



# High Resolution Operational Forecasts of Ocean Surface Currents for Optimal Ship Routing

Inès Larroche



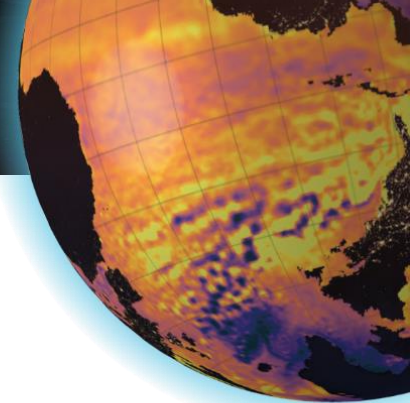
[ines.larroche@amphitrite.fr](mailto:ines.larroche@amphitrite.fr)

With Pierre Garcia, Amélie  
Pesnec, Hannah Bull and  
Théo Archambault

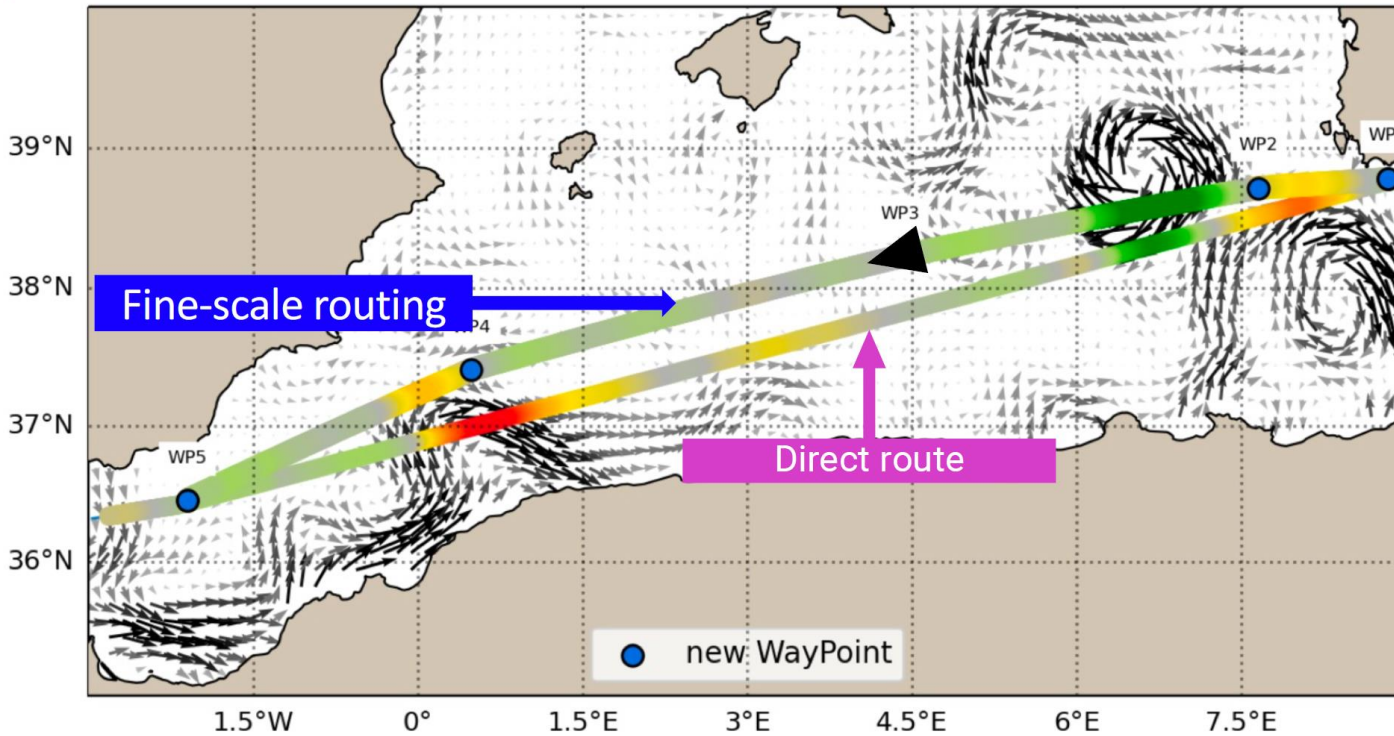


[www.amphitrite.fr](http://www.amphitrite.fr)





# Fine-Scale Ship Routing



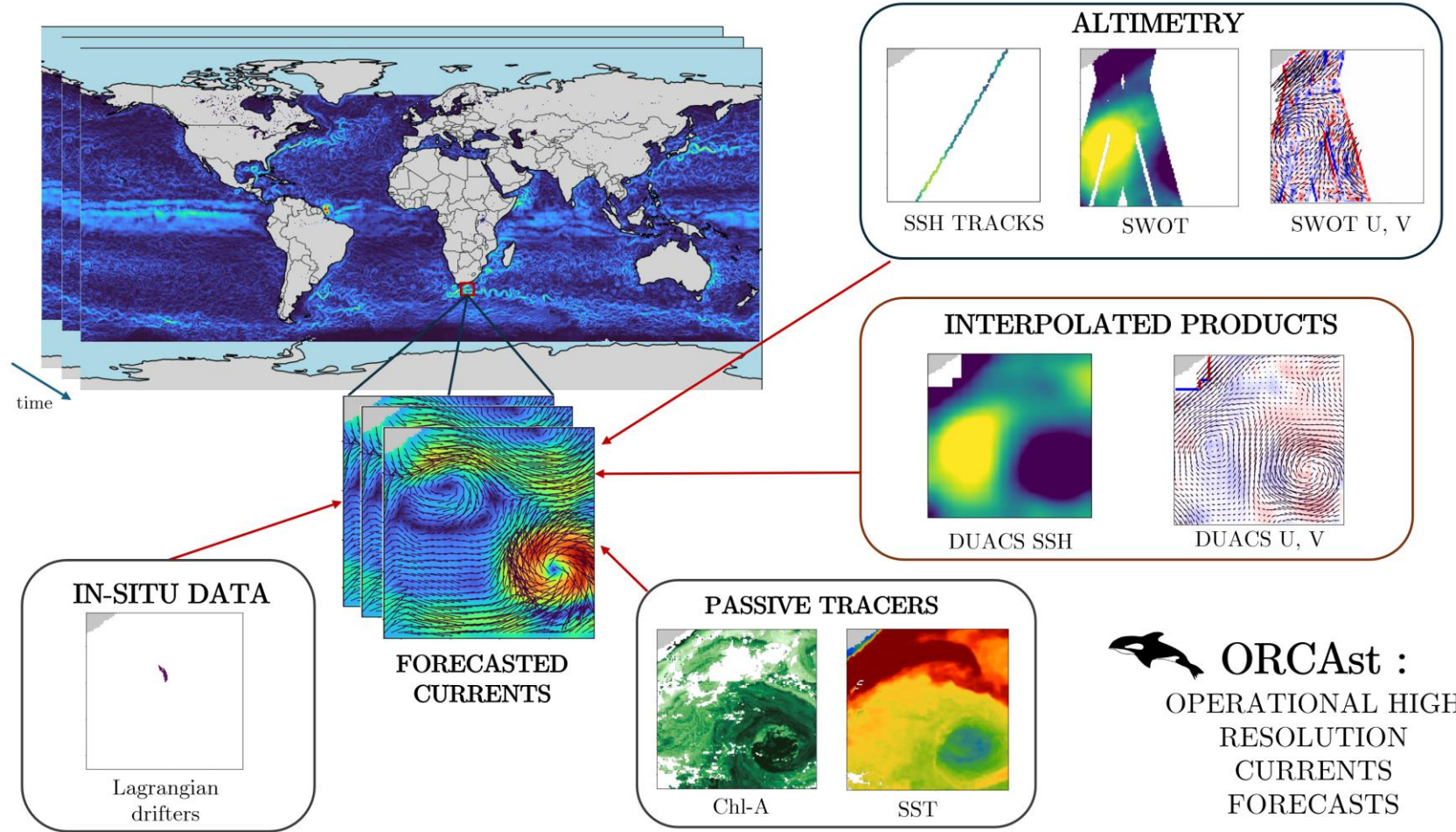
Route Optimisation : A tool for ships to reduce their Carbon Intensity Index

Accurate positioning of ships to avoid adverse currents and take advantage of favorable ones

