

# The Mediterranean analysis and forecasting physical system for the Copernicus Marine Service: description and skill assessment

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# OUTLINE

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- Mediterranean Forecasting System overview in the CMEMS framework
- System description
  - Main differences between actual and previous modeling system
  - Major impacts of the implemented modifications on the new system
- System validation with in-situ, satellites and climatological datasets
- Overview of future upgrades
- Summary & Conclusions



# Med-Physics Products in CMEMS



**CMEMS Med-MFC is one of the 7 CMEMS MFCs**

**A consortium of 3 research institutes:**  
**CMCC** (Leader of the consortium and responsible for the Physical product)  
**OGS** (Responsible for the Biogeochemical product)  
**HCMR** (Responsible for the Wave product)

<http://marine.copernicus.eu/>



**2 CMEMS Med-PHY Products**

**MEDSEA\_ANALYSIS\_FORECAST\_PHY\_006\_013**  
**Hourly + Daily + Monthly mean: 2016-ongoing**

- 2D Sea Surface Height
- 3D Salinity
- 3D Potential Temperature
- 3D Zonal/Meridional currents
- 2D MLD
- 2D Bottom Temperature

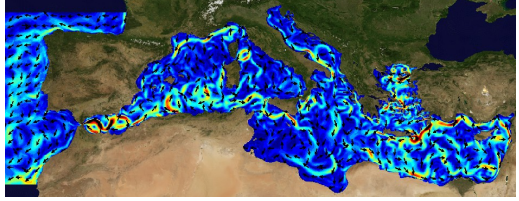
**MEDSEA\_REANALYSIS\_PHY\_006\_004**  
**Daily + Monthly mean: 1987-2017**

- 2D Sea Surface Height
- 3D Salinity
- 3D Potential Temperature
- 3D Zonal/Meridional currents

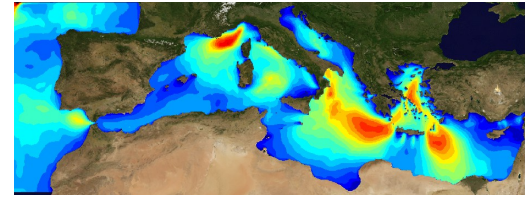


# Med-Physics Analysis and Forecast system

Ocean General Circulation Model (OGCM) based on NEMO code v3.6

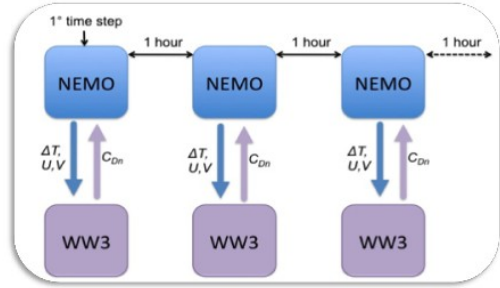


Wave model  
WaveWatch-III (WW3) v3.14



2-way  
hourly  
coupling

Hor. Res. = 1/24o (~4.5 km)  
Vert. Res. = 141 z\* vertical levels with partial cells



Hor. Res. = 1/24o (~4.5 km)  
Spectral discretization:  
\* 30 freq. bins (0.05-0.79 Hz)  
\* 24 directional bins

The two-way coupling consists of inputting:  
**Currents** (for wave refraction) and **air-sea temperature difference** (for wind speed correction) to the wave model and providing the **neutral surface drag coefficient** from waves used to compute the wind stress in NEMO

# Med-Currents Analysis and Forecast system: Forcings

## ECMWF 1/8o atmospheric fields:

- MSLP, cloud cover, 2m relative humidity
- 2m T, 10m Wind , Precipitations

## Temporal resolution:

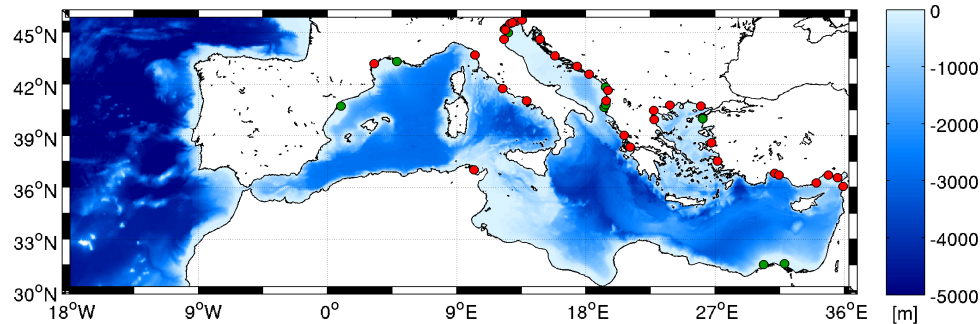
Forecasts: 3hrs for the first 3 days and 6 hours for the next 7 days

Analysis: 6 hours time resolution

## Land river runoff:

vertical boundary condition for **39** major rivers  
(**previous version 7**) with annual mean discharge > 50 m<sup>3</sup>/s using climatological monthly mean seasonal cycle values

The Dardanelles inflow is parameterized through a river-like parametrization



## Lateral Boundary conditions in the Atlantic:

Daily NRT analyses and forecasts from Global Ocean Forecasting System (GLO-MFC) @ 1/12° horizontal resolution, 50 vertical levels:

- Flather boundary condition (Flather, 1976) is applied to barotropic velocities
- Orlandi boundary condition (Orlandi, 1976) is applied to tracers and baroclinic velocities

# Med-Currents Analysis and Forecast system: Data Assimilation

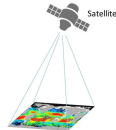
## Model solutions are corrected by the data assimilation

Satellites and insitu observations are jointly assimilated using a **3D variational scheme** adapted to the oceanic assimilation problem with a daily cycle

