



Regional High-Resolution Altimeter Products for Model Assessment and Data Assimilation

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For some years, efforts have been done to develop regionally new altimeter products more suitable to users needs on high resolution. The conception of such altimeter products was initiated by several projects (MERSEA, ECOOP, SLOOP, PISTACH, COASTALT, ...) and specific efforts are currently pursued within the Sea Level (SL) Thematic Assembly Centre (TAC) of the MyOcean project.

In 2010, the SL TAC launched the “Tailored Altimetric Products for Assimilation Systems” (TAPAS) initiative. During a fruitful workshop (held in Toulouse, April 2010), SL TAC and Monitoring and Forecasting Centers (MFC) shared a common view on the future developments of sea level products answering to the data assimilation needs. Resolution and physical content of the dataset was mainly discussed. The synthesis of these discussions as well as the on-going action plan of this initiative will be presented.

In addition, the SL TAC will develop in 2011 two new regional altimeter products (NE Atlantic and Arctic seas). The main characteristics of these products will be addressed and compared to the global and other regional products.

Towards an increase of the along-track altimeter resolution using new altimeter dataset like PISTACH, one of the limits deals with the absence of a precise high resolution reference surface. Some results of different studies focusing on the estimation of a precise high resolution mean profile and its impact on future possible high resolution L3 products will also be highlighted.