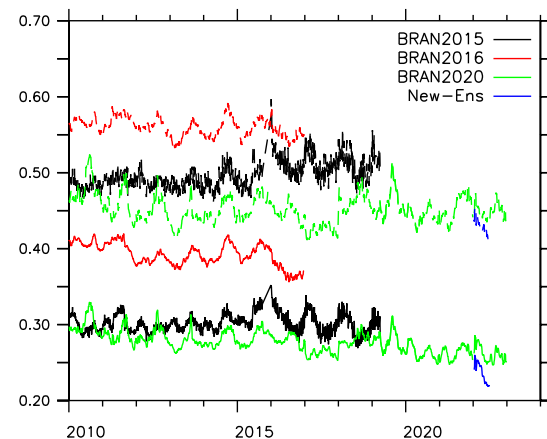
Data collection  
Argo  
CTD casts  
Drifting buoys  
Sea-saw  
ADCP





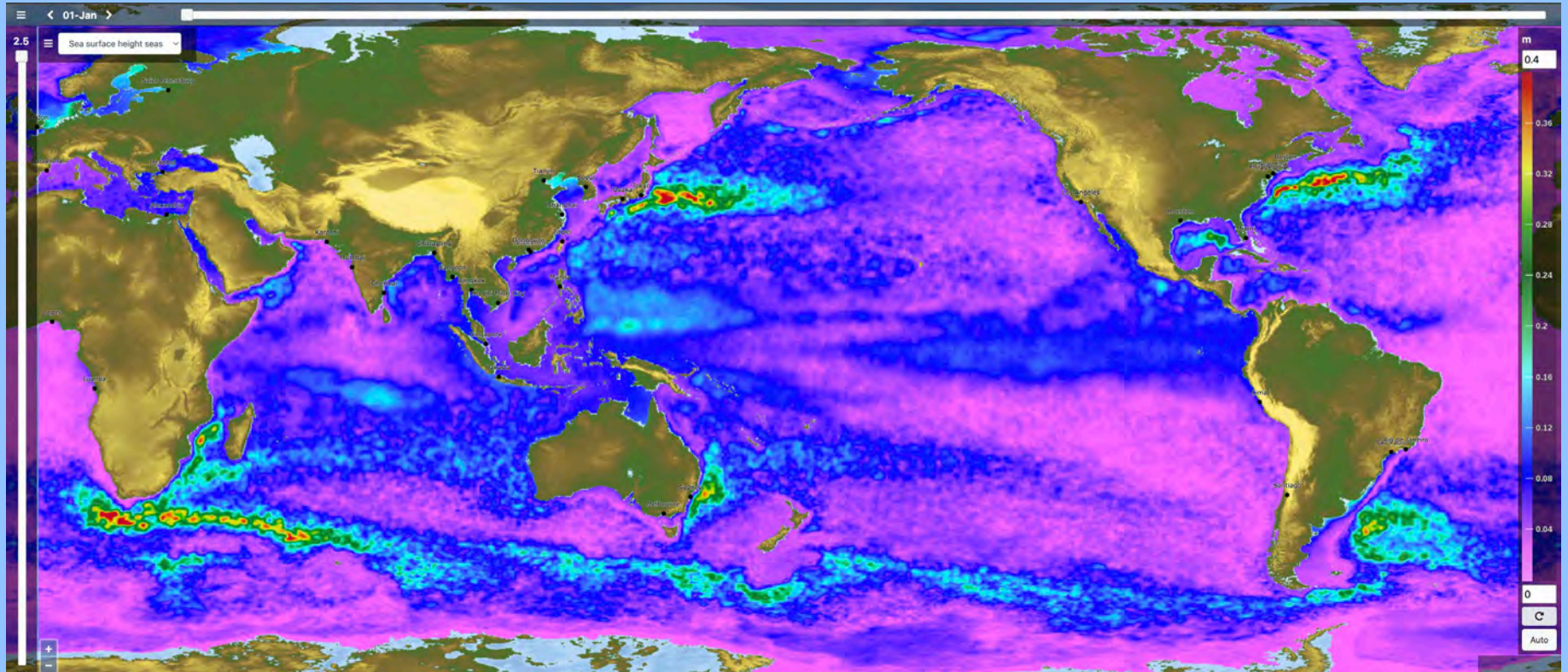
# Updates to the Bluelink ReANalysis BRAN2020 and beyond