### The assimilated data are:

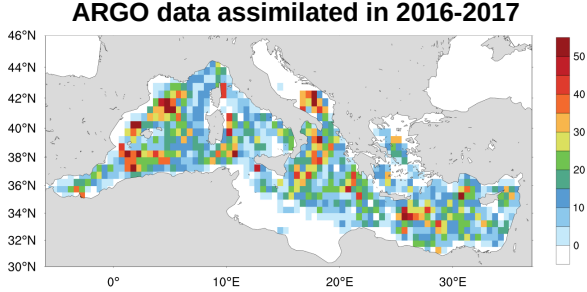
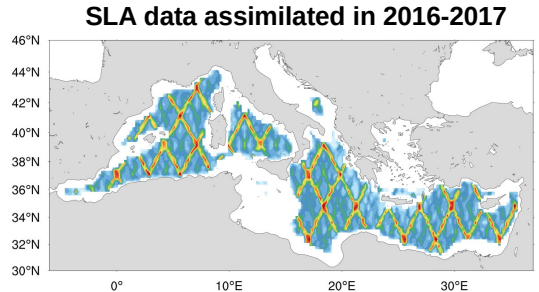

**Along track Sea Level Anomaly**  
from CMEMS SL-TAC

- Jason 2/2N, 3
- Cryosat2
- Saral/AltiKa
- Sentinel3A



**Vertical profiles of Temperature and Salinity** from CMEMS InSitu TAC:

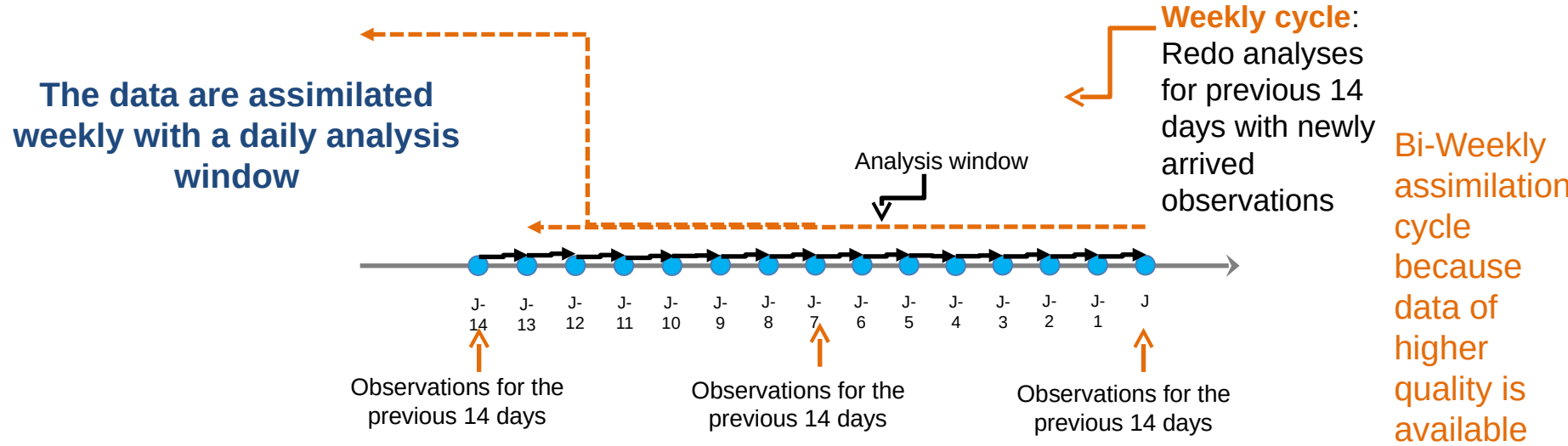
Arrn                      XBT



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



# Med-Currents Analysis and Forecast system: Data Assimilation



## Production chain

**ANALYSIS:** Each Tuesday → simulation for the previous 2 weeks with ECMWF analysis atmo. forcing + assimilation correction

**HINDCAST:** Every day the initial condition for the forecast cycle is generated by a model simulation for the previous 24hr hours and forced by ECMWF analysis fields

**FORECAST:** Computed for next 10 days forcing the numerical model with ECMWF forecast fields

# Med-Currents Analysis and Forecast system description

## Main differences between actual and previous modeling

Previous system EAS1	system Feature	Actual system EAS3
1/16° (5-6km) hor 72 vert lev	Resolution	1/24° (4-5km) hor 141 vert lev
NEMO v3.4 linear free-surface Z coord.	OGCM model	NEMO V3.6 non-linear free-surface Z* coord
7	N. of river inputs	39
1.2e-5 / 1.2e-6 [m2/s]	vertical background viscosity / diffusivity values	1.2e-6 / 1.0e-7 [m2/s]
-6.e8 / -1.e9 [m4/s]	horizontal bilaplacian eddy diffusivity / viscosity	-1.2e8 / -2.e8 [m4/s]
300sec	Time step	240sec
SDN Clim T/S	Initial Conditions	WOA-V2 Winter Clim T/S
From modified DBDB1 1min	Bathymetry	From modified GEBCO 30arc-sec
Dobricic and Pinardi (2008)	Data Assimilation	Storto et al. (2015) adapted for the Mediterranean Sea

## Common parameterizations

- Air-sea fluxes: MFS bulk formulae described in Pettenuzzo et al. (2010)
- Advection scheme for active tracers: mixed up-stream/MUSCL
- Vertical diffusion and viscosity terms: Function of the Richardson number as parameterized by Pacanowsky and Philander (1981)

