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## *The Coastal Wave Forecasting System: evaluation of the first year of activity*

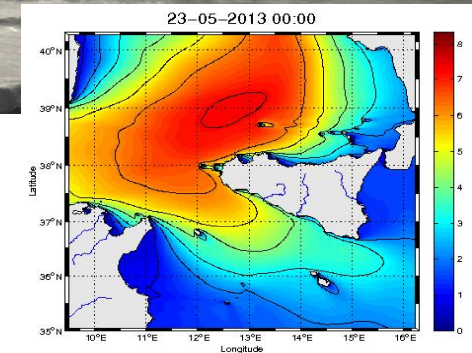
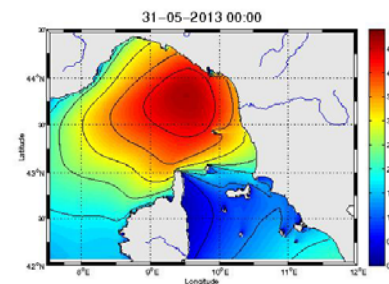
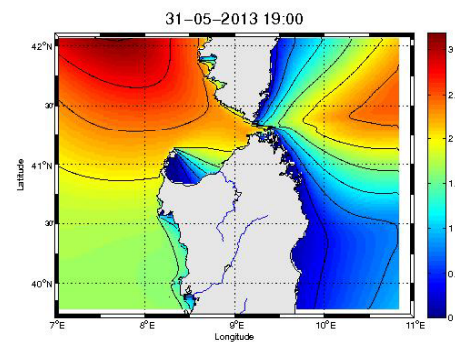
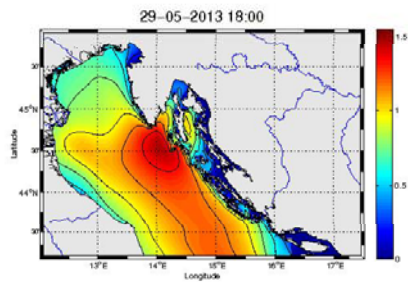
Roberto Inghilesi (\*)

Francesca Catini (\*\*)

Arianna Orasi(\*)

(\*) ISPRA

(\*\*) CINECA



**III Convegno Nazionale Gruppo Nazionale Oceanografia Operativa (GNOO), Oristano 3-5 June 2013**



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## Mediterranean Coastal Wave Forecasting System (MC\_WAF)

### Outlines:

#### Coastal Wave Forecast

- implementation
- operational system
- system preliminary evaluation
- next steps





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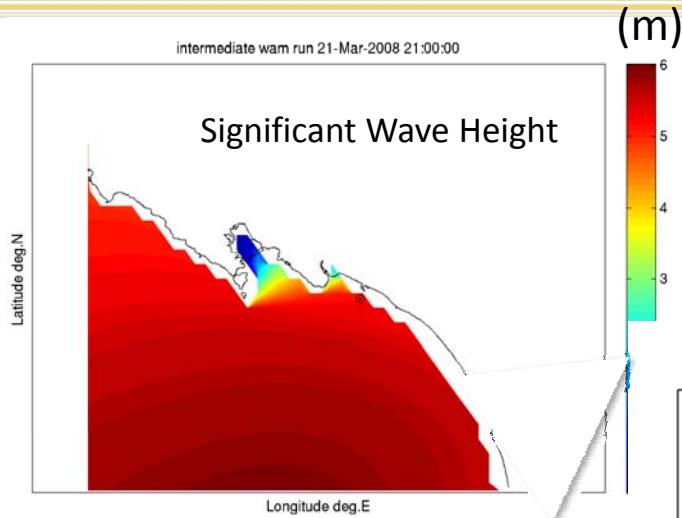


**Applications of the coastal system:** coastal dynamics, erosion, coastal engineering, marine biology

Example:

The wave energy flux produced by the coastal model are used to analyse the images taken by high resolution cameras in order to determine the evolution of the small scale variations of the bathymetry (seasonally or after some significant storm).

