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Strategy for the development of the future mercator-ocean prototypes

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MERCATOR is a French operational oceanographic project and contributes to the Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment (GODAE) in 2003-2005. Several operational systems provide already analyses and forecasts over the Atlantic basin with a resolution of 1/3° and 1/15° and on the global ocean with the resolution of 2° (http://www.mercator.com.fr). Current this year a new global system will be operational with a 1/4° resolution. All models are based upon the primitive equation model OPA developed on at the LODYC and global models have an ‘‘ORCA” grid. The goal of the mercator project is to be able purpose a ‘‘eddy resolving” global model and very high resolution regional models covering the European coast for horizon 2008. In this presentation we explain the incremental strategy adopted to develop these new configurations: the interest of developing models on an ORCA grid type, the creation of common input files, the parameterizations forecast and boundaries problems.