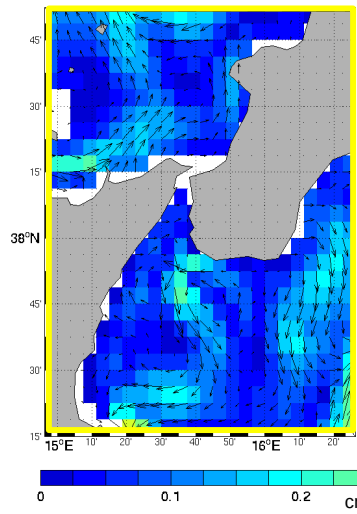


# Impacts due to increased resolution

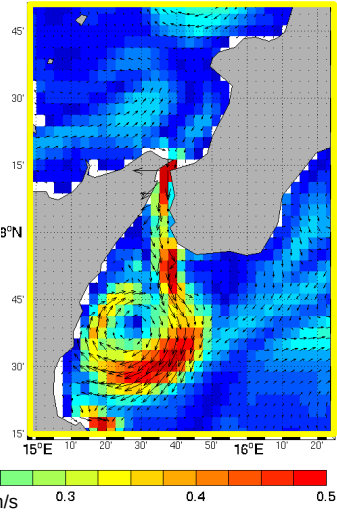
## MESSINA STRAIT



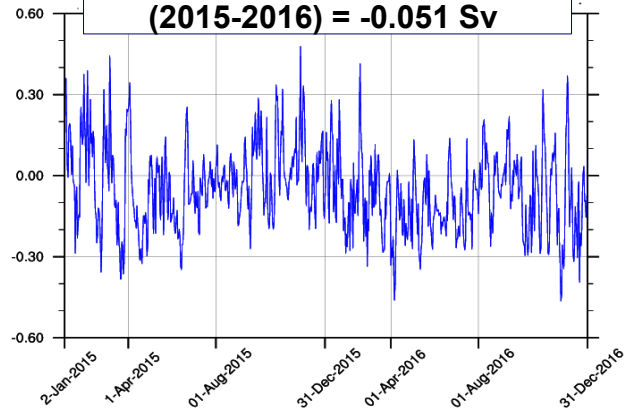
### EAS1 (1/16o)



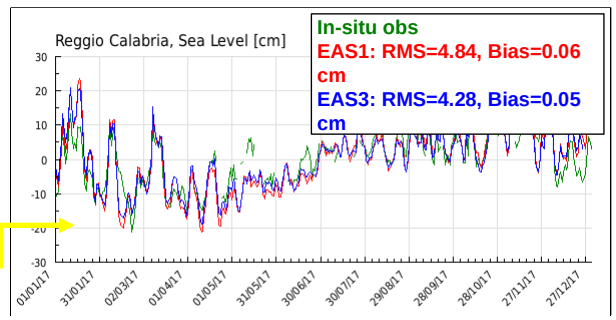
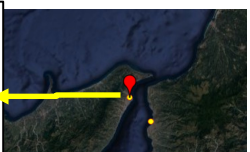
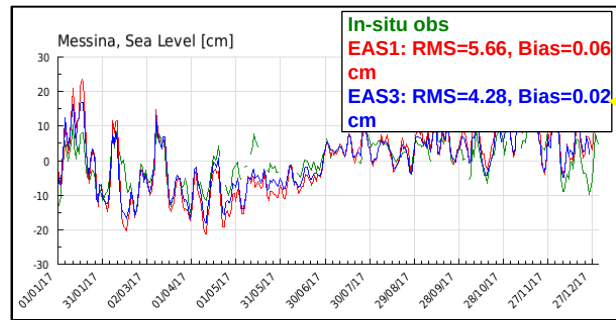
### EAS3 (1/24o)



Net transport at Messina Strait  
(2015-2016) = -0.051 Sv



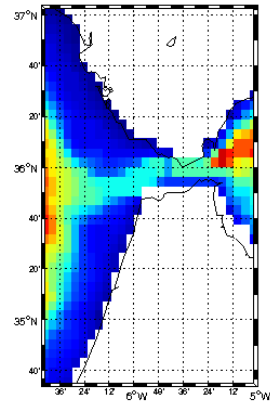
## Sea Level comparison



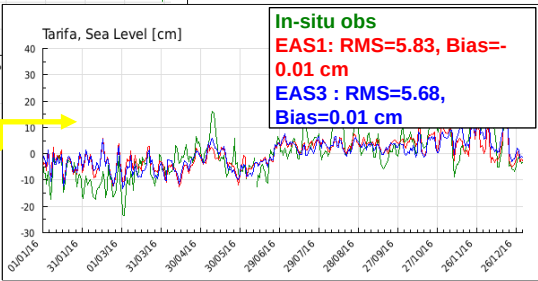
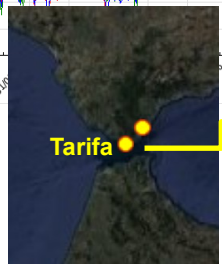
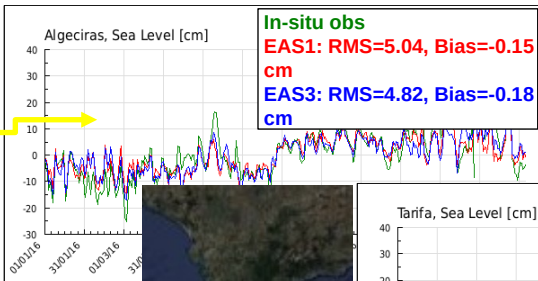
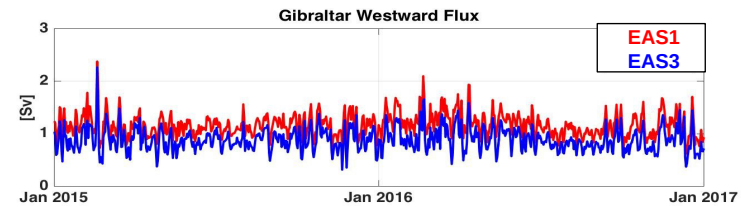
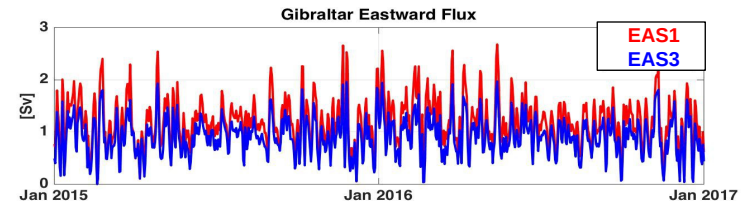
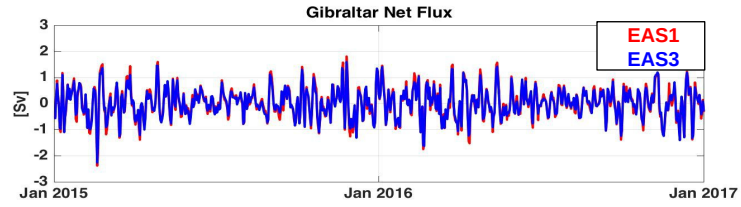
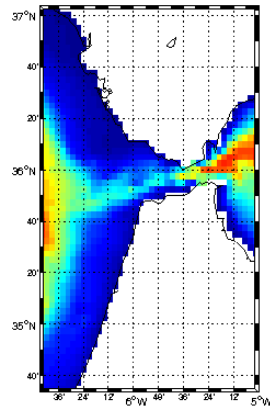
# Impacts due to increased resolution