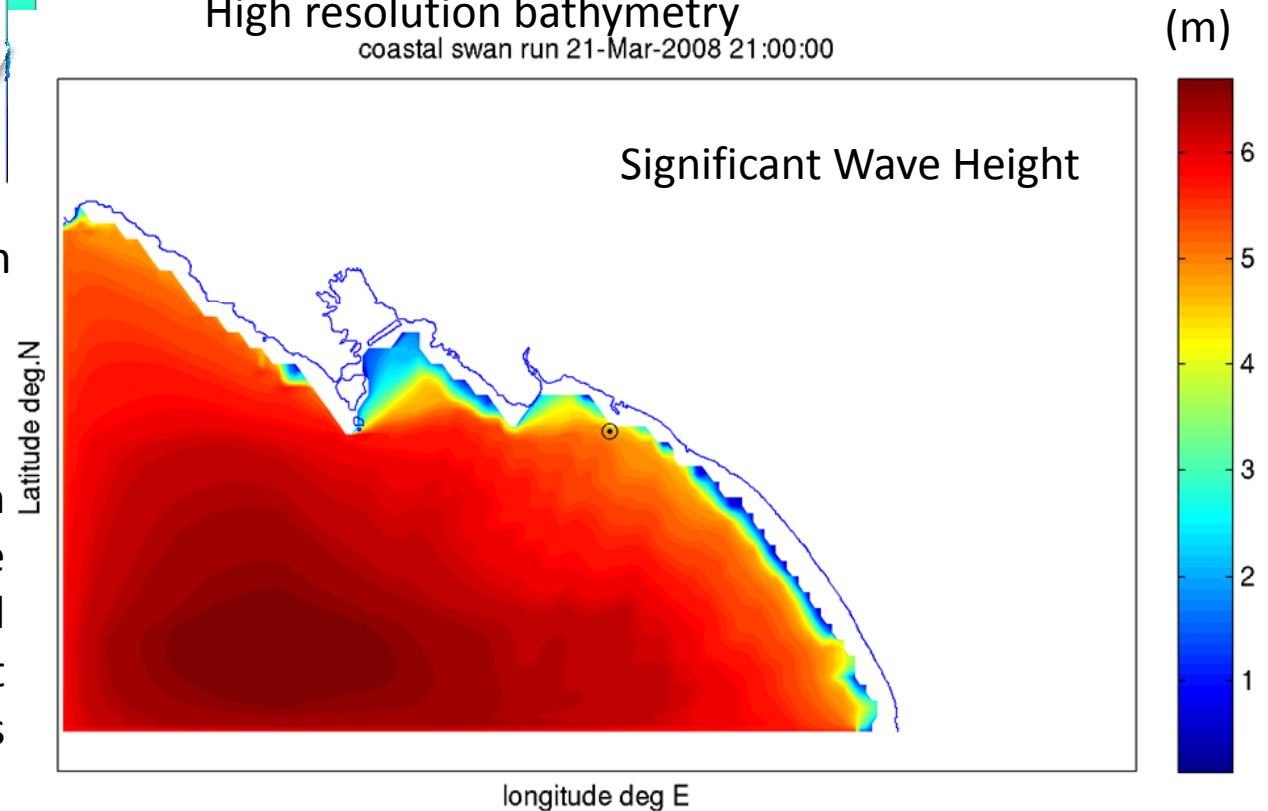
*Courtesy of dr. Luca Parlagreco and the Climate Change and Coastal Study Unit of ISPRA*



Local scale (coastal) SWAN model needs boundary forcing provided by a Regional model

SWAN run with bottom dissipation and breaking  
High resolution bathymetry

coastal swan run 21-Mar-2008 21:00:00



Wave Model (Regional scale) run without bottom dissipation and breaking, coarse bathymetry

WAM at the Mediterranean scale makes good use of the wind from meteorological models, can take into account currents from ocean models and can assimilate satellite data



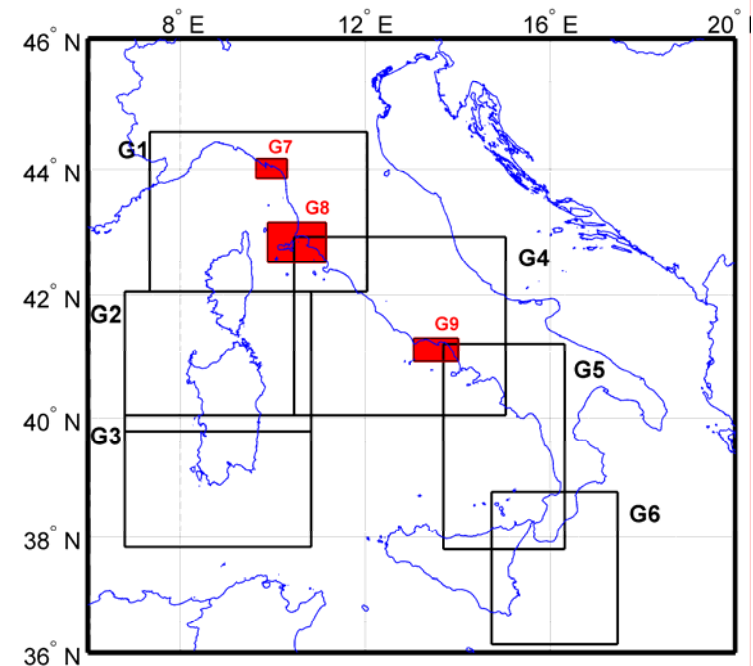
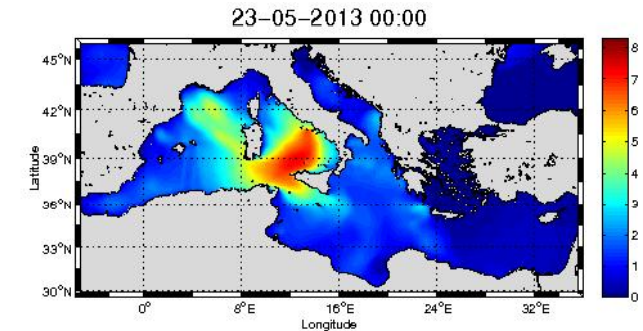
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## MC\_WAF pre-operative stage: basic idea

