



Topographic signals in extreme QuikSCAT winds in the Northern Seas

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The climatology of strong windstorms in the northern part of the N-Atlantic is explored using QuikSCAT observations. The topographic signal from Greenland is quite dominating, as expected, but there is also a signal from Iceland and S-Norway in certain wind directions. There is a maximum in the frequency of strong windstorms in northeasterly winds in the vicinity of the sea ice edge north of Iceland and a local, but weak elongated maximum in the ocean east of Jan Mayen. This maximum may be associated with polar lows as well as lows recovering after deformation due to the topography of Iceland. Interestingly, the topography of N-Norway does not seem to be effective in generating strong coastal windstorms.