



Improved Jason-2 altimetry products for coastal ocean: PISTACH

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As part of Jason-2 project, CNES is conducting a study to improve altimeter products in coastal areas and inland waters. This 18-months-project named PISTACH for « Prototype Innovant de Système de Traitement pour les Applications Côtières et l'Hydrologie » is structured in three phases.

In the first months of the project, a study of the user needs and the definition of the products were conducted. The second phase dealt with analysis, selection and development of new fields to be taken into account (retracking of the waveforms, radiometer and model wet troposphere correction, local model for correction of tides and atmospheric forcing, sea state bias, data editing). The third phase consists in prototype implementation, validation and operations during Jason-2 CalVal phases.

Since November 2008, the PISTACH prototype is generating coastal dedicated Level 2 (I)GDR altimeter products. These products are freely delivered to users through an anonymous FTP website <ftp://ftpsedr.cls.fr/pub/oceano/pistach/>. The evaluation of the actual improvements and data quality reached near the coasts is now under investigation.

The main results of the project (user needs, new algorithms and prototype) as well as the PISTACH products will be presented at the meeting. Early results of comparison with standard products will also be exhibited.