- In order to realistically reproduce the propagation of waves in coastal areas a resolution of at least 400m is needed
- On the other hand fetches can be large, imposing boundary conditions on coastal areas can be problematic...
- There are significant advantages in simulating the whole Mediterranean Sea (i.e. satellite assimilation, no bc)

The idea is connect the Mediterranean scale with the coastal scale using an intermediate nesting at regional scale





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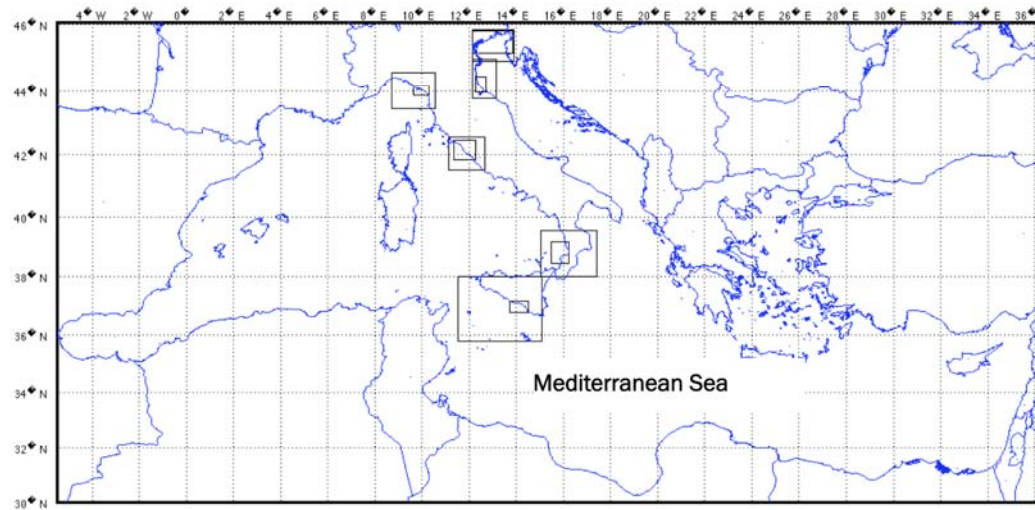


MC\_WAF pre-operative stage:

Smooth nesting from Mediterranean scale to regional scale (nesting factor 1/2) and from regional to coastal scale (nesting factor 1/4)

System assessment and fine tuning of the nesting procedures (2009-2011)

The system has been implemented and tested on more than 40 key studies in 6 regional areas along the Italian coasts





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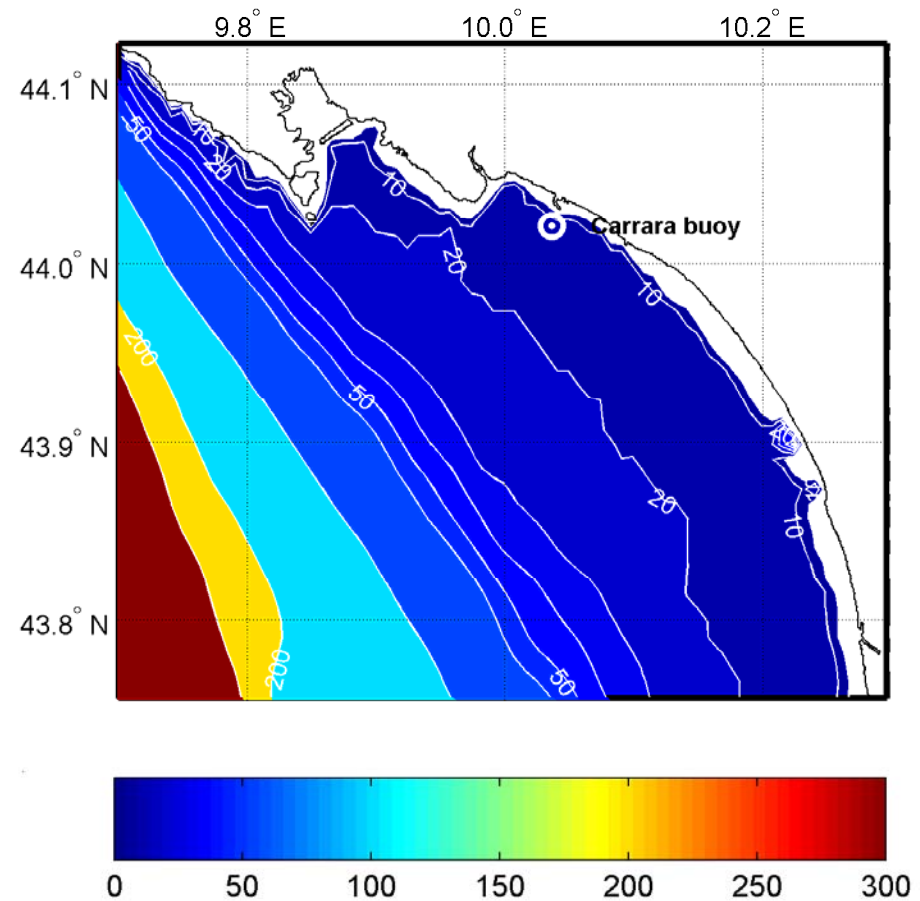
## *Marina di Carrara Buoy (Port Authority of Marina di Carrara)*

