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The FOAM ocean forecasting system: capabilities and developments

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The FOAM (Forecast Ocean Assimilation Model) is a now well-established ocean analysis and forecasting system. Daily analyses and 5-day forecasts of 3D temperature, salinity, currents and sea-ice are produced. Coverage is global at 1 degree resolution with nested models up to 1/9 degree resolution in areas of interest. Selected output is available in real time at http://www.nerc-essc.ac.uk/godiva/

An overview of the capabilities of the system will be given together with recent developments, including the use of partial-cell bathymetry, the introduction of a new mixed-layer diagnostic and the testing of a simple biology model in the system. I will also present plans to transition to the NEMO modelling framework as part of the MERSEA IP project for an integrated European forecasting system.