The seamod.ro Black Sea operational stochastic forecasting system

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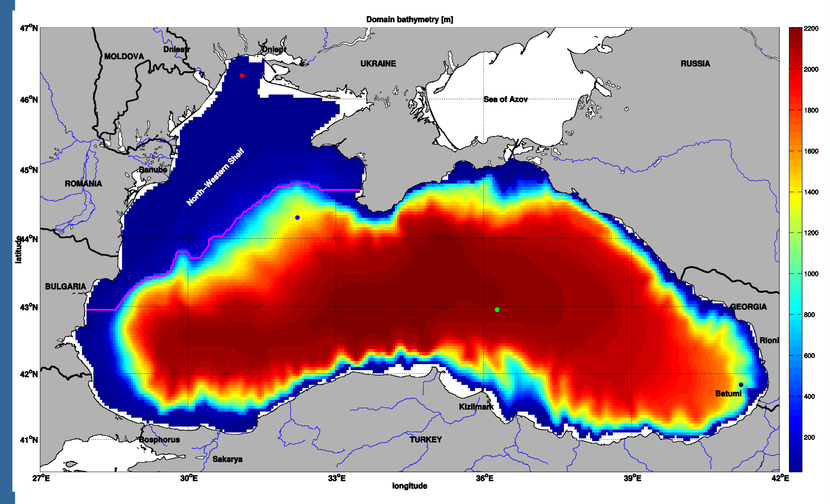
Introduction

The GHER hydrodynamical model is implemented in the Black Sea[1,2], and run operationally since 21/12/2011. The model runs daily in free mode and as a data-assimilative ensemble run,
The ensemble is built by applying multiple, random but physically consistent perturbations[3] to the members.
The ensemble forecast allows to estimate the *a priori* forecast uncertainty.
When observations become available,
- model performance is assessed (validation of the ensemble mean)
- the forecast uncertainty is evaluated *a posteriori* (validation of the ensemble spread)
- observations are assimilated using an EnKF (OAK[4])

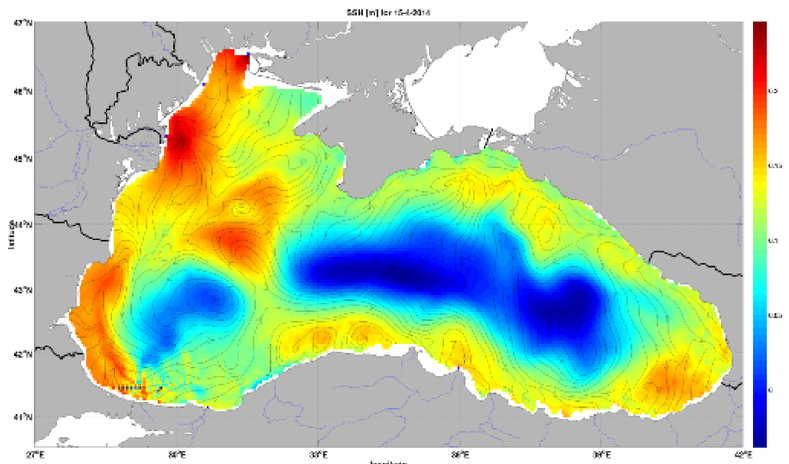
Operational forecasts of the ocean state and it's expected uncertainty (as estimated with the ensemble) are publically available on http://www.seamod.ro

GHER hydrodynamic model

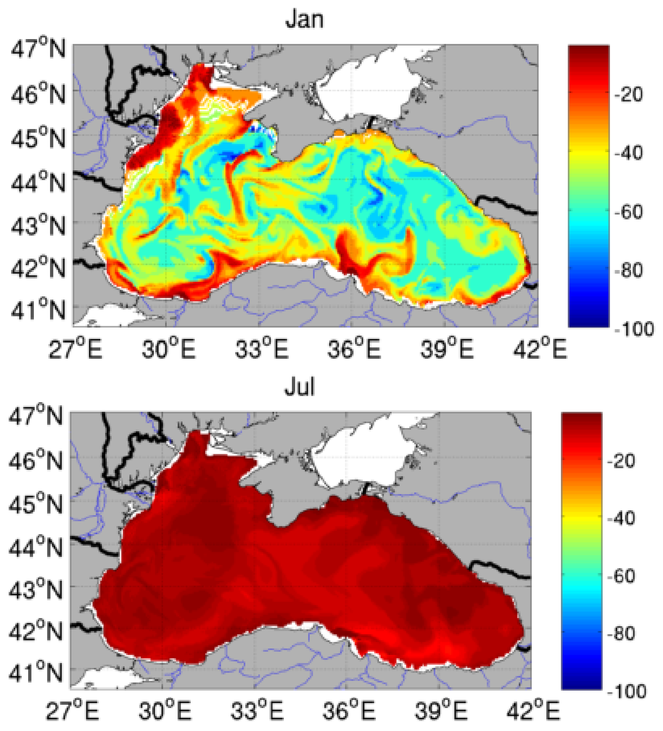
- model already implemented in different studies of the Black Sea
- **long-term, extensive validation (see [2])**
- horizontal resolution ~4km
- 31 vertical double-sigma levels
- Baroclinic timestep: 10 minuts
- 6 rivers, Bosphorus channel
- Bulk formulae using atmospheric fields downloaded from NOAA NCEP GFS