Directional buoy

Operative: since 2005

Mooring depth: 13.5 m

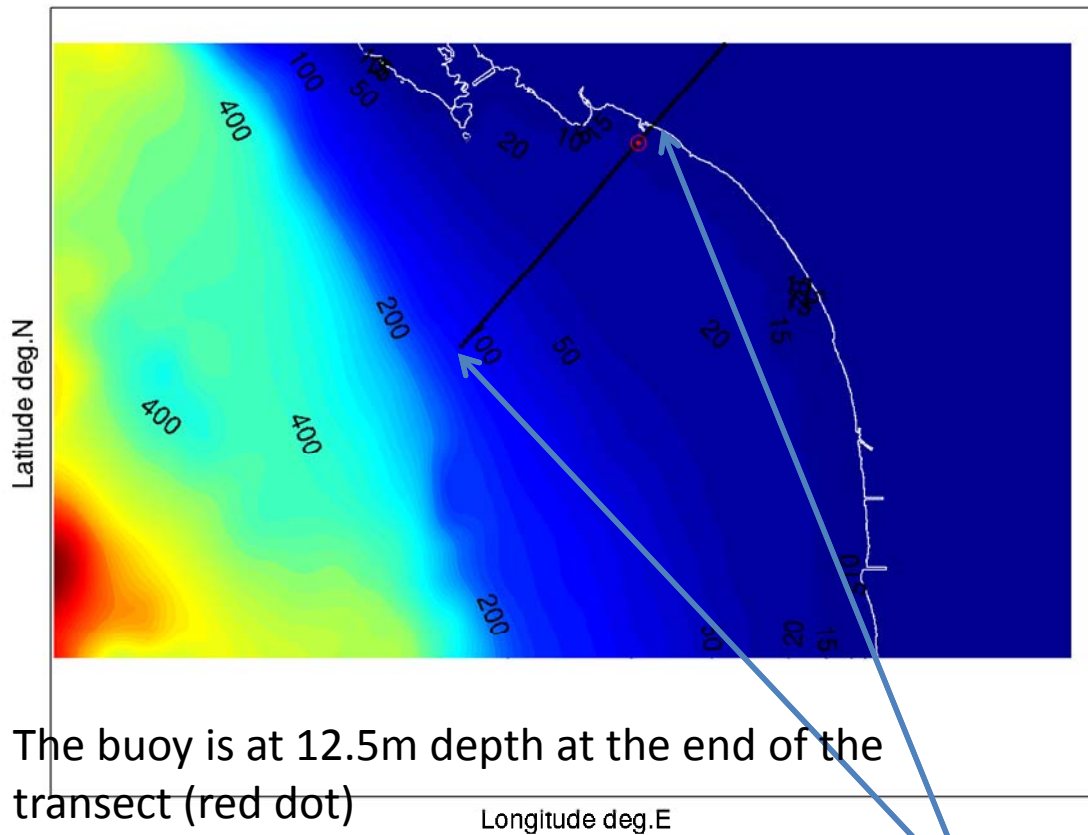
Geographic position:  
44,0214°N, 10.0361°E





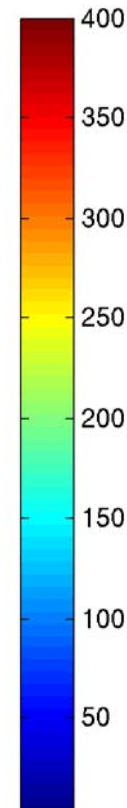
## 'Fine tuning' of the system

direction= 230.335 date= 21-Mar-2008 21:00:00



The buoy is at 12.5m depth at the end of the transect (red dot)

transect



Bathymetry and approximate track of the waves observed at the Carrara buoy on the 21 march 2008

The mean direction of the waves observed at the peak of the storm ( $H_{m0}=5.2m$ ) was approximately normal to the bathymetry

The data from a buoy in shallow water were kindly provided by the Carrara Port Authority