**EAS1 (1/16o)**



**EAS3 (1/24o)**



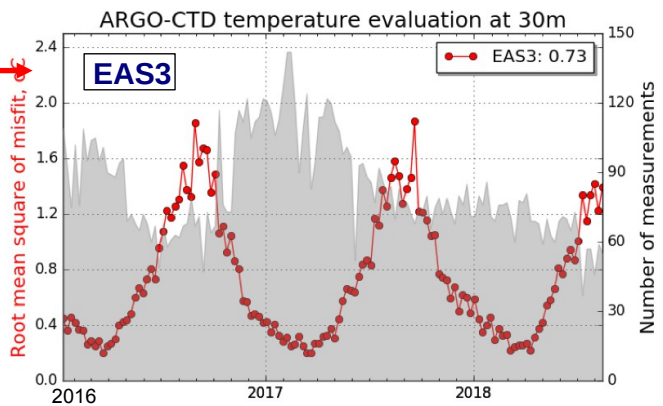
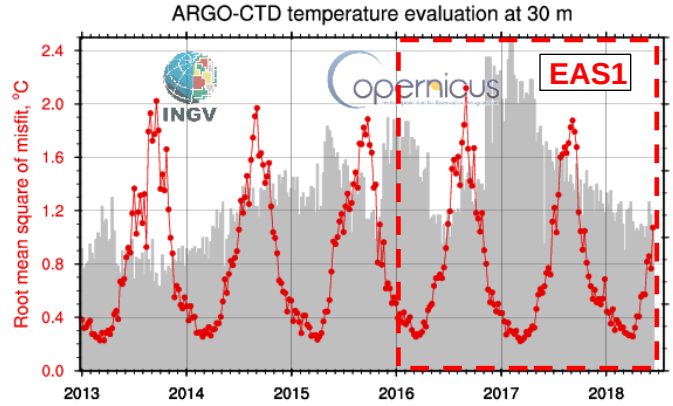
**Sea Level comparison**

Gibraltar Mean Flux [Sv]	EAS 1	EAS 3	Soto-Navarro et al., 2010
Net	0.03 2	0.04	0.038 ± 0.007
Eastward	1.20	0.90 7	0.81 ± 0.06

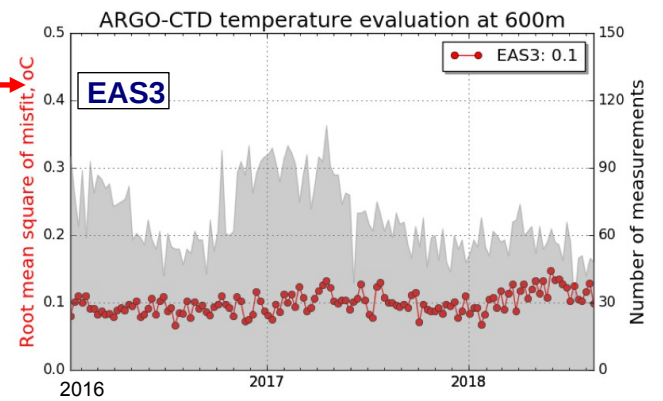
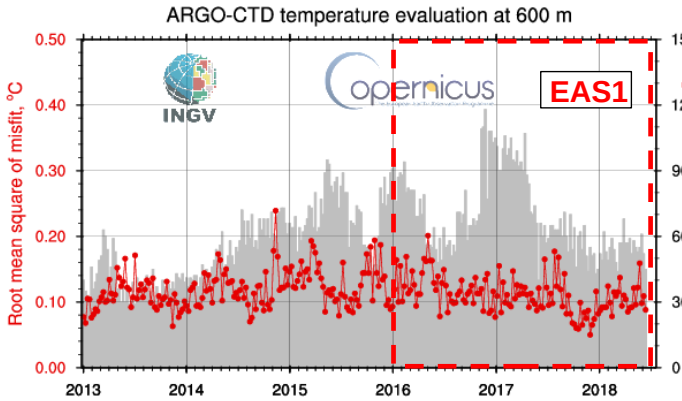
# Quasi-Independent Validation: MISFITS