Need for high-resolution ocean surface currents maps



# Our Forecasting Model



 **ORCAst :**  
OPERATIONAL HIGH  
RESOLUTION  
CURRENTS  
FORECASTS



# Architecture

INPUTS

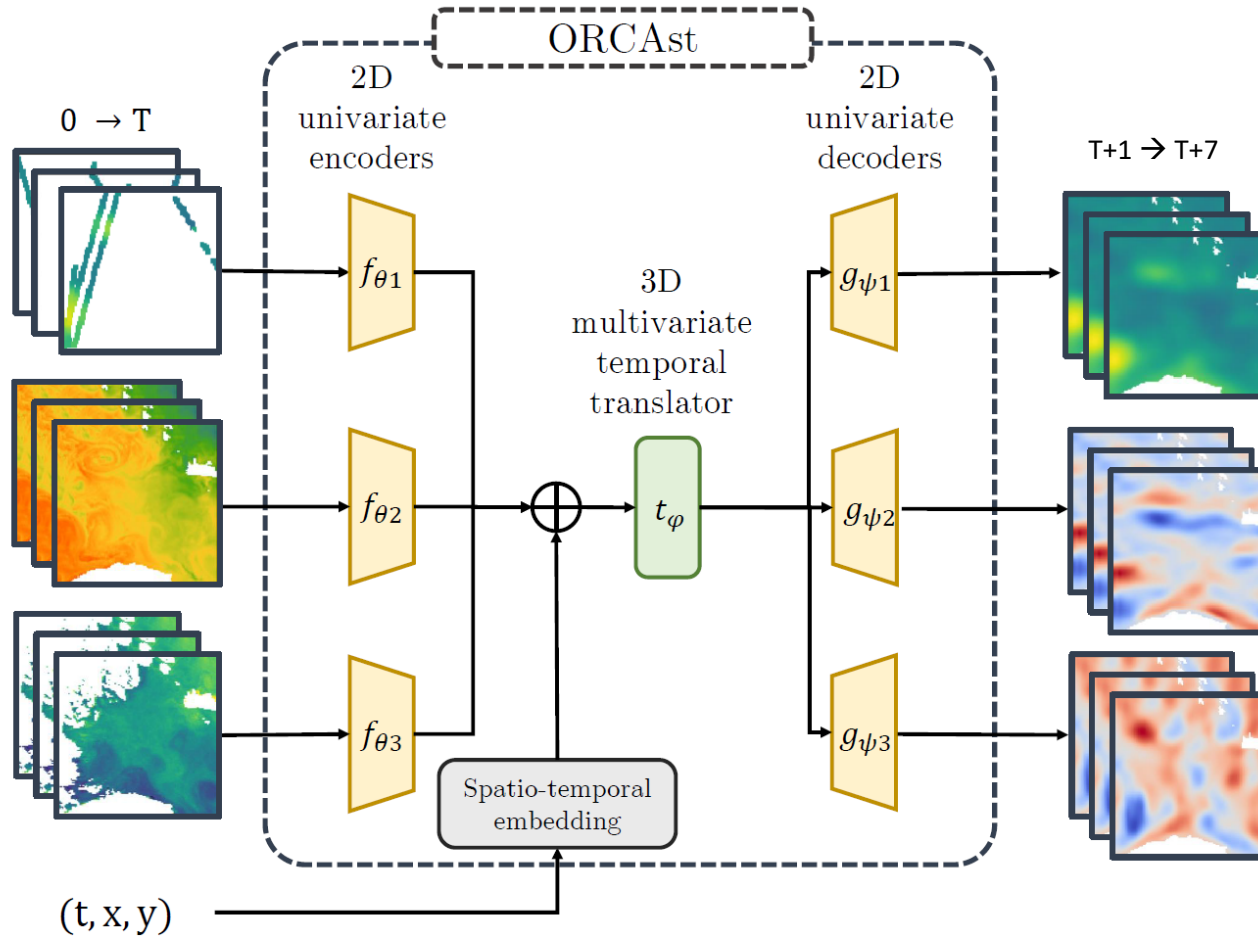
11 days

NADIR  
SSH

SST  
L3

Chl-A

SATELLITE  
DATA



OUTPUTS

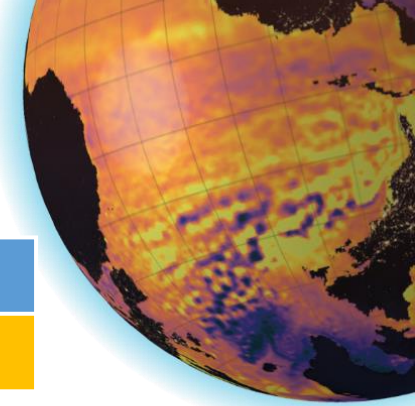
7 days

SSH

U

SURFACE  
CURRENTS  
1/30°

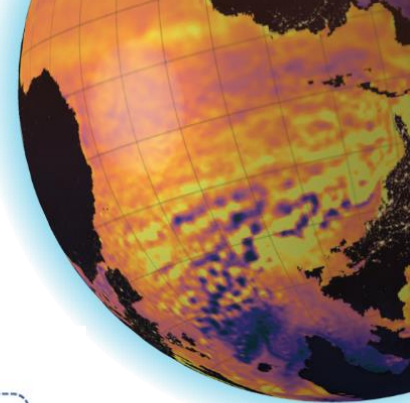
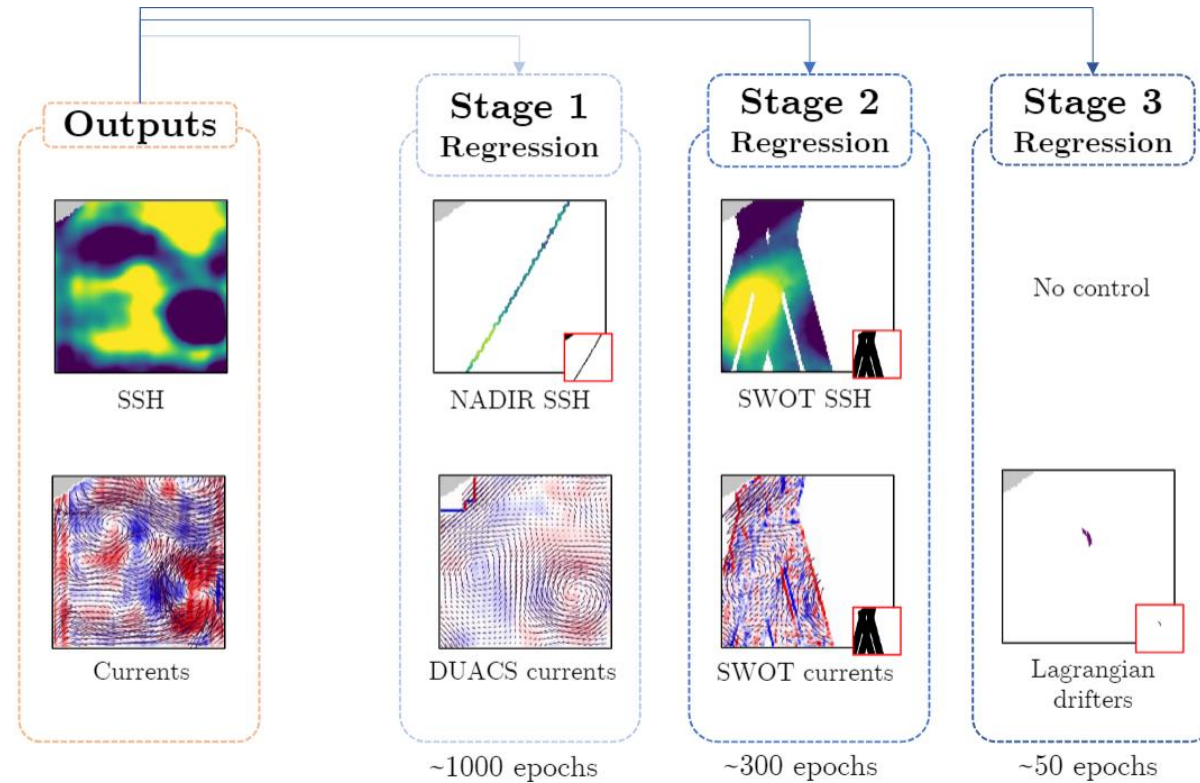
V



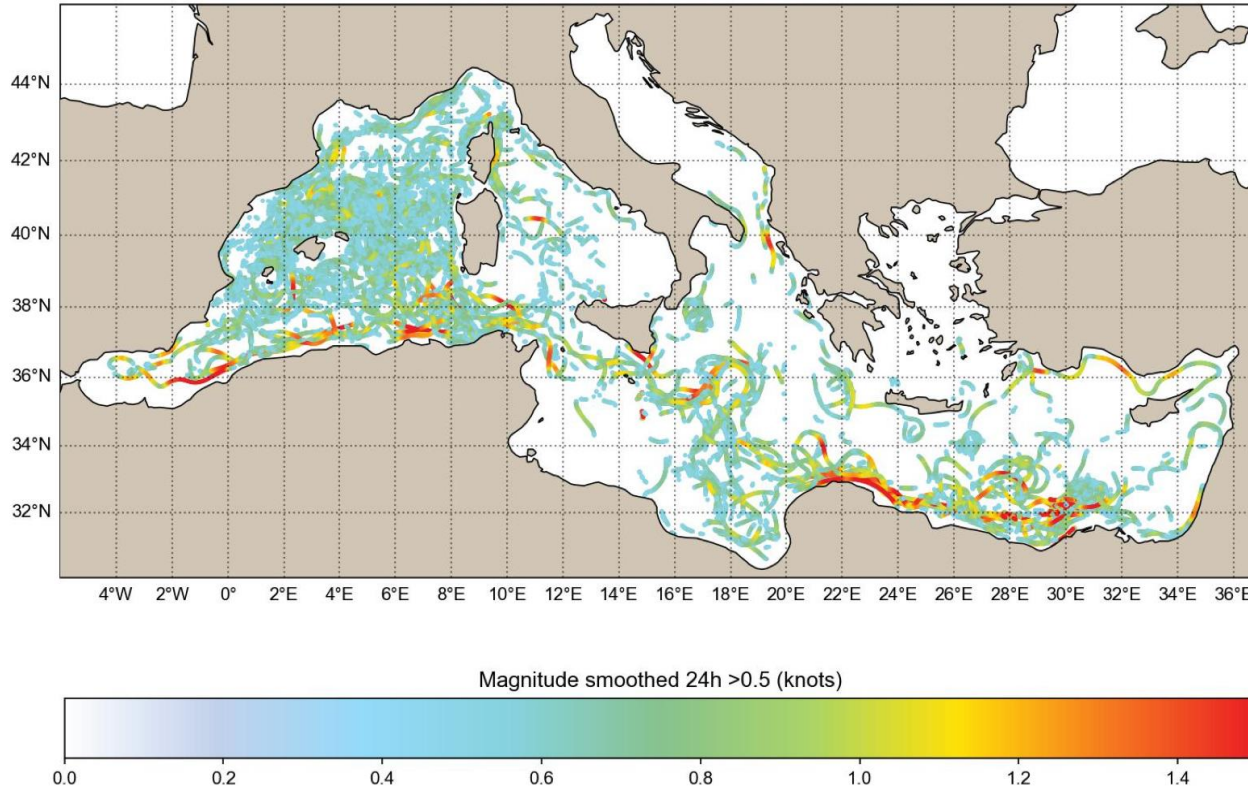


# Training by region in 3 stages

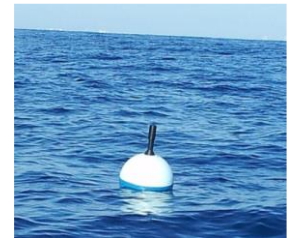
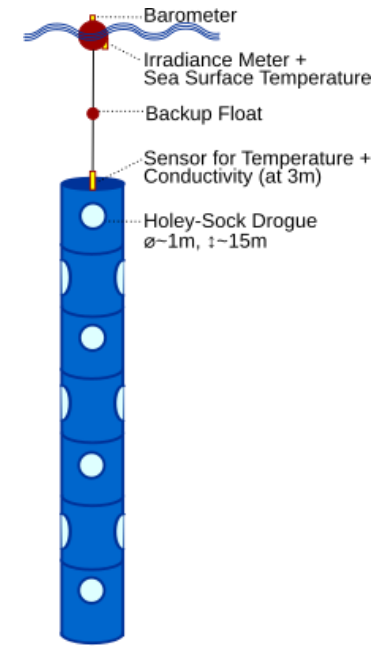
Multi-stage training strategy →  
Amelie's presentation, Session 5.1 :  
[Integrating SWOT data into a deep learning model for real-time high-resolution prediction of ocean surface currents](#)



# Evaluation strategy: Lagrangian drifters



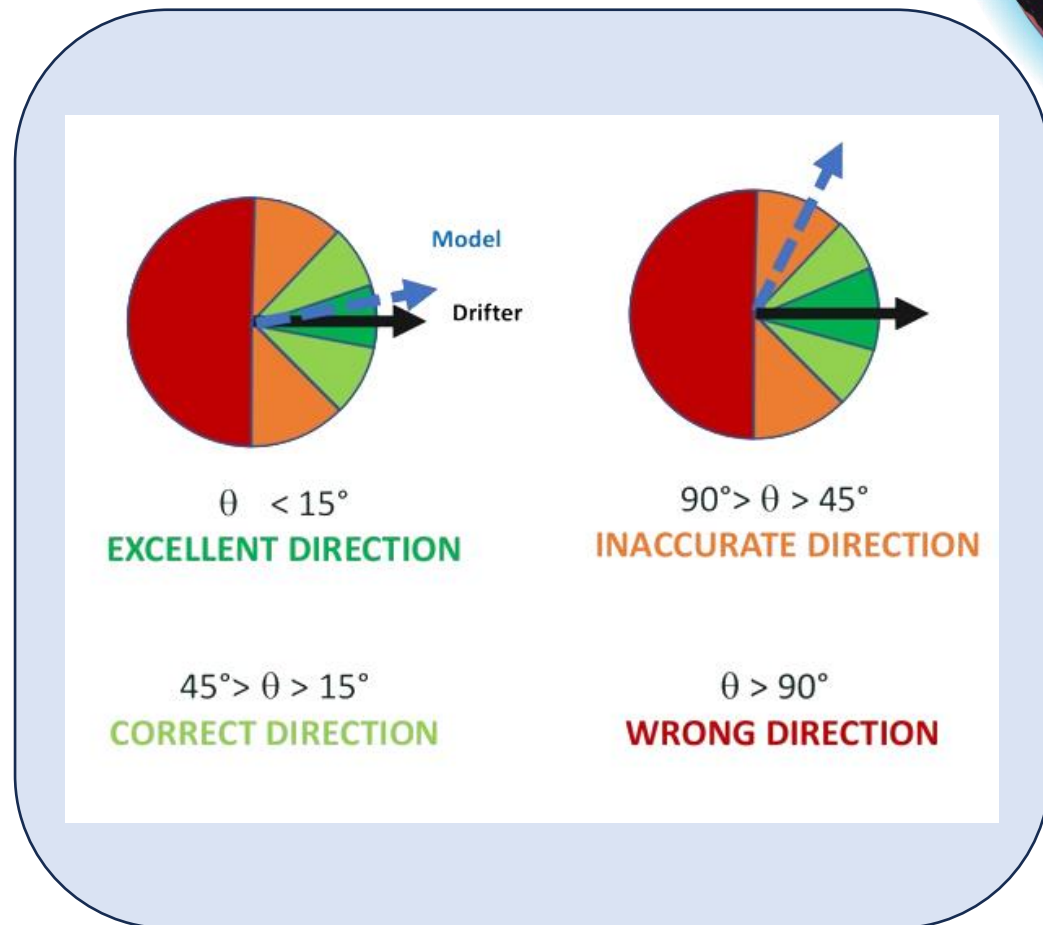
Mediterranean Sea : 93k Surface Drifter Measurements in 2020-2022