### Variation of Significant Wave Height and bathymetry along the transect

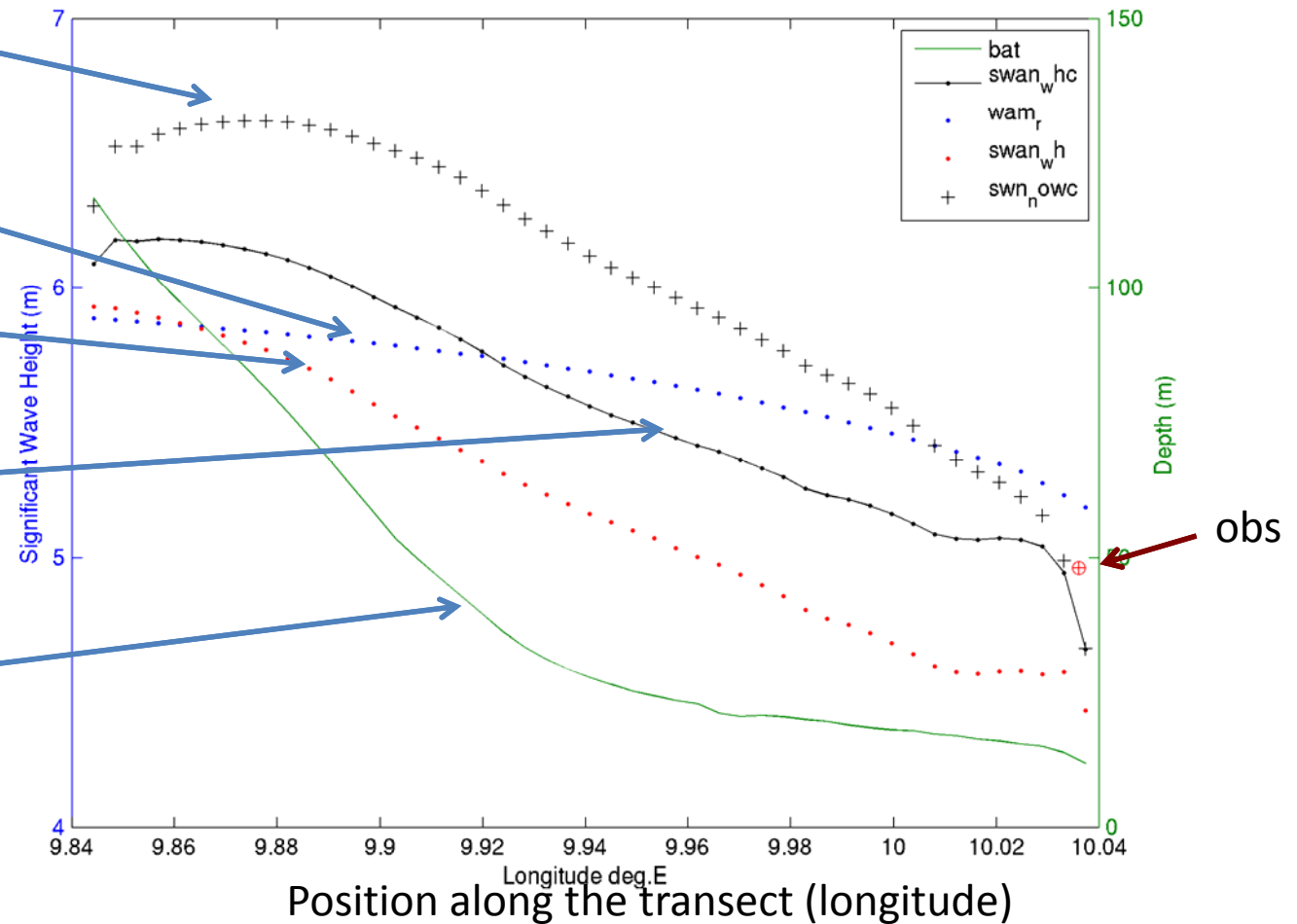
SWAN (Yan wind gen.  
no whitecapping)

WAM (Regional)

SWAN westh Br=0.0018

SWAN westh Br=0.004

Bathymetry along  
the transect





## saturation –based whitecapping

$$S_{ds,break}(\sigma, \theta) = -C'_{ds} \left( \frac{B(k)}{B_r} \right)^{p/2} (\tanh(kh))^{(2-p_0)/4} \sqrt{gk} E(\sigma, \theta)$$

Van derWesthuysen (2007)

$$B(k) = \int_0^{2\pi} k^4 \Phi(k, \theta) d\theta.$$

Banner et al. (2002)

$$B(k) = \int_0^{2\pi} c_g k^3 E(\sigma, \theta) d\theta$$

$$p = \frac{p_0}{2} + \frac{p_0}{2} \tanh \left[ 10 \left( \sqrt{\frac{B(k)}{B_r}} - 1 \right) \right]$$

$$p_0(\sigma) = 3 + \tanh \left[ w \left( \frac{u_*}{c} - 0.1 \right) \right]$$

When  $B(k) > B_r$ , waves break, and the exponent  $p$  is set equal to a constant calibration parameter  $p_0$ . For  $B(k) < B_r$  there is no breaking, and the dissipation based on  $B(k)$  gives way to other sources of dissipation by setting  $p$  to zero