## Time Series of Temperature RMS misfits at 30 & 600m depth

T RMS at 30m depth



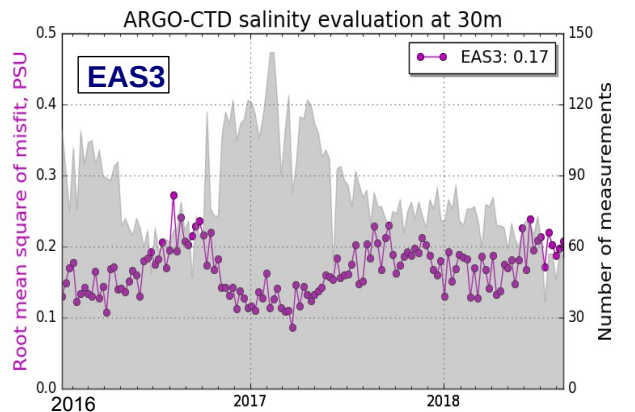
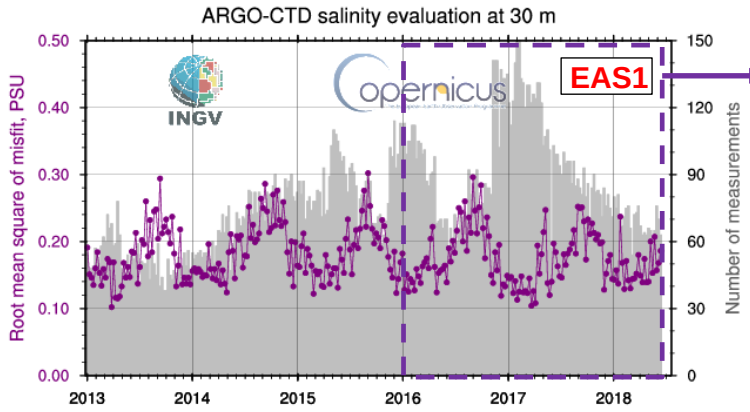
T RMS at 600m depth



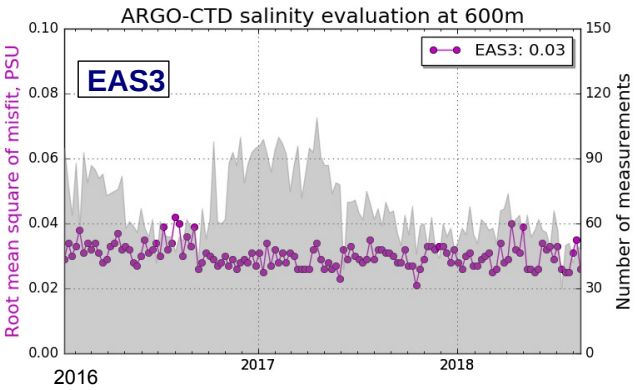
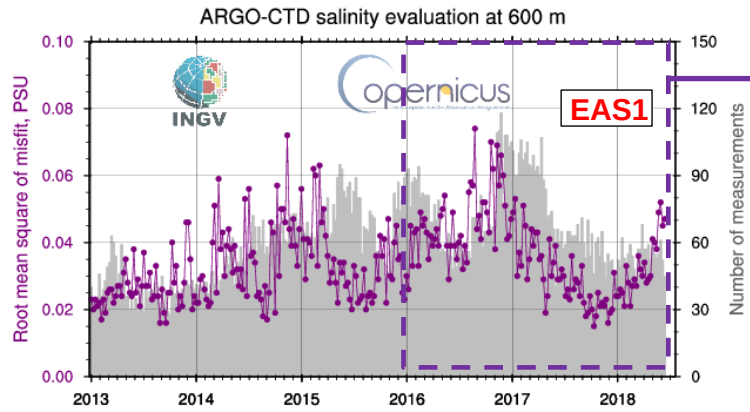
# Quasi-Independent Validation: MISFITS

