



Skill assessment of operational ocean predictions at the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office

J. Harding, F. Bub, C. Dehaan and A. Mask

Naval Oceanographic Office, Mississippi, USA (john.m.harding@navy.mil)

Operational oceanography at the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO) continues to evolve in order to remain relevant to the changing operational needs of the U.S. Navy. The NAVOCEANO operational oceanographer plays a key role in the rapidly shrinking tactical decision timelines of the naval warfighter. Ocean prediction provides a critical tool in the oceanographer's effort to provide rapid, tactically useful answers to warfighter questions. Evaluating the skill of these numerical tools and quantifying the uncertainty associated with them is a critical aspect of providing these relevant answers. We address NAVOCEANO's current operational ocean prediction capabilities with particular emphasis on today's skill assessment tools and procedures and also provide additional insight into our anticipated, more automated, future capabilities.