Alves and Banner (2003)



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## *Weatherforecastmodel BOLAM*

*HR-BOLAM (High Resolution BOLAM)*

Gridresolution: 30 km

*VHR-BOLAM (Very High Resolution BOLAM)*

Nested on HR-BOLAM

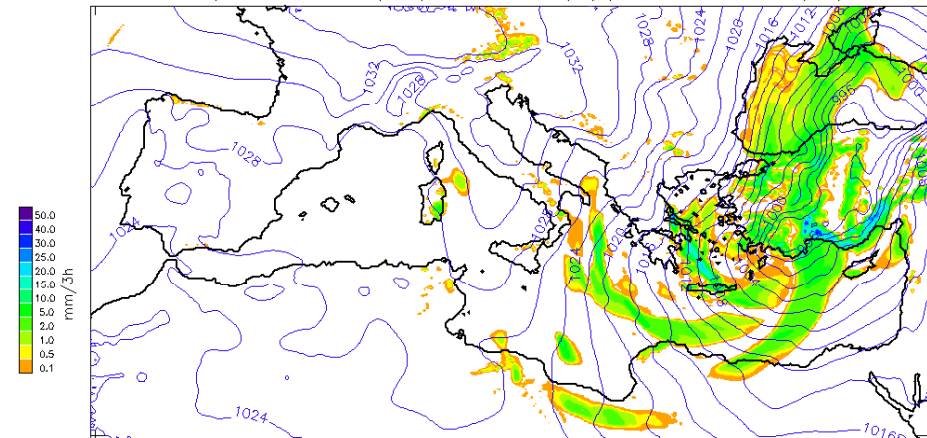
Cover all the MediterraneanSea.

Gridresolution: 0.1 deg

Timestepoutput: 1hours

3daysoperationalforecasts

QBOLAM pressione s.l.m. e precipitazione totale (3h) per le 06 UTC del 13/02/2004



The use of a very high resolution non-hydrostatic model (MOLOCH) has been tested since september 2012  
5 km resolution wind will presumably introduced in regional areas in 2013