# Evaluation strategy : Metrics

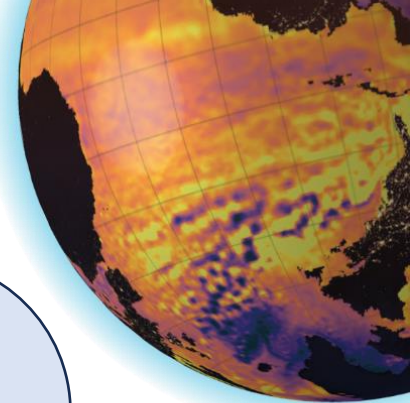
## DIRECTION ACCURACY

$$\theta = \frac{180}{\pi} \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{\hat{w} \cdot w_{\text{drifter}}}{\|\hat{w}\| \|w_{\text{drifter}}\|} \right) \in [0; 180]$$



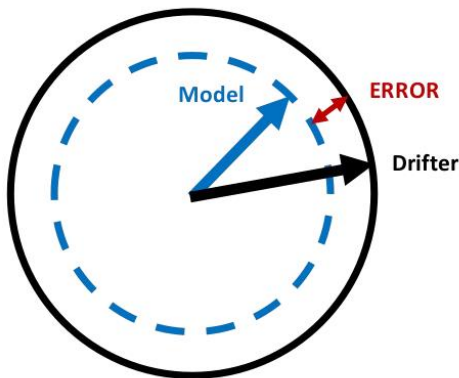


# Evaluation strategy : Metrics



## MAGNITUDE ACCURACY

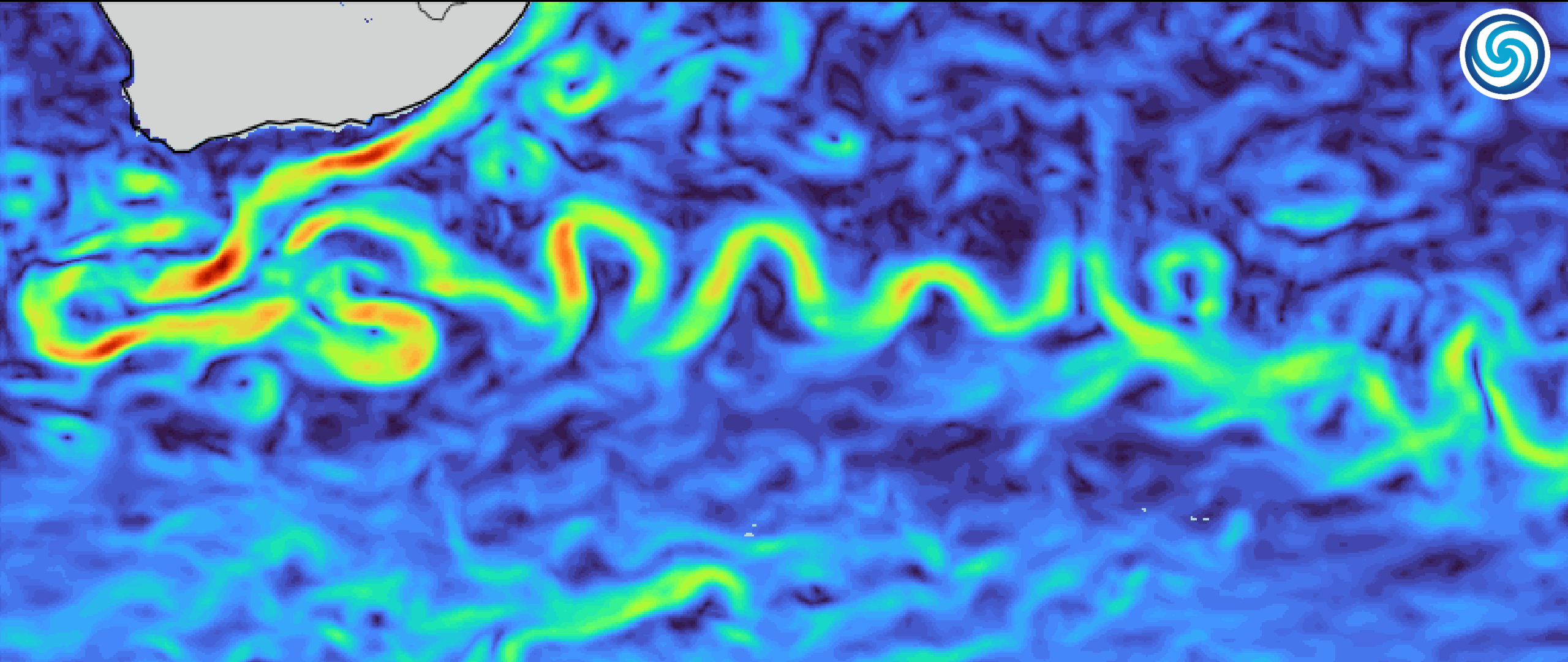
$$\Delta M = \left| \|\hat{w}\| - \|w_{\text{drifter}}\| \right| \in \mathbb{R}$$



	$\Delta M$ (cm/s)
Excellent	[0,5]
Correct	[5,15]
Inaccurate	[15, 25]
Wrong	>25







# Aghulas

*One month prediction roll-out: October 2024, Aghulas region*

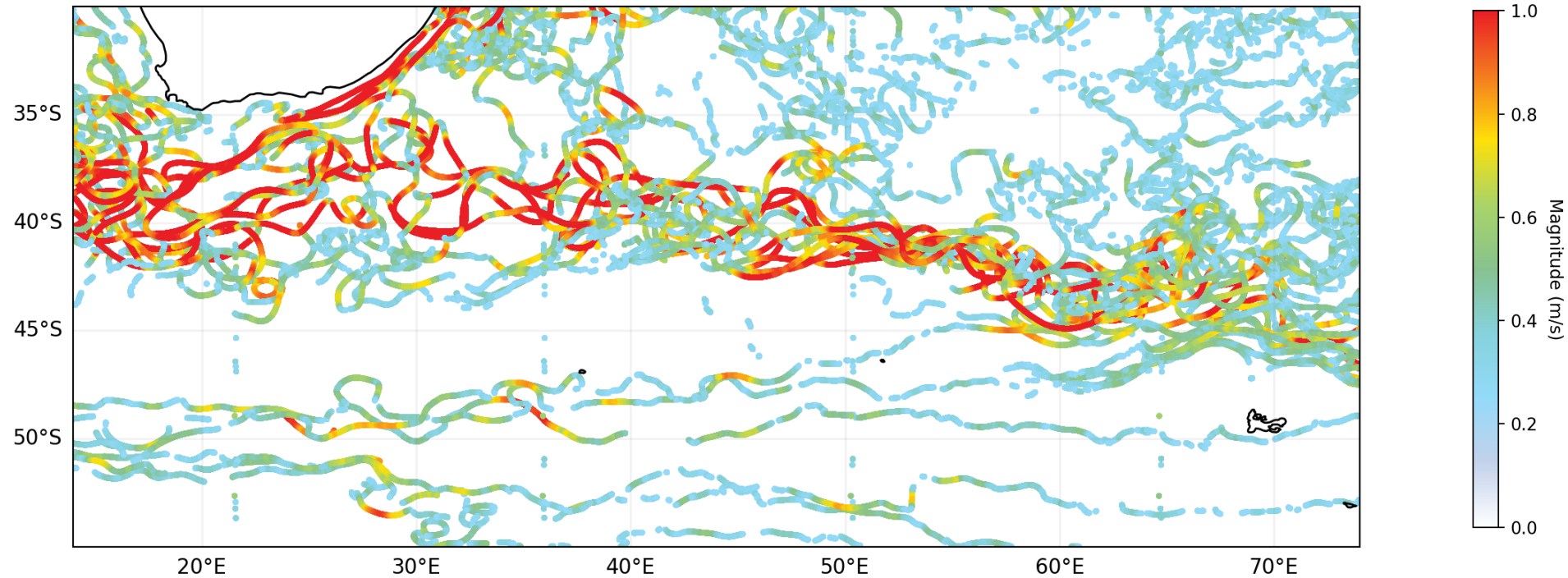


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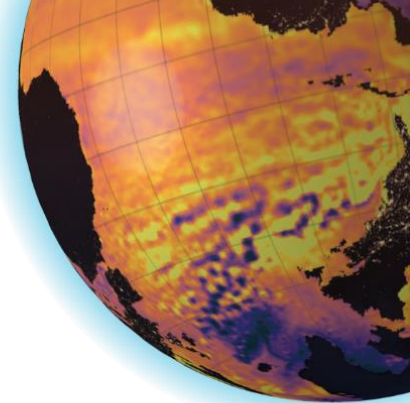
High Resolution Forecasts of Ocean Currents

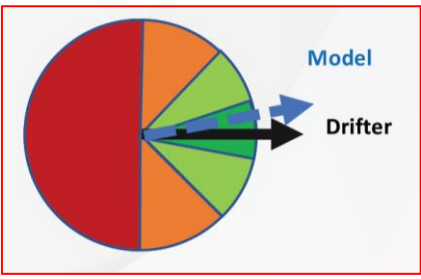


**Distribution of drifters used for evaluation:**  
between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023,  
with magnitude filter 0.25 m/s.



Average magnitude : 0.5 m/s.  
Total number of measurements used for comparison : 93186

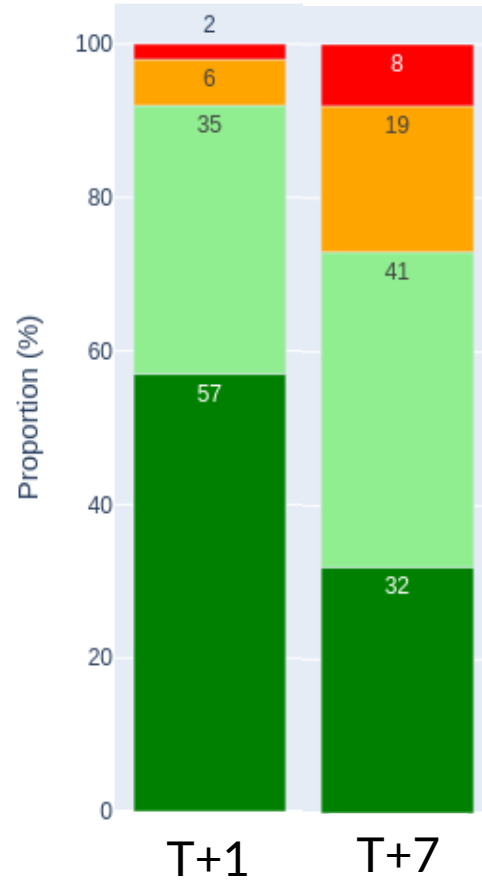
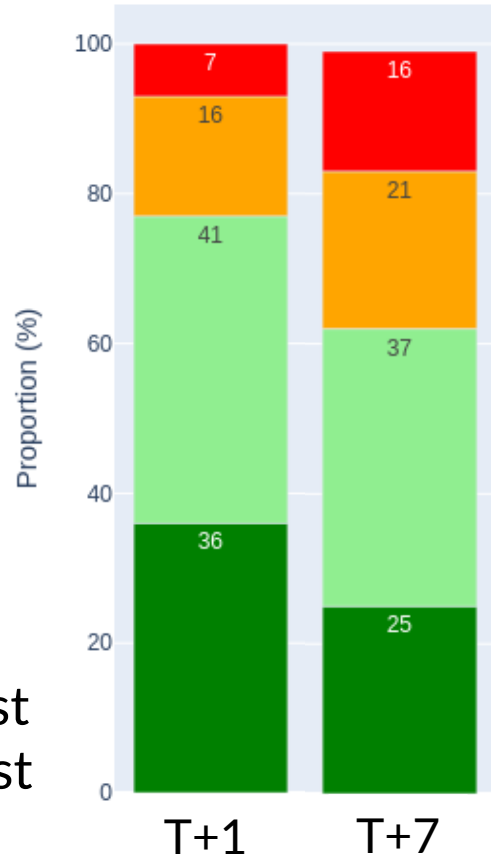