## Time Series of Salinity RMS misfits at 30 & 600m depth

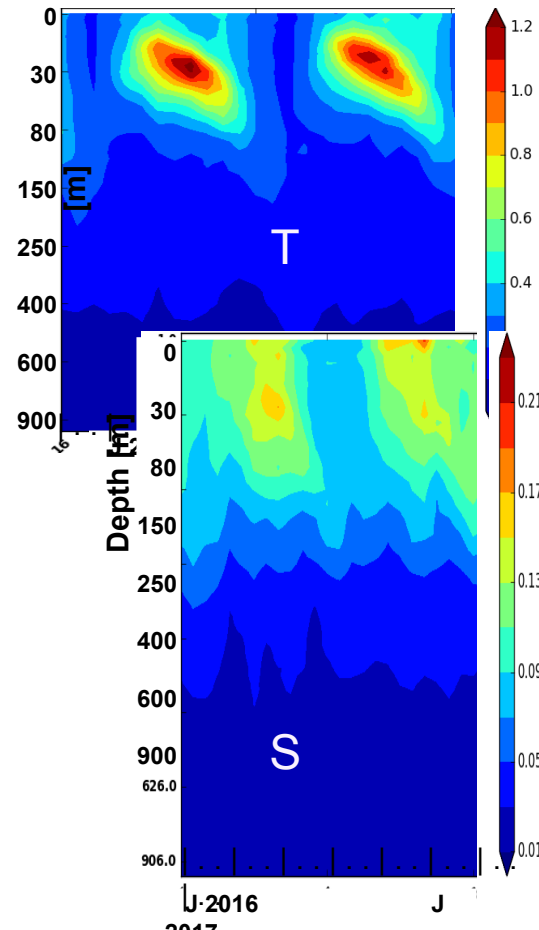
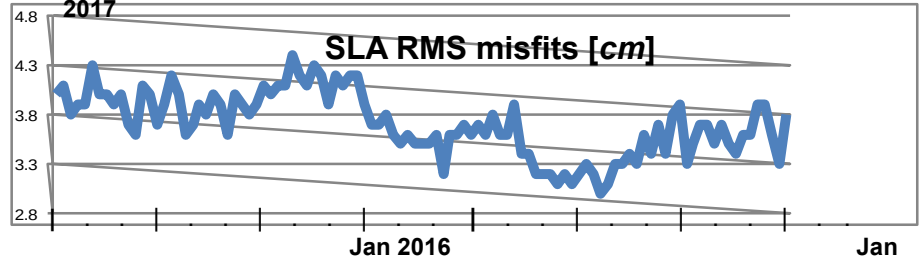
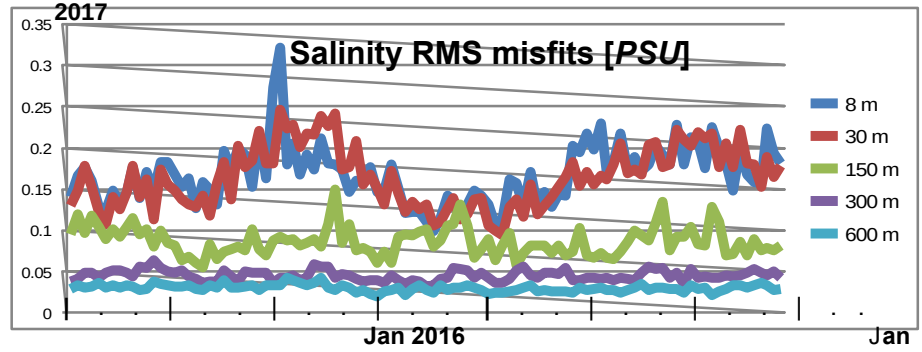
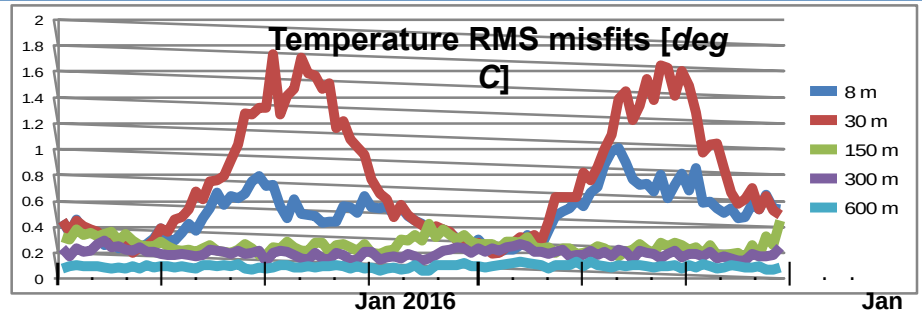
S RMS at 30m depth



S RMS at 600m depth



# Quasi-Independent Validation: MISFITS

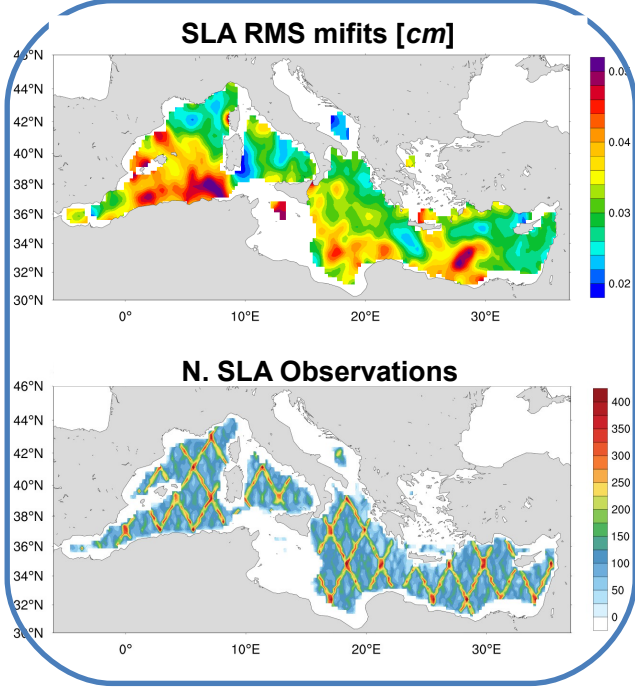
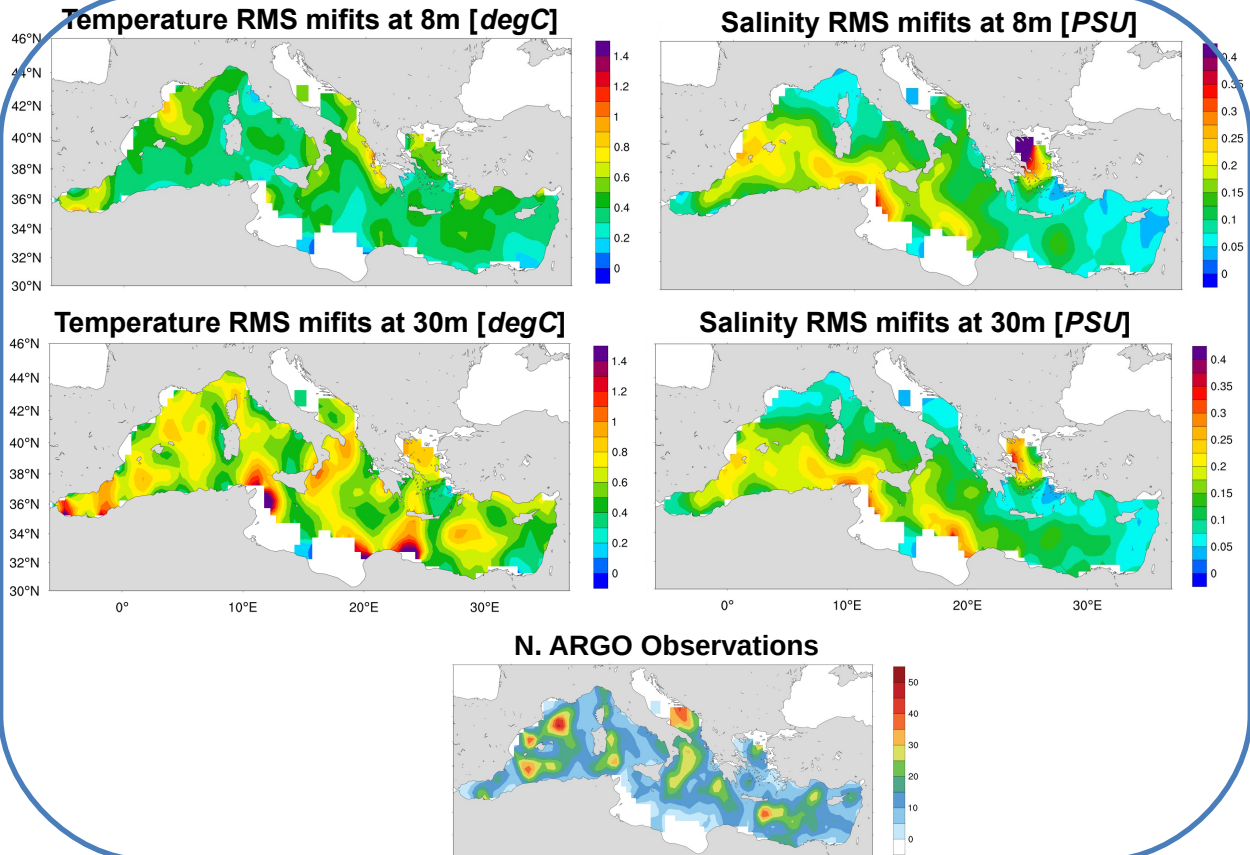