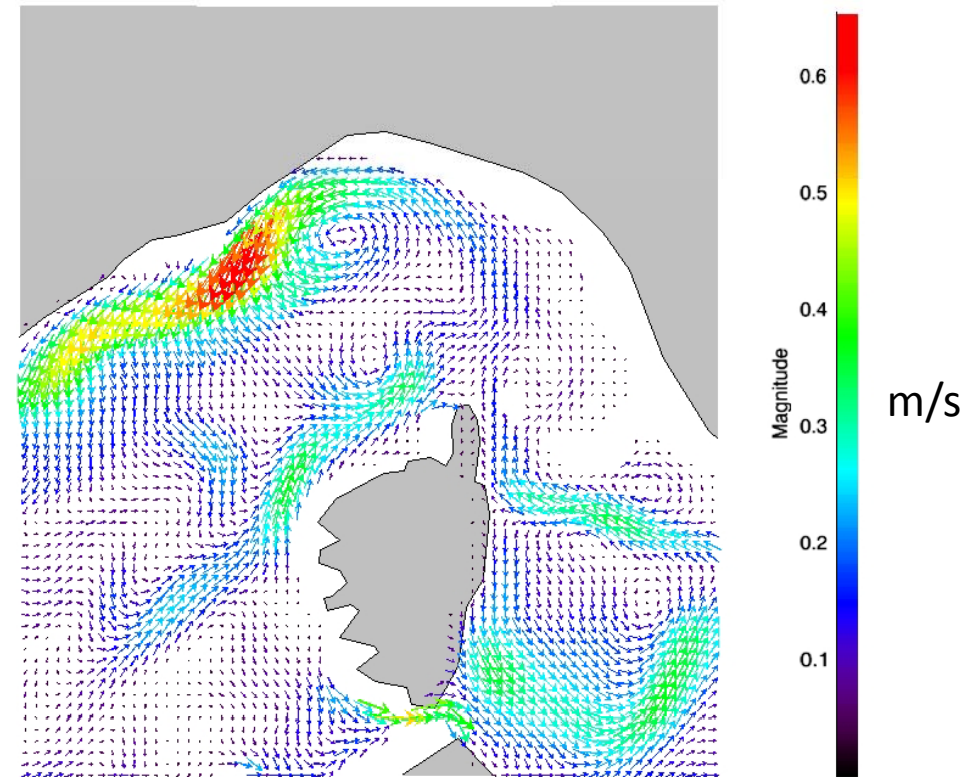


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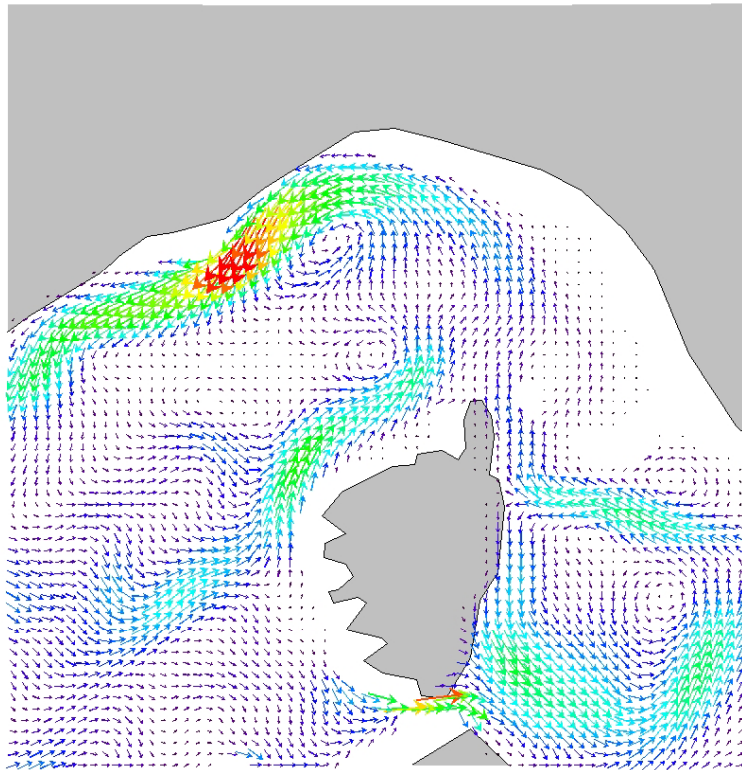


## Current Test:

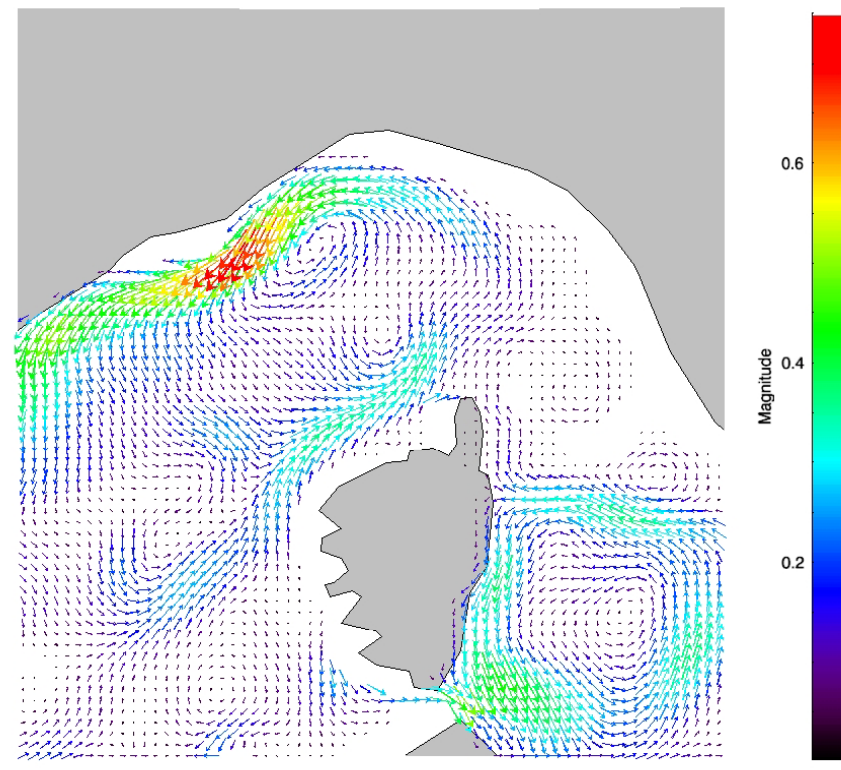
- currents were provided by the Mediterranean Forecasting System (INGV-Italy)
- resolution 1/16 deg.
- 10 days forecast fields/daily Analyses
- The fields cover all the Mediterranean Sea and are disseminated in the framework of MYOCEAN project
- Currents were used in the regional scale areas



