



The MyOcean GMES Marine Core Service for ocean monitoring and forecasting version 1 is now open

Eric Dombrowsky, Pierre Bahurel, and Frédéric Adragna

Mercator-Océan, Ramonville, France (eric.dombrowsky@mercator-ocean.fr)

MyOcean is the implementation project of the GMES Marine Core Service for ocean monitoring and forecasting. Co-funded by the European Commission, the FP7 MyOcean project aims at deploying the first concerted and integrated pan-European capacity for ocean monitoring and forecasting. The project started in April 2009 for a 3 year period. MyOcean gathers 61 partners from 29 countries, composed of the leading operational oceanography centres in Europe and a powerful network of users to foster uptake at national and local levels. The mission is clear: provide to any user a reference and reliable information on the ocean, based on the combination of earth observation space and in situ data and model simulations.

The MyOcean service provides a reference information on the ocean state – temperature, salinity, currents, ice extent, sea level, primary ecosystems, ... – anywhere (the service covers the whole globe), at any depth (models give access to a 3D depiction), at anytime (in real time, with short term forecast, and also past situations for at least the last 25 years), and to anyone (access to products is open and free). Maritime security, oil spill prevention, marine resources management, climate change, seasonal forecasting, coastal activities, ice sheet surveys, water quality and pollution ... are some of the targeted applications.

After having run a preliminary mock-up version of the service, based on the assets of previous initiatives, the MyOcean consortium has launched the first version of this integrated service in December 2010 (i.e. 20 month after the project kick-off). Services can be discovered through the web portal www.myocean.eu. A service desk (servicedesk@myocean.eu.org) has been setup to provide 24/7 professional support to users. It is the centralised access point to the MyOcean services.

Observation and model products (real-time analysis forecast and observations, reanalysis and reprocessed observation) are freely available to any users. Information on how to access the products can be found on the web portal.

The numerical products are elaborated by 12 production centres, including 7 centres that assemble the observations (both in situ and remotely sensed) and 5 monitoring and forecasting centres that assimilate the observations in model configurations covering the global ocean, and all the European Seas with an enhanced capacity. All these production centers are interconnected through a dedicated information system, and to the service portal, in order to provide robust and reliable operational service.

After an overview of the MyOcean version 1 of the service, we present some characteristics of the systems that elaborate the numerical products, including performance metrics.