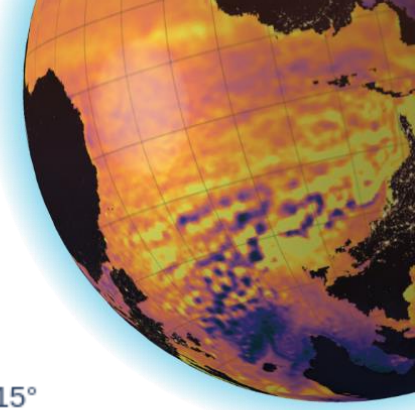
# Angle Error

Improvements on direction accuracy

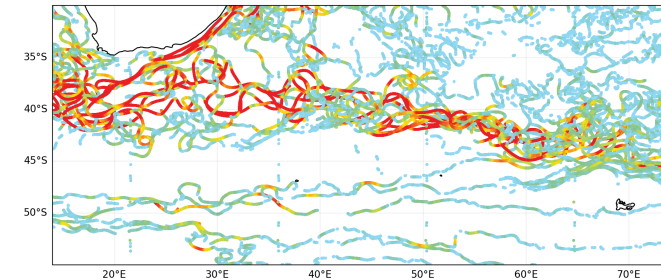
T+1: 1st day of forecast  
T+7: 7th day of forecast



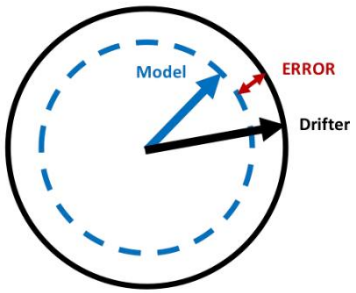
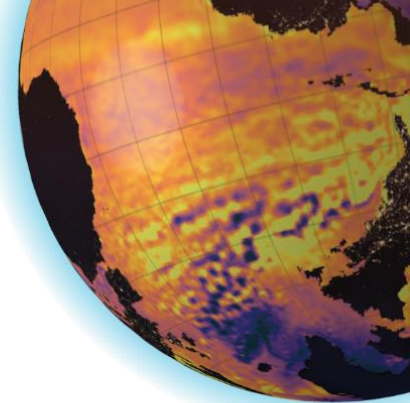
- Between 0° and 15°
- Between 15° and 45°
- Between 45° and 90°
- Above 90°



Evaluation datapoints



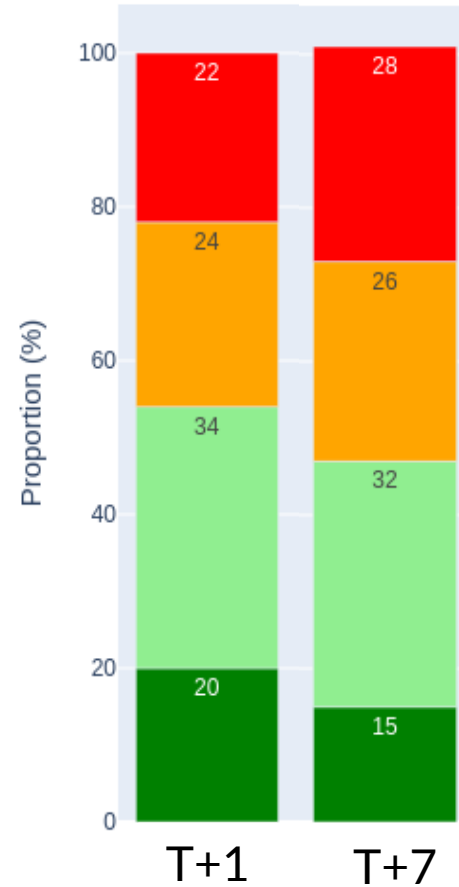
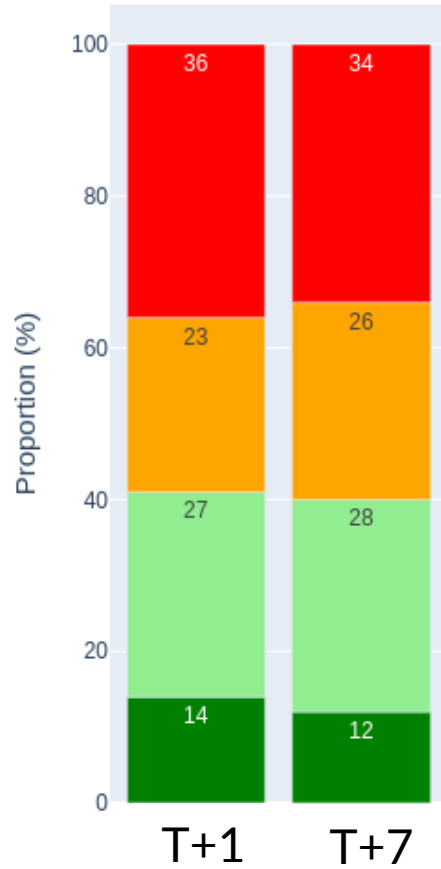




# Magnitude Error

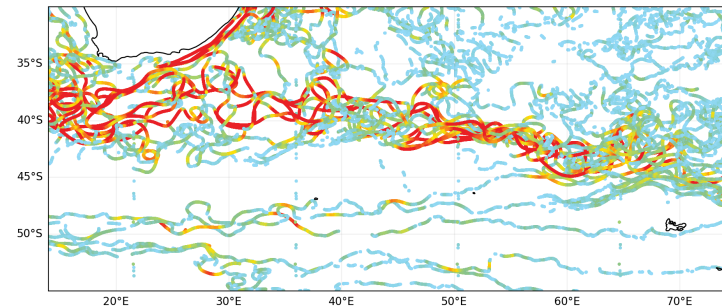
Improvements on magnitude accuracy

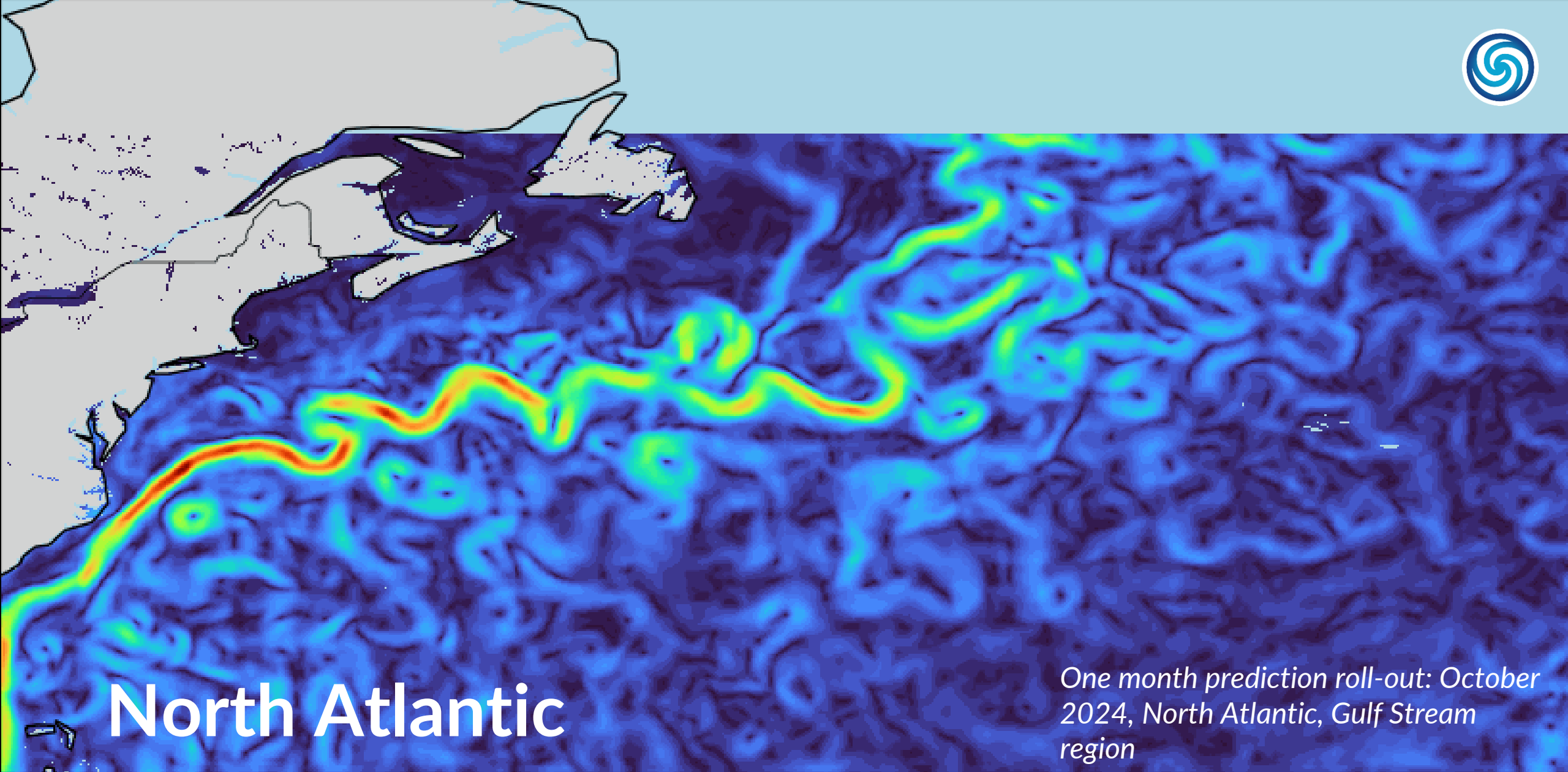
T+1: 1st day of forecast  
T+7: 7th day of forecast



- Between 0cm/s and 5cm/s
- Between 5cm/s and 15cm/s
- Between 15cm/s and 25cm/s
- Above 25cm/s

