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The FOAM ocean forecasting system: capabilities and developments

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The FOAM (Forecast Ocean Assimilation Model) system 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/

The ocean model component of the FOAM system is being changed from the Unified Model ocean to the NEMO (Nucleus for European Modelling of the Ocean) model at 0.25 degree globally. Models at 1/12 degree will be nested into the global model. The optimal interpolation assimilation system is also being developed to assimilate observations compared to the model at the exact observation time. Initial results and comparisons to the previous system will be shown.