- BRAN is a near-global ocean reanalysis at 0.1 deg. resolution; SST, sea level and insitu data are assimilated every 3 days with an Ensemble Optimal Interpolation DA system.  
The 2020 version of BRAN has output from 1993 to almost real-time that is publicly available:  
NCI Data Catalogue – <https://doi.org/10.25914/6009627c7af03>  
Data Description – ESSD, <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-13-5663-2021>
- Average magnitudes of observation-model insitu temperature differences of recent versions of BRAN are shown (**upper right**) for both before and after analysis; differences from BRAN2020 (green) are smaller than previous versions (red and black). The next BRAN version (post-JRA55) will use new ensembles that further reduce these differences (blue).
- Preliminary tests of BGC in BRAN show a good correlation of mesoscale features between simulated and observed chlorophyll relative to free-running tests (**lower right**), even without assimilating BGC data. BGC will be included in the next BRAN. Methods are being tested to reduce the magnitude of BGC artifacts at low latitudes associated with assimilation of physical data.



Observed and simulated surface chlorophyll – Tasman Sea

# Model climatology

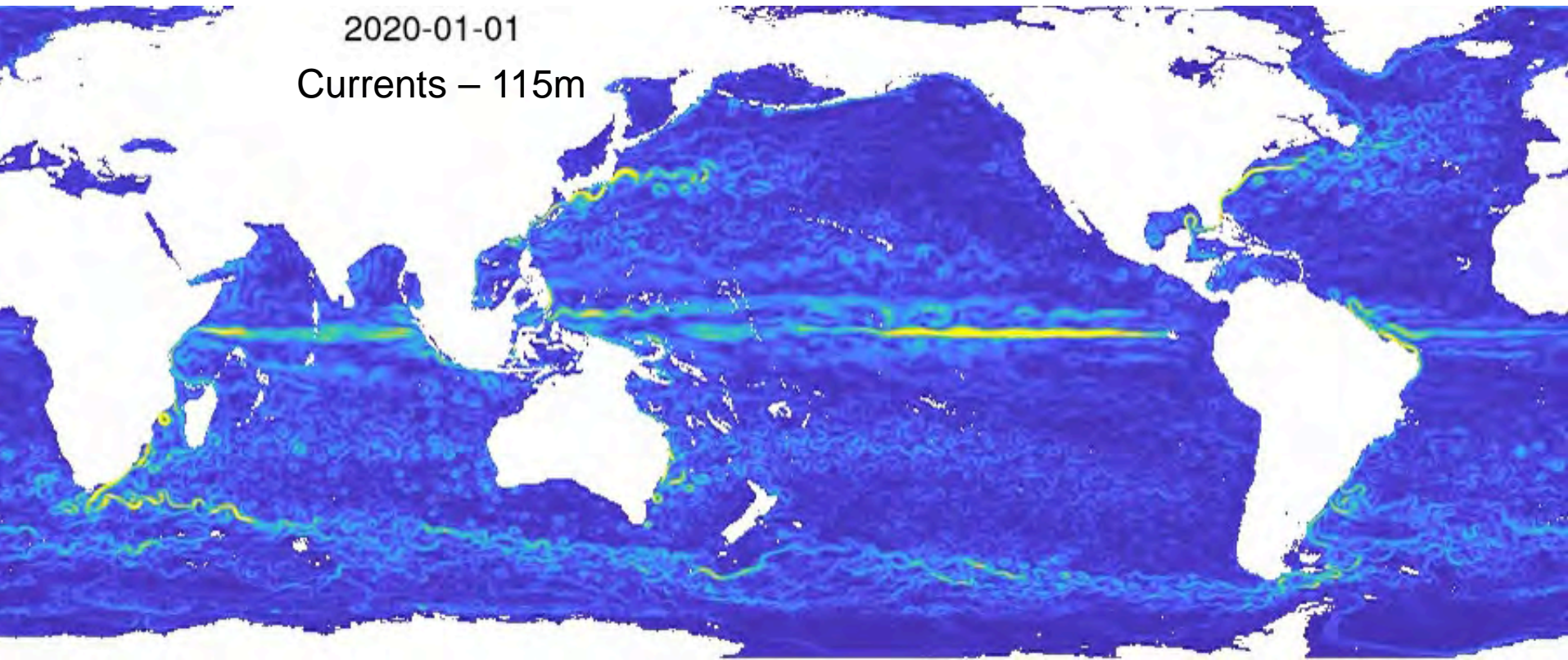
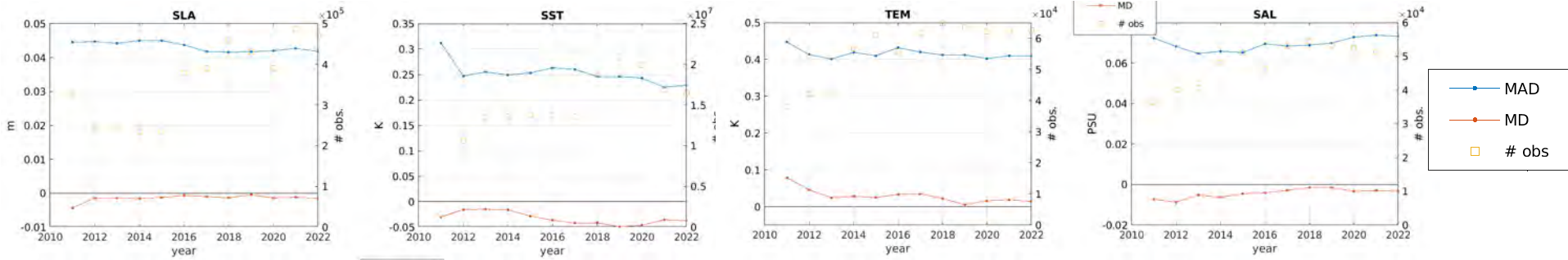


**9-EOF MODE CLIMATOLOGY  
SEA SURFACE HEIGHT SEASONAL ANOMALY STANDARD DEVIATION**



# Ensemble Kalman filter Ocean Reanalysis (EnKORe)

OFAM3(MOM5) + Hybrid EnKF (3-day cycle)  
2010-2022





# Report - in one page

## Operational system – OceanMAPSv4.0i

- **EnKF data assimilation**
- Hybrid EnKF (48-dynamic / 144-stationary)
- Good performance gains and comparisons
- Brassington, Sakov, Divakaran, Aijaz, Sweeney-Van Kinderen, Huang and Allen, 2023, June. OceanMAPS v4. 0i: a global eddy resolving EnKF ocean forecasting system. In *OCEANS 2023-Limerick* (pp. 1-8). IEEE.

## OceanMAPSv4.1i **(PRE-OP) (mid-2024)**

- Optimized EnKF more gains for all variables
- Greatest gains for SST

## OceanMAPSv4.2 **(TRIAL) (2025)** – coupled ocean-sea-ice and assimilation of SIC

## OceanMAPSv5 **(Research)** – NEMO ORCA12 + EnKF

## BRAN2020

- routine updating
- Extension to include BGC variables

## EnKORe

- 12 year reanalysis

## Coupled NWP – GC5 UM + NEMO ORCA025

- Development ORCA025 + EnKF





The Bureau  
of Meteorology

# Thank you

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