Evaluation datapoints

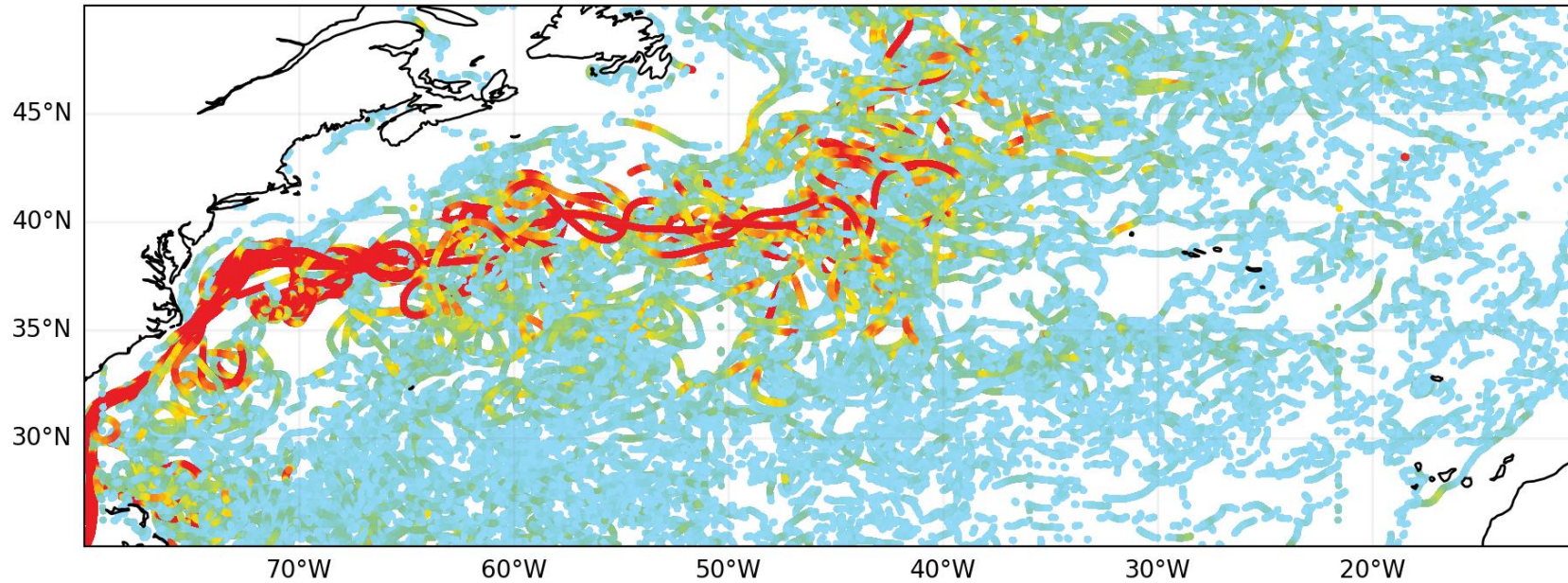




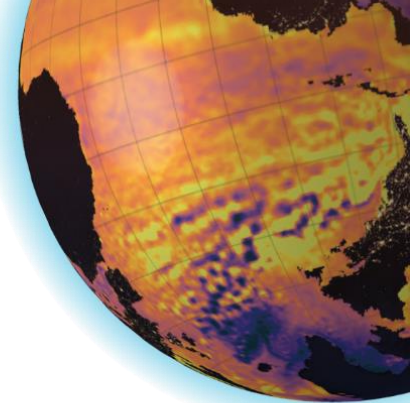
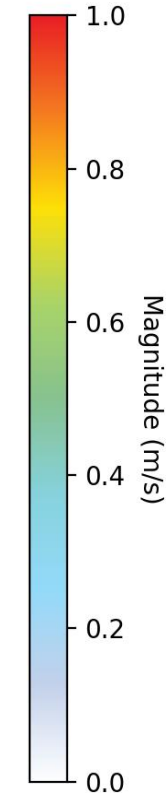
# North Atlantic

*One month prediction roll-out: October 2024, North Atlantic, Gulf Stream region*

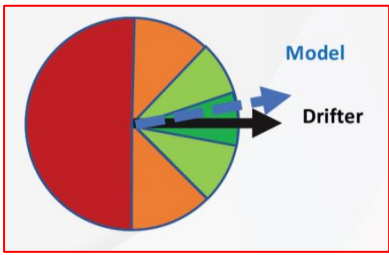
**Distribution of drifters used for evaluation:**  
between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023,  
with magnitude filter 0.25 m/s.



Average magnitude : 0.41 m/s.  
Total number of measurements used for comparison : 271,104



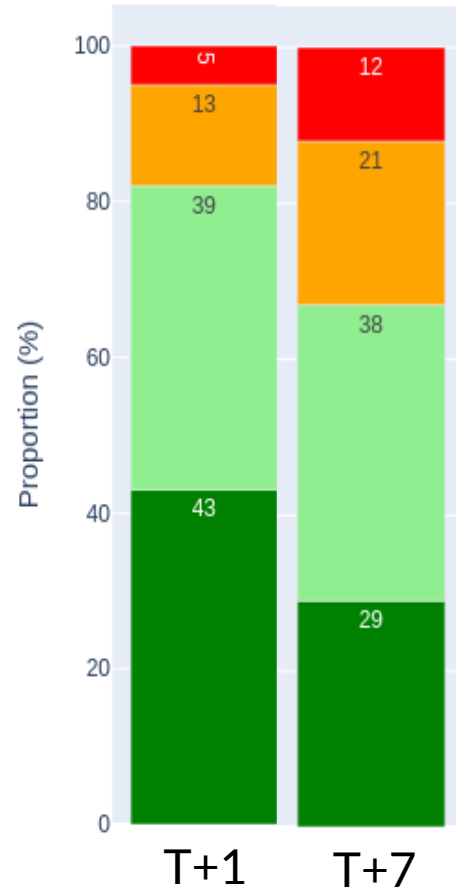
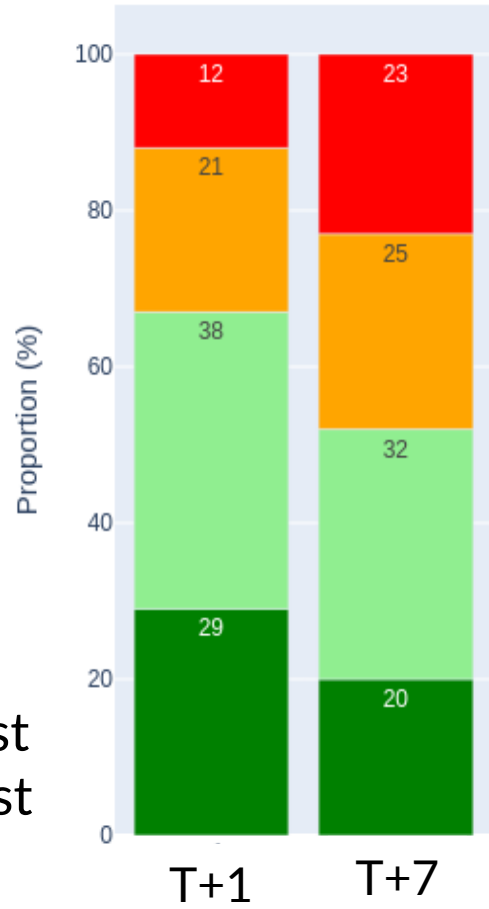




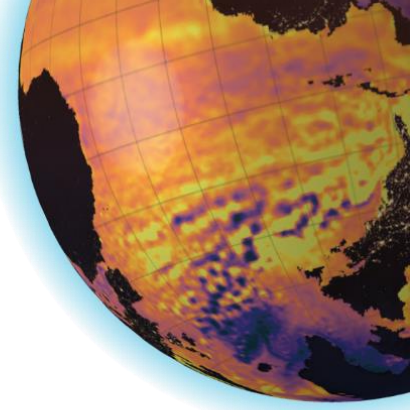
# Angle Error

Improvements on direction accuracy

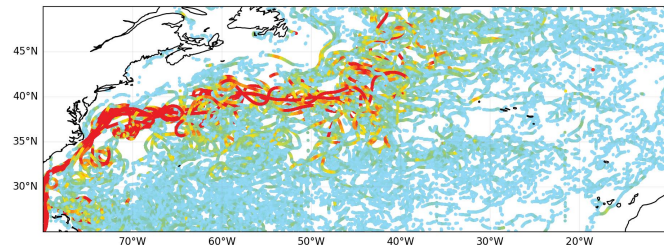
T+1: 1st day of forecast  
T+7: 7th day of forecast

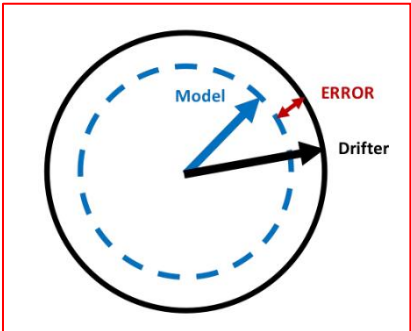


- Between 0° and 15°
- Between 15° and 45°
- Between 45° and 90°
- Above 90°



Evaluation datapoints

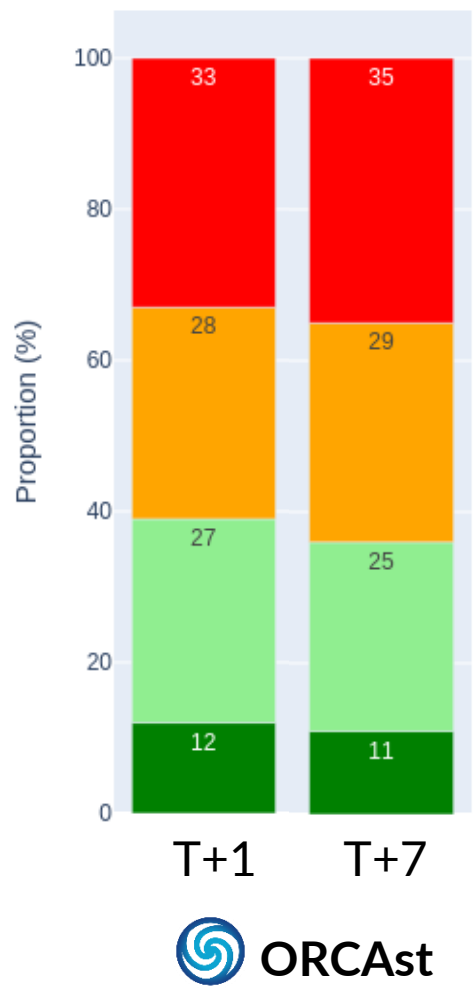
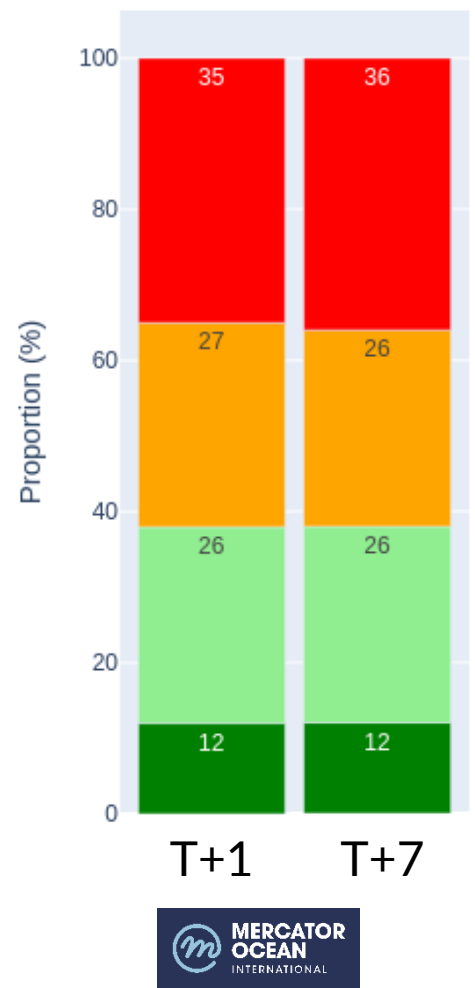




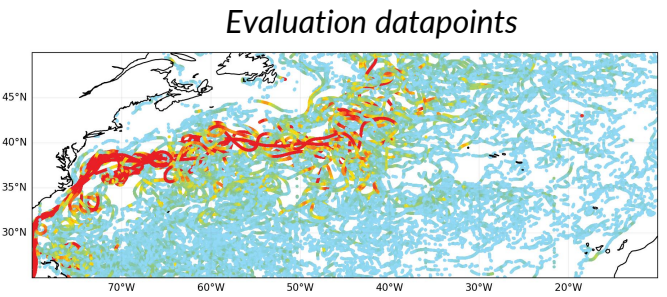
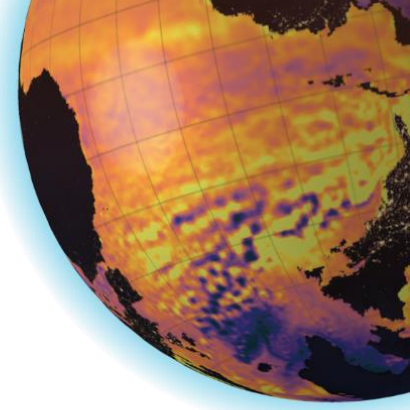
# Magnitude Error