- Larger error during summer
- Larger error at thermocline, that decreases at lower layers



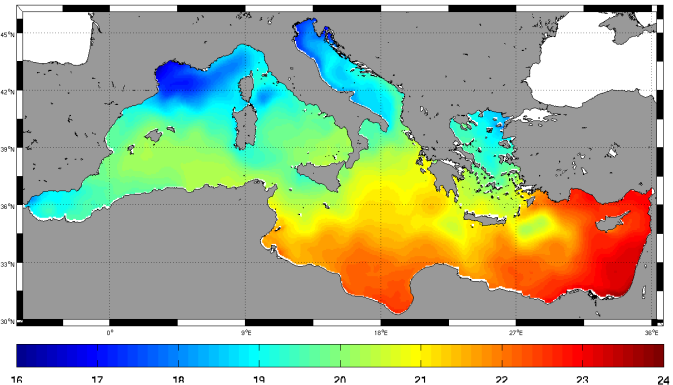
# Quasi-Independent Validation: MISFITS

## Spatial Variability of RMS misfits in 2016-2018

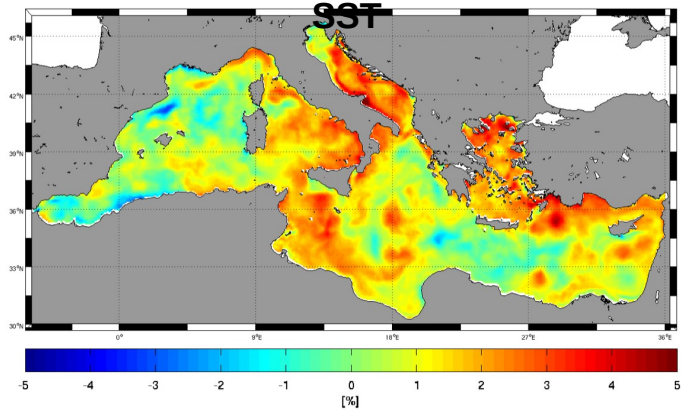


# Quasi-Independent Validation SST: model VS. satellite L4 data

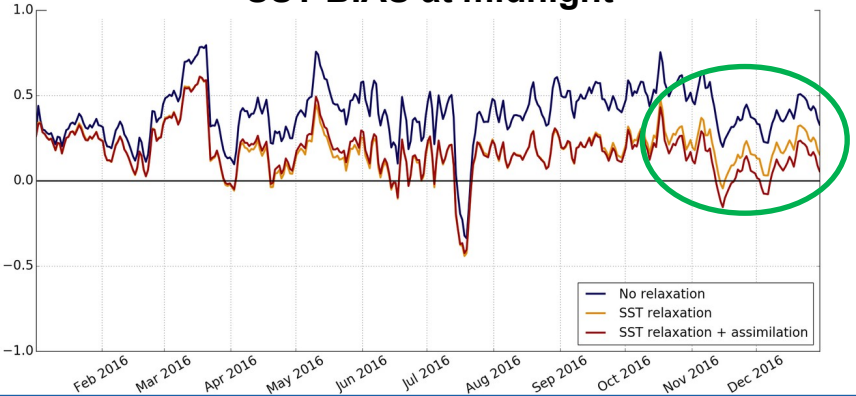
Satellite SST Annual Mean (2016)



