



Operational ocean prediction at the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office, Current capabilities, Future plans

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Operational oceanography, throughout its long history at the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO), has continually evolved in order to remain relevant to the changing operational needs of the U.S. Navy. This transformation continues today as the NAVOCEANO operational oceanographer plays a key role in the rapidly shrinking tactical decision timelines of the naval warfighter. Understanding the warfighter's questions and translating the information available from the ocean sciences into tactically useful and rapidly available answers are key to this transformation. Ocean prediction plays a vital role in providing these answers. Appreciating and applying advances in ocean prediction assure the highest technical quality and timeliness of these answers. We address NAVOCEANO's operational ocean prediction capabilities today, providing recent examples applied to both military and humanitarian missions, and also provide our current vision of future capabilities.