No significant difference in performance

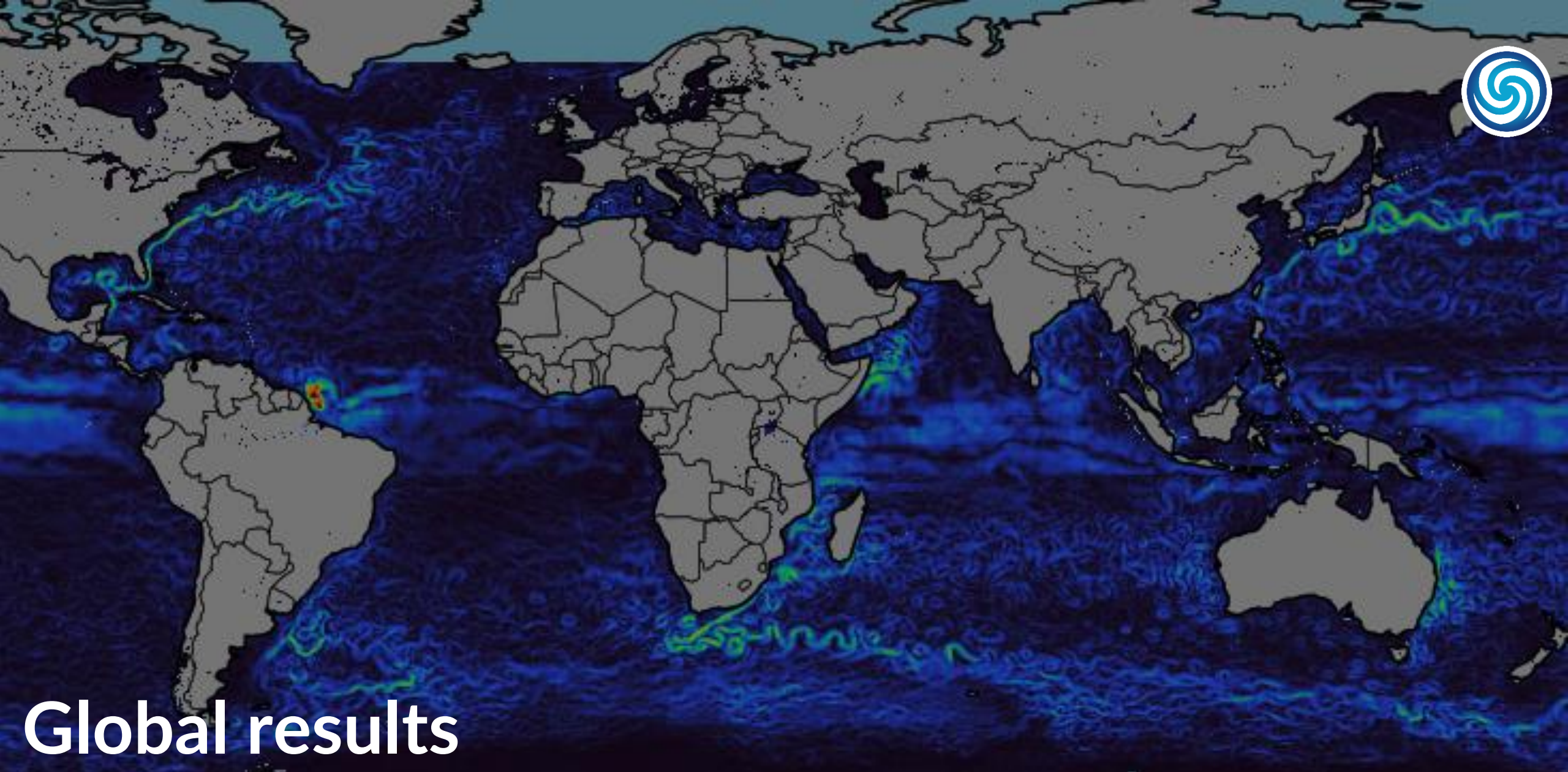
T+1: 1st day of forecast  
T+7: 7th day of forecast



- Between 0cm/s and 5cm/s
- Between 5cm/s and 15cm/s
- Between 15cm/s and 25cm/s
- Above 25cm/s







# Global results



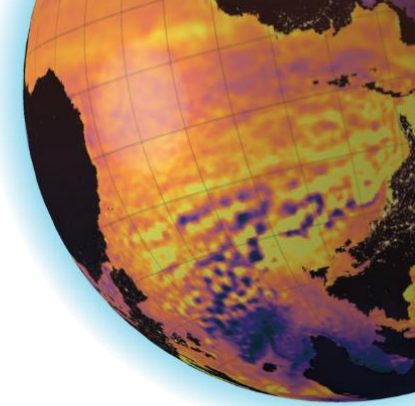
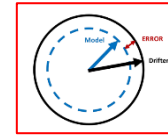
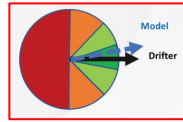
Inès Larroche

High Resolution Forecasts of Ocean Currents

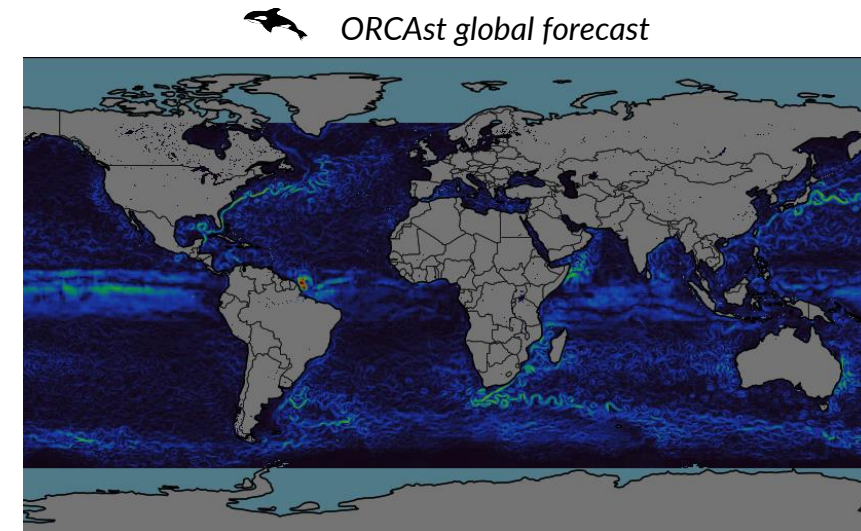




# Global results



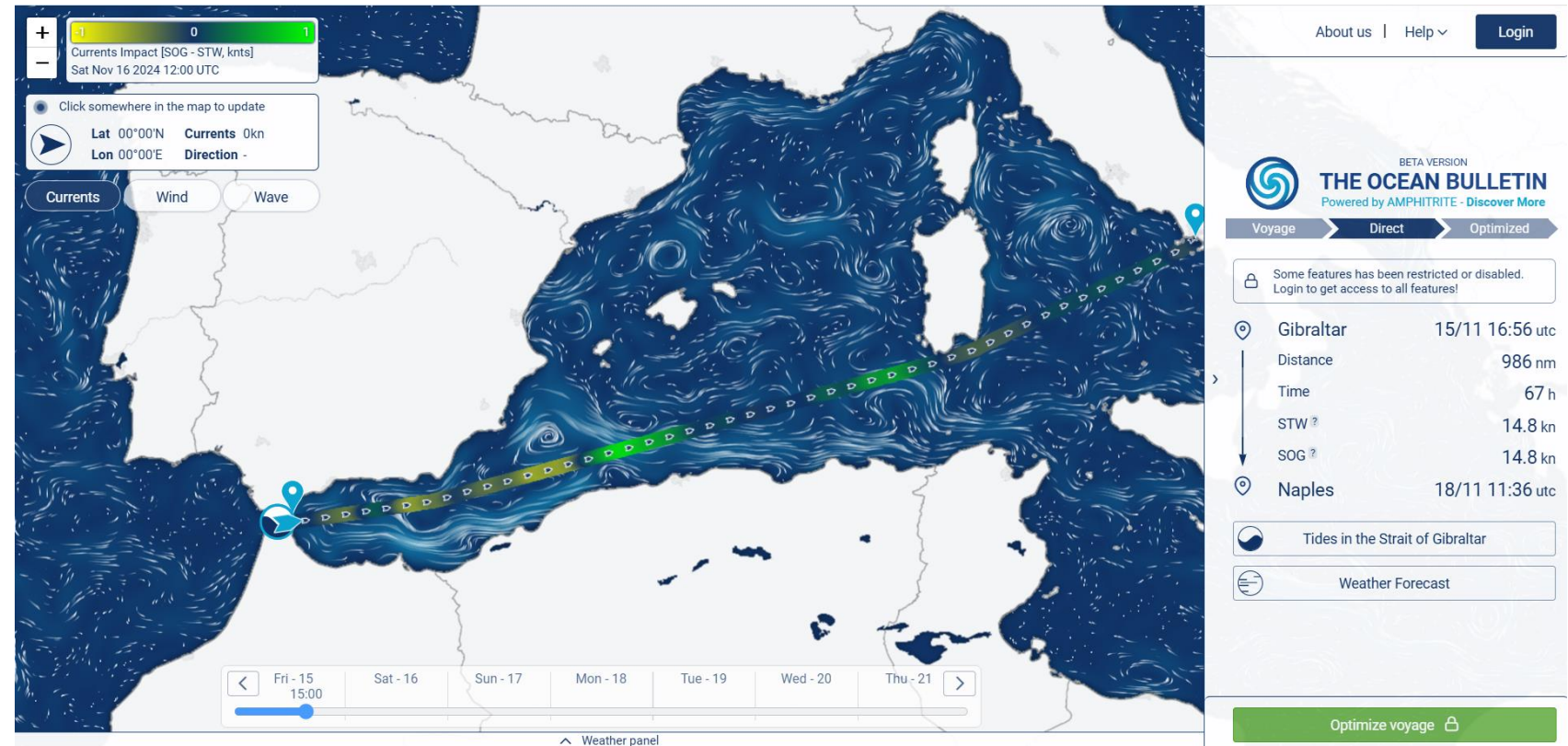
	Method	Correct direction		Correct magnitude	
		T+1 (%)	T+7 (%)	T+1 (%)	T+7 (%)
AVISO-DUACS	Optimal interpolation <i>Delayed Time (6 days)</i>	78	-	69	-
NEUROST (2024) [1]	AI <i>Delayed Time (15 days)</i>	83	-	72	-
Mercator Forecast	Numerical Assimilated Model <i>Operational</i>	70	56	68	68
ORCAst	AI <i>Operational</i>	85	70	77	69



[1] Martin, S. A., Manucharyan, G. E., & Klein, P. (2024). Deep learning improves global satellite observations of ocean eddy dynamics. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 51, e2024GL110059. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2024GL110059>



