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North Sea climate from 1948 - 2006

E. M. I. Meyer (1), T. Pohlmann (2), R. Weisse (1) and H. von Storch (1)

(1) GKSS Research Centre, Institute for Coastal Research, Max-Planck-Str. 1, 21502 Geesthacht, Germany, (2) Universität Hamburg, Zentrum für Meeres- und Klimaforschung, Institut für Meereskunde, Bundesstr. 53, 20146 Hamburg, Germany; (Contact: elke.meyer@gkss.de)

The climate of the greater North Sea is investigated for the period from 1948 till 2006. For a better understanding of physical processes in the North Sea a model run is done for the period 1948 till 2006. The calculations are done with the 3-dimensional barocline shelf sea model HAMSOM with a spatial resolution of 20' x 12' and 19 levels. The layer thickness varies between 5m in the first 50m and 400m at the North Atlantic boundary. The model run is done with a time step of 5 min and hourly output of temperature, salinity, u- and v-components (3-dim) and water level (2-dim). The meteorological forcing data are from the NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis 1 data set which included air temperature, humidity, cloud cover, precipitation, sea level pressure and wind components. The boundary conditions for the open seas are from a climatological river discharges are considered as well. The objective of this study is to investigate, if there is a systematical climate change in the North Sea. First results of the model run will be shown and discussed.