



Warnings verification – all at sea

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The Met Office issues warnings of gales and storms on behalf of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in the sea areas which surround the United Kingdom. These area-based warnings often appear within the iconic Shipping and High seas forecasts. Verification of these products is extremely important because trust in the accuracy of these services and an understanding of their strengths and weaknesses helps to reduce weather related risks associated with a wide range of sea transport. The assessment of these warnings is undertaken by a generic warnings verification system which uses an hourly nowcast analysis truth data source to provide long-term rolling performance statistics and near-real-time feedback to the meteorologist. Scheduled storm warnings last for 24h and are issued twice daily – always at 8am and 8pm; however, to forecast the onset of an ensuing gale a warning can be issued at any time and can come in three flavours – IMMINENT, SOON or LATER. The more complex nature of this warning service requires a special post-processing step to ensure that the verification process provides as accurate a reflection of the performance as possible. This presentation outlines both the methodology used to assess these warning services and long term analysis of the performance.