Perc diff: (Model- Satellite SST)/Satellite



SST BIAS at midnight



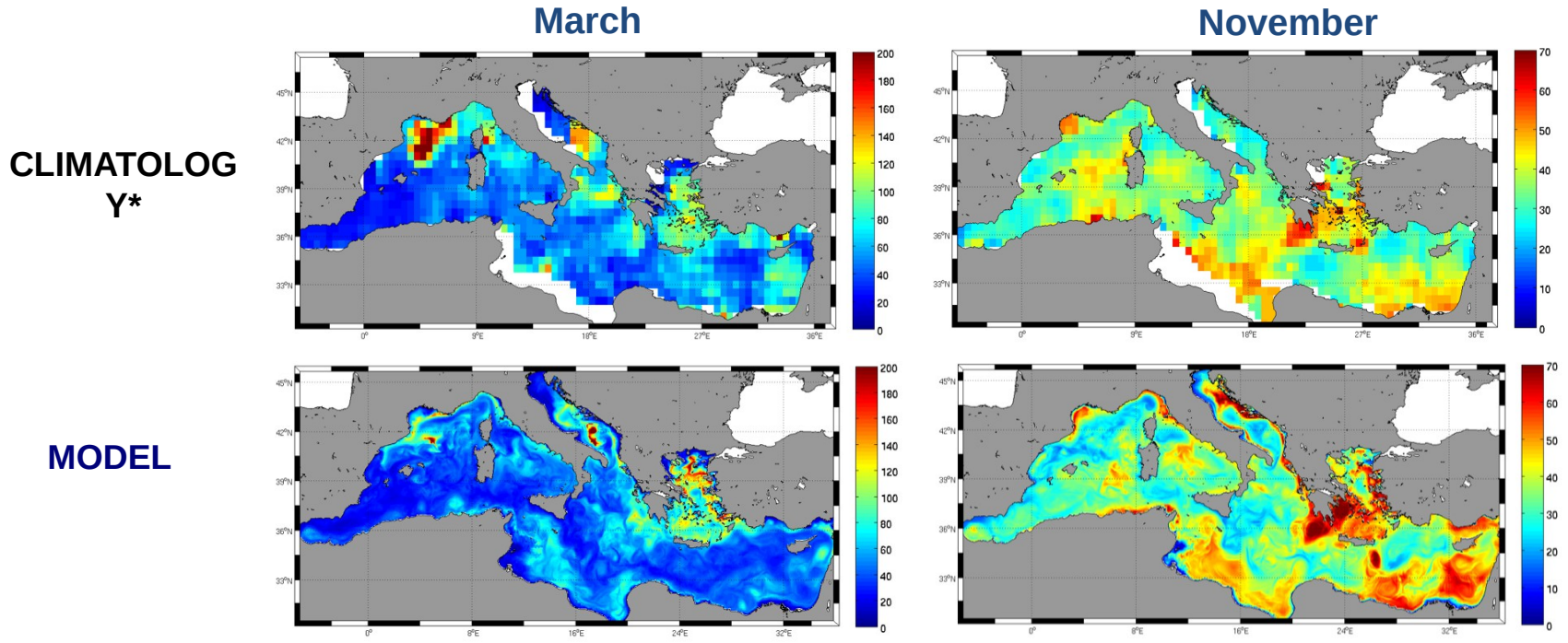
SST is not assimilated but it is used to correct Heat fluxes by relaxation.

$$Q_{corrected} = Q_{forc} + \frac{dQdSST}{\rho C_p} (SST_{model} - SST_{observation})$$

Data assimilation of ARGO and SLA improves midnight SST values



# Validation: Mixed Layer Depth



**CLIMATOLOGY\*:** Houpert et al., 2015  
Monthly gridded climatology produced using MBT, XBT, Profiling floats, Gliders, and ship-based CTD data from different database in the Med. 1969 - 2013

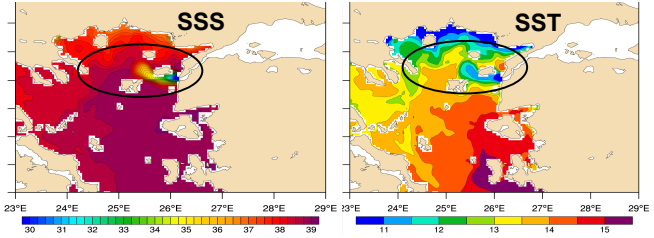




# FUTURE UPGRADES

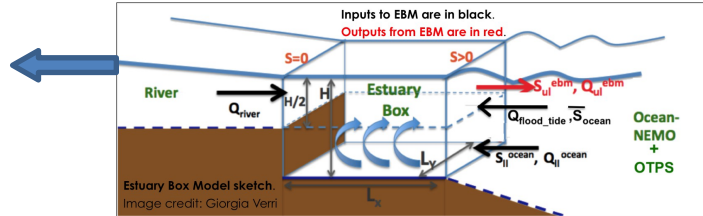
An upgraded analysis and forecasting system will enter in operation in **July 2019** with the following improvements:

- **Dardanelles** strait inflow parameterized as an open boundary conditions; nesting through the GLO-MFC analysis and forecasting product
- **Improved SST relaxation**: move from a 24h relaxation to night time relaxation with gaussian coefficient



## Foreseen major upgrades at end 2019 and 2020:

- Implementation of a 1-way coupled **Estuary Box Model** at river mouth to better represent river inflow and salinity
- Use of high frequency inter-annual **river run off and river forecast**, where available
- **Include tides** in the model
- Use a different **vertical mixing scheme**
- Improve **on-line coupling of NEMO with wave model** (enhanced vertical mixing)
- Data Assimilation: Include **assimilation of SST + Improvements** to account for Tides, new vertical mixing



# SUMMARY - CONCLUSIONS

- The actual Mediterranean Sea Analysis and Forecast operational system has been presented highlighting major upgrades with previous version
- The increased resolution provides better prediction of fluxes at Gibraltar strait, allows to resolve the Messina Strait circulation
- The increased n. of river inputs provides better representation of surface salinity next to river mouths as well as the volume salinity in the Mediterranean Sea
- The model validation assessment is performed regularly and shows:
  - improvements in terms of Temperature and Salinity with respect to the previous system
  - the model ability to correctly represent the time and spatial variability of the major physical parameters
- A continuous upgrade of the system is foreseen in order to improve the quality of the analysis and forecasting system and provide state of the art product to the users



# Thanks