# Thanks! Any questions?



The Ocean Bulletin :  
<https://bulletin.amphitrite.fr/>



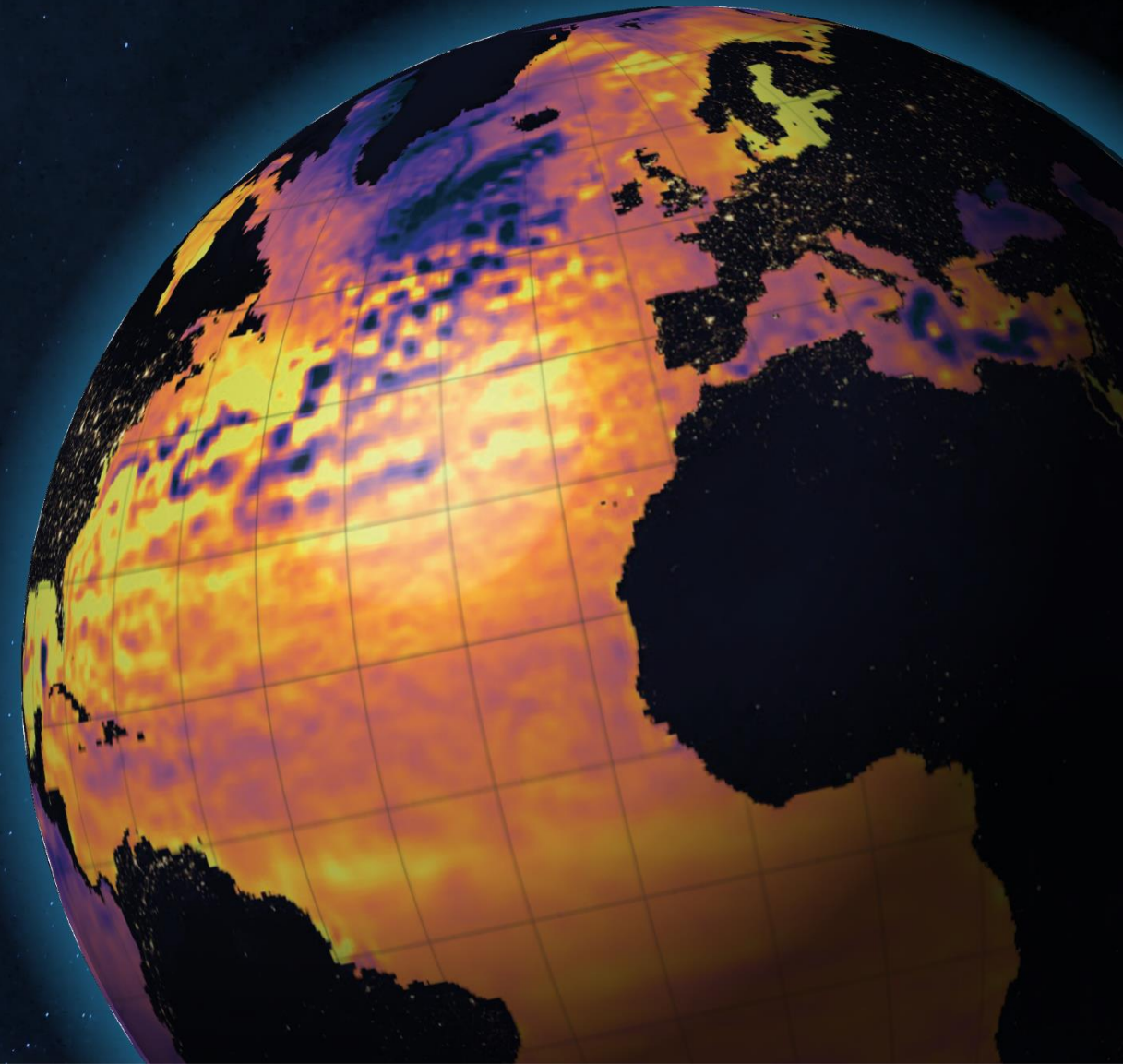


In partnership with



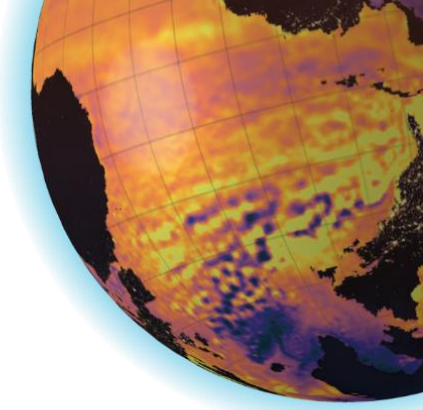
2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

# Appendix

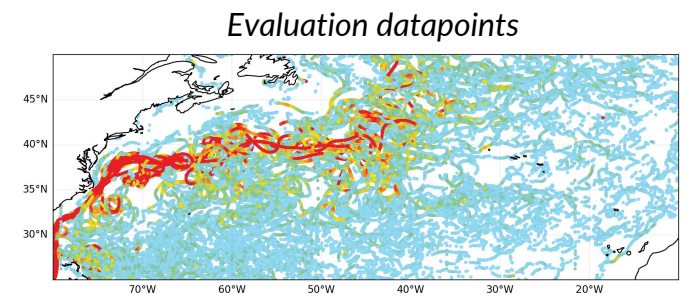
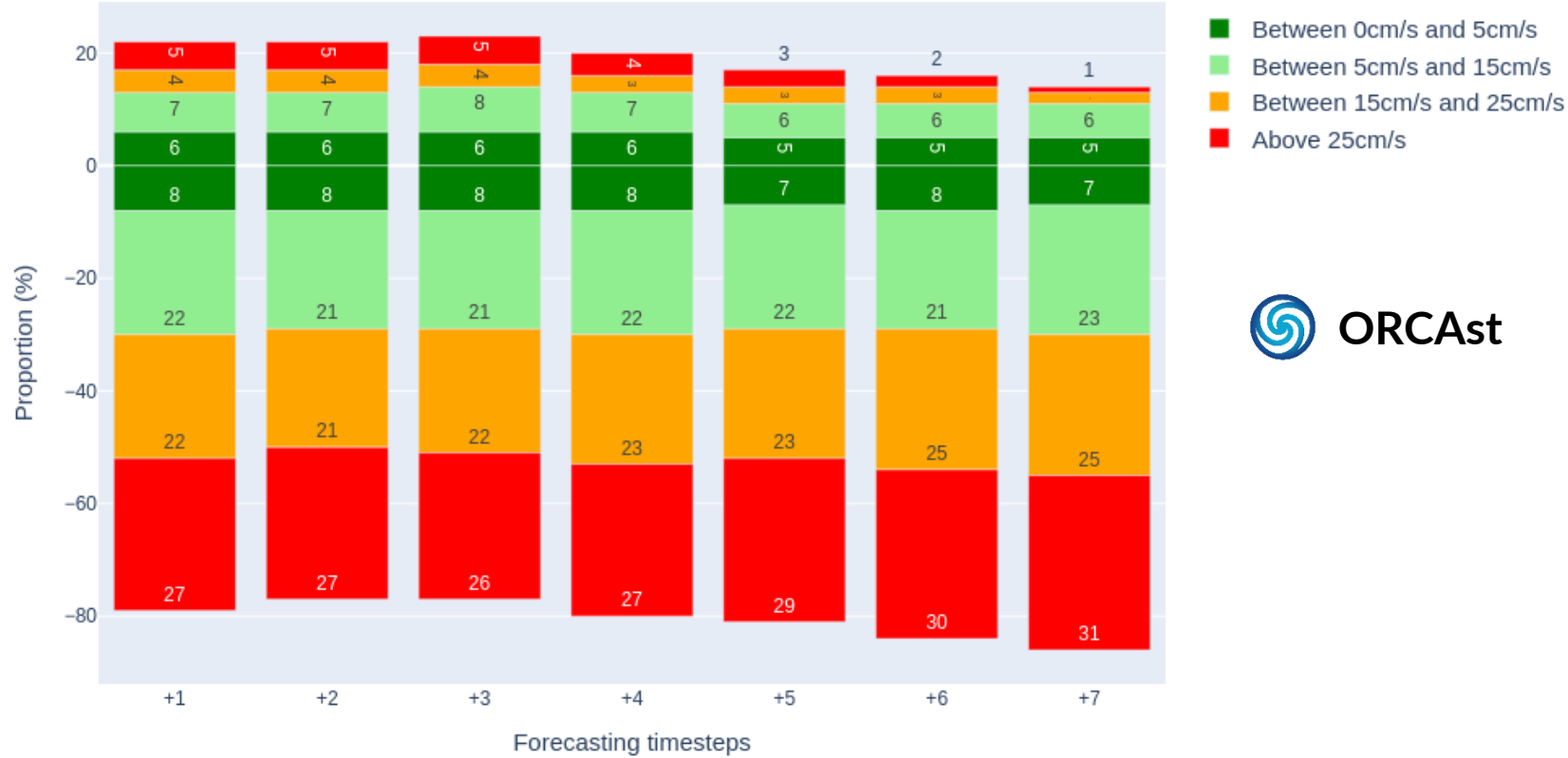




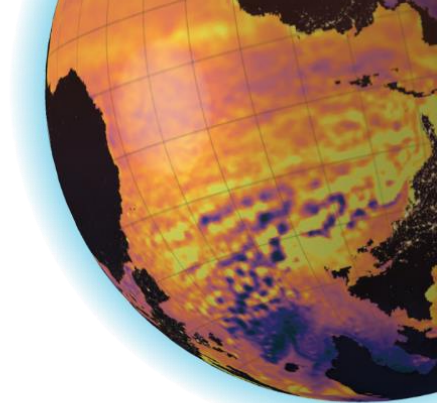
# North Atlantic



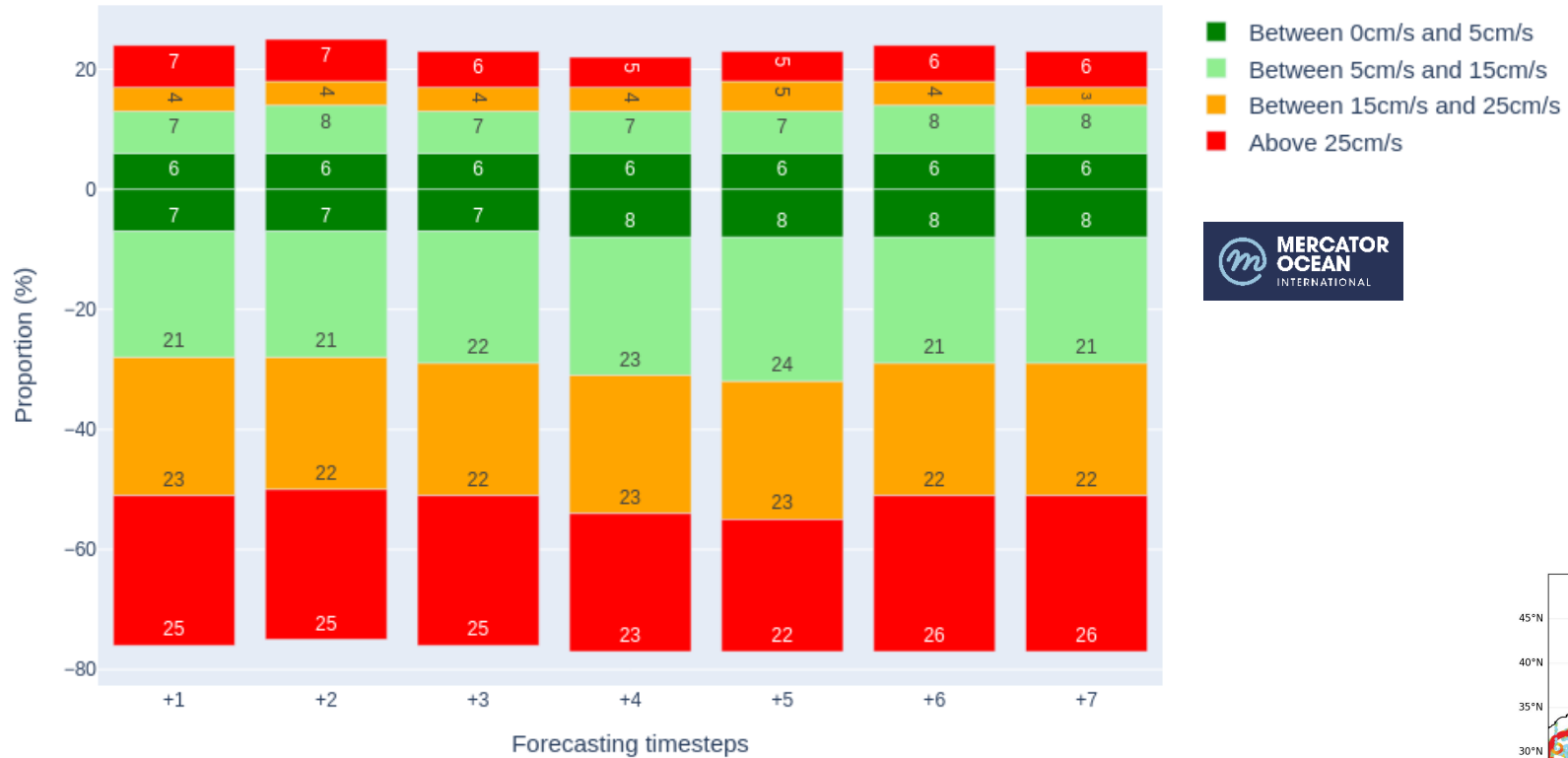
Relative magnitude error compared to drifters, only on correct angles (<15°): Predicted UV