Model validation



- operational model simulates well the large scales:
  - Rim current position
  - semi-permanent eddies
  - elevation difference from coastal areas and open see ~ 20 cm
  - surface and deep salinity values
  - hydrodyanmic regime on the shelf
- Also simulates well shelf-open sea exchanges
- Also simulates well the mixed layed depth
  - spatial and temporal evolution



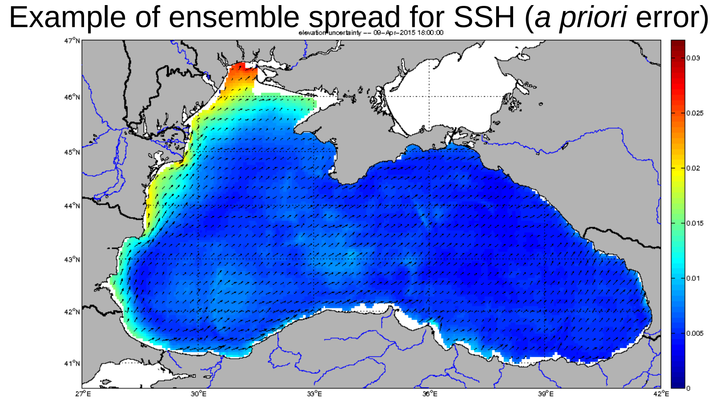
Ensemble run and DA

ENSEMBLE GENERATION

Model parameters, inputs… that are not perfectly known are different in each ensemble member

- rivers flow and diffusion coefficients are perturbed randomly, centred on our "best estimate"
- when creating a new member, initial conditions are generated by applying :
  - -current-aligned random perturbations on T,S fields with different spatial correlation lengths on the shelf and in the open sea
  - -in the open sea, surface elevation and velocity fields are applied the perturbation in geostrophic equilibrium with the density perturbation
- atmospheric forcing fields are perturbed so that:
  - -perturbation intensity is, on average, of the same magnitude as the difference between NCEP and ECMWF forecasts
  - -perturbations are obtained as a changing,random combination of EOFs of atmospheric timeseries

Example of ensemble spread for SSH (*a priori* error) :



DATA ASSIMILATION

- daily assimilation of SST and ARGO profiles
- observations are supposed uncorrelated
- their rms error is set as 0.25°C and 0.05psu
- data assimilation localisation radius ~ 100km
- correction limited to 1°C (temperature), 0.3psu (salinity), 5cm/s (velocity), 3cm (elevation)

COMPARISON W/ INDEPENDENT OBSERVATIONS

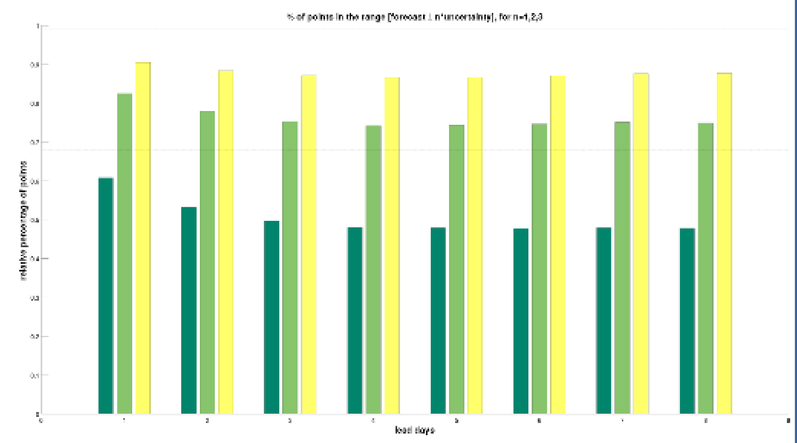
Temperature rms error:

Lead days	1	2	3	4	5
rms error	0,71	0,76	0,85	0,92	0,96

Validation of the ensemble

The *a priori* error (estimated by the ensemble spread) corresponds well to the *a posteriori* error (ensemble mean minus observations), suggesting that the ensemble initialization and perturbations during the simulation are sized relatively well.
Differences between *a priori* and *a posteriori* errors indicate that the ensemble slightly underestimates the error (e.g. ~0.1° for temperature).

If the error distribution were Gaussian, 60,85 and 90% of points would fall within 1,2, and 3 std.dev. around the mean.
The ensemble simulation has slightly lower amounts of points, again indicating that the ensemble spread is slightly too low,



References

1 Vandenbulcke et al, Onboard implementation of the GHER model for the Black Sea with SST and CTD data assimilation. J. of Operational Oceanography, 2010
2 Capet et al, Interannual variability of the Black Sea's hydrodynamics and connection to atmostpheric patterns. Deep Sea Research part II, 2012
3 Barth et al, Dynamically constrained ensemble perturbation – application to tides on the West Florida Shelf. Ocean Science, 2009
4 Ocean Assimilation Kit, Barth et al, see publication list and software source on: http://www.data-assimilation.net/mediawiki/index.php/Ocean_Assimilation_Kit