# North Atlantic



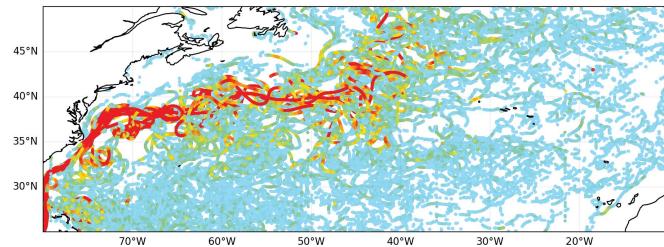
Relative magnitude error compared to drifters, only on correct angles (<15°): Baseline



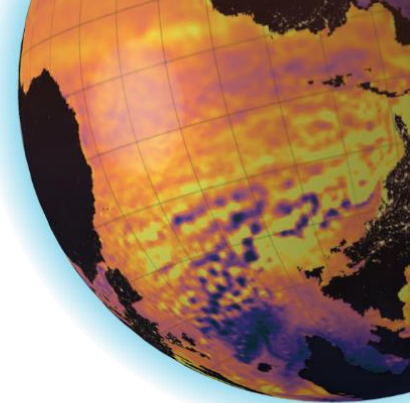
- Between 0cm/s and 5cm/s
- Between 5cm/s and 15cm/s
- Between 15cm/s and 25cm/s
- Above 25cm/s



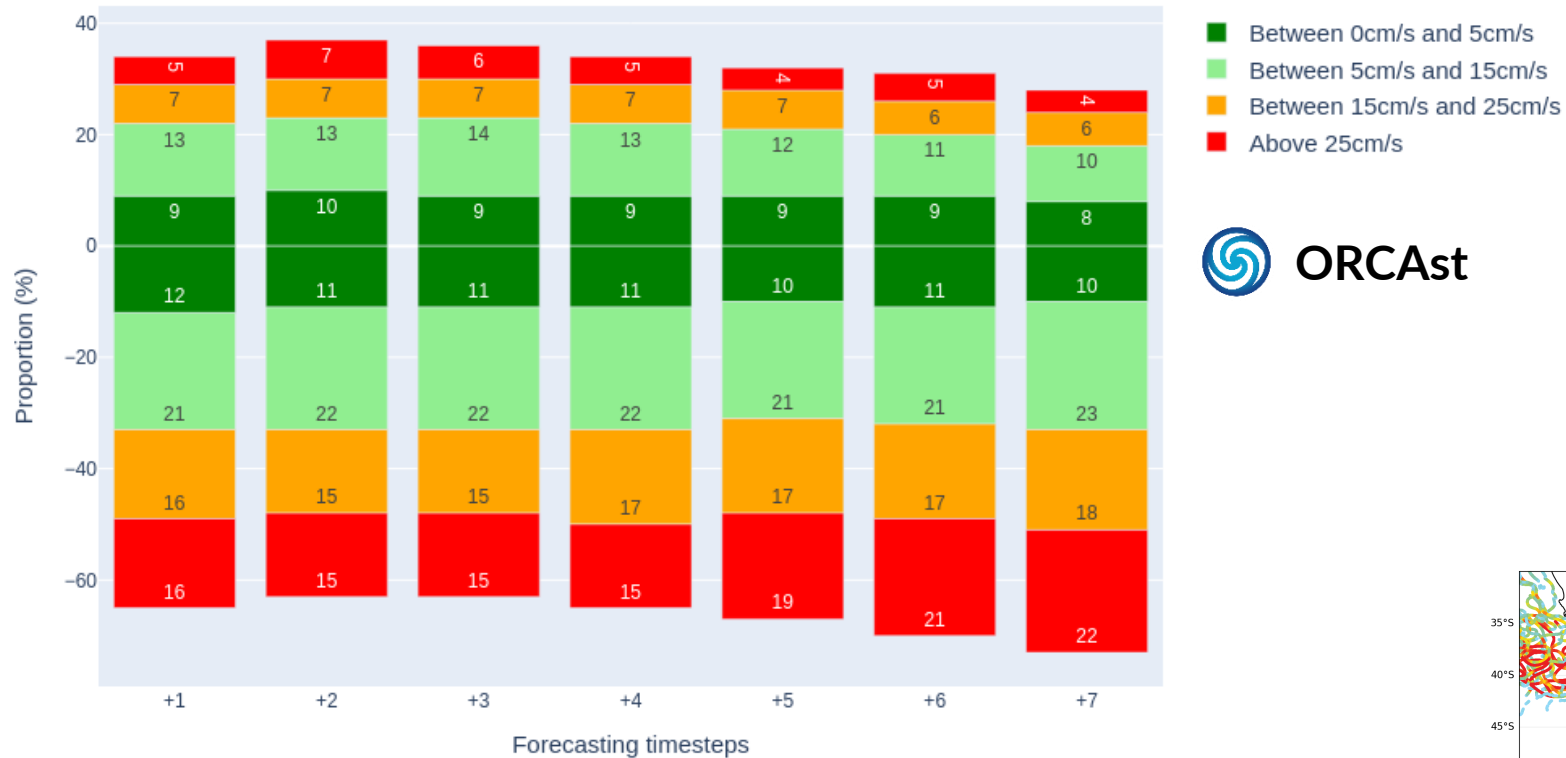
Evaluation datapoints



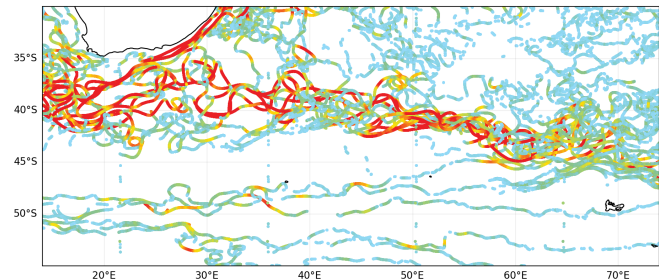
# Aghulas



Relative magnitude error compared to drifters, only on correct angles (<15°): Predicted UV

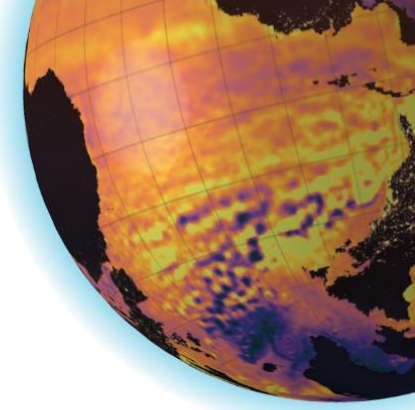


Evaluation datapoints

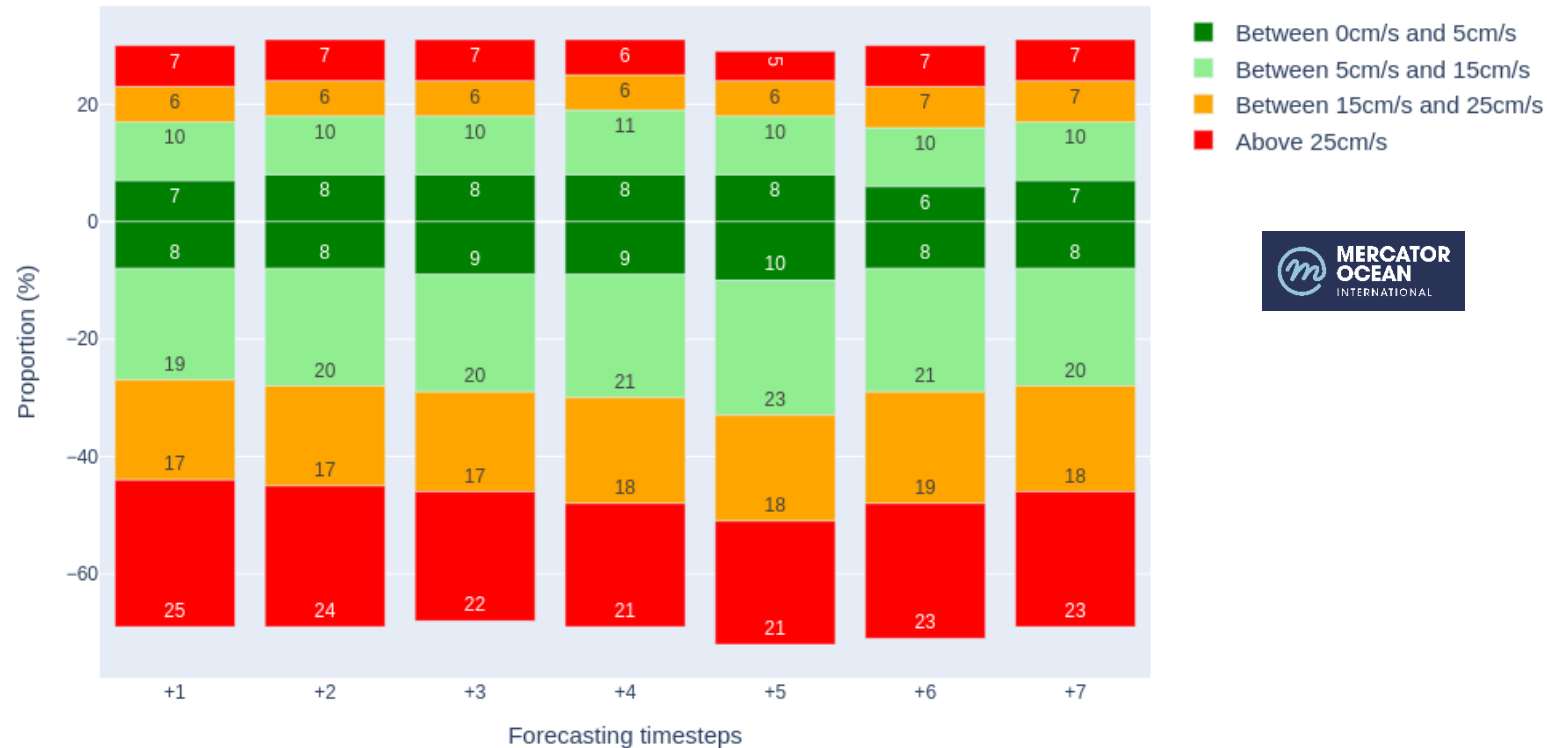




# Aghulas



Relative magnitude error compared to drifters, only on correct angles (<15°): Baseline



Evaluation datapoints