current field at the surface: MFS analysis  
8 nov 2010



current field at the surface: MFS  
analysis 9 november 2010



current field at the surface: MFS  
analysis 11 november 2010

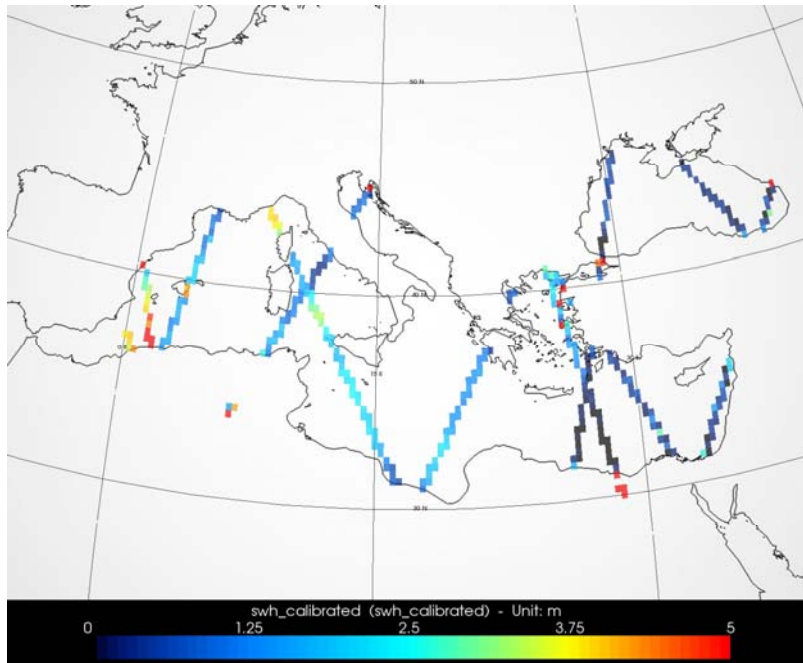
the speed of the MFS current was averaged over the upper (40m) part of the Sea before being used in the regional WAM run



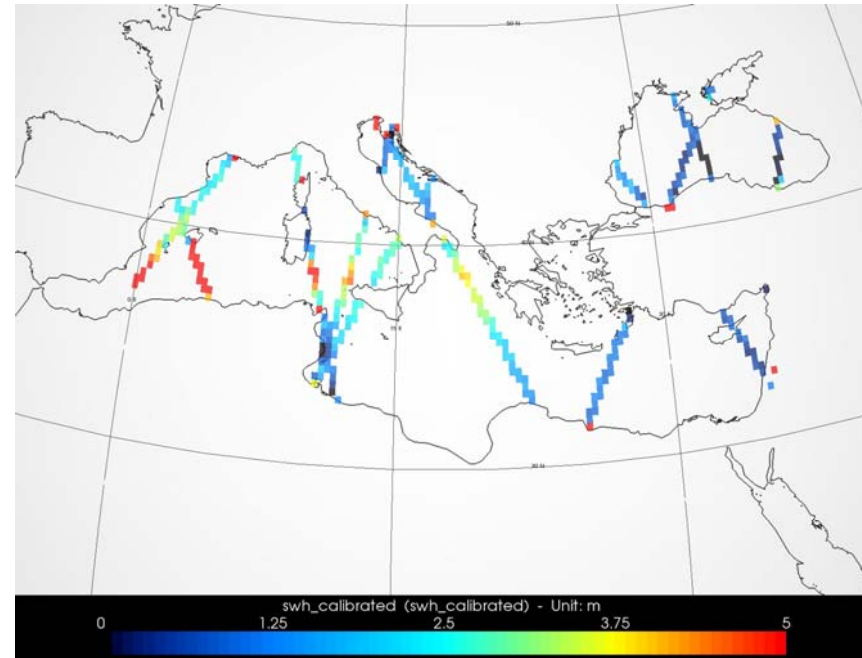
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## Altimeter data assimilation test



sw<sub>h</sub> – tracks from Envisat, Jason-1 and Jason-2 8 nov 2010



sw<sub>h</sub> – tracks from Envisat, Jason-1 and Jason-2 9 nov 2010

Envisat, Jason-1 and Jason-2 significant wave height (sw<sub>h</sub>) and surface wind data can be assimilated both in the Mediterranean scale model and in the regional scale. Generally there are 7-11 useful tracks every day.



254 38.5	.....		
253 38.5	.....	46	
252 38.4	.....	43	
251 38.4	.....	40	
250 38.4	.....		
249 38.3	.....	40	
248 38.3	.....		
247 38.3	.....	40	
246 38.2	.....		
245 38.2	.....		
244 38.2	.....		
243 38.1	.....		
242 38.1	.....		
241 38.1	.....		
240 38.0	.....		
239 38.0	.....		
238 38.0	.....		
237 37.9	.....		
236 37.9	.....		
235 37.9	.....		
234 37.8	.....		
233 37.8	.....		
232 37.8	.....		
231 37.7	.....		
230 37.7	.....		
229 37.7	.....		
228 37.6	.....		
227 37.6	.....	32	
226 37.6	.....		
225 37.5	.....	33	
224 37.5	.....		
223 37.5	.....		
222 37.4	.....		
221 37.4	.....		
220 37.4	.....		
219 37.3	.....		
218 37.3	.....	29	
217 37.3	.....		
216 37.2	.....	28	
215 37.2	.....		
214 37.2	.....	25	
213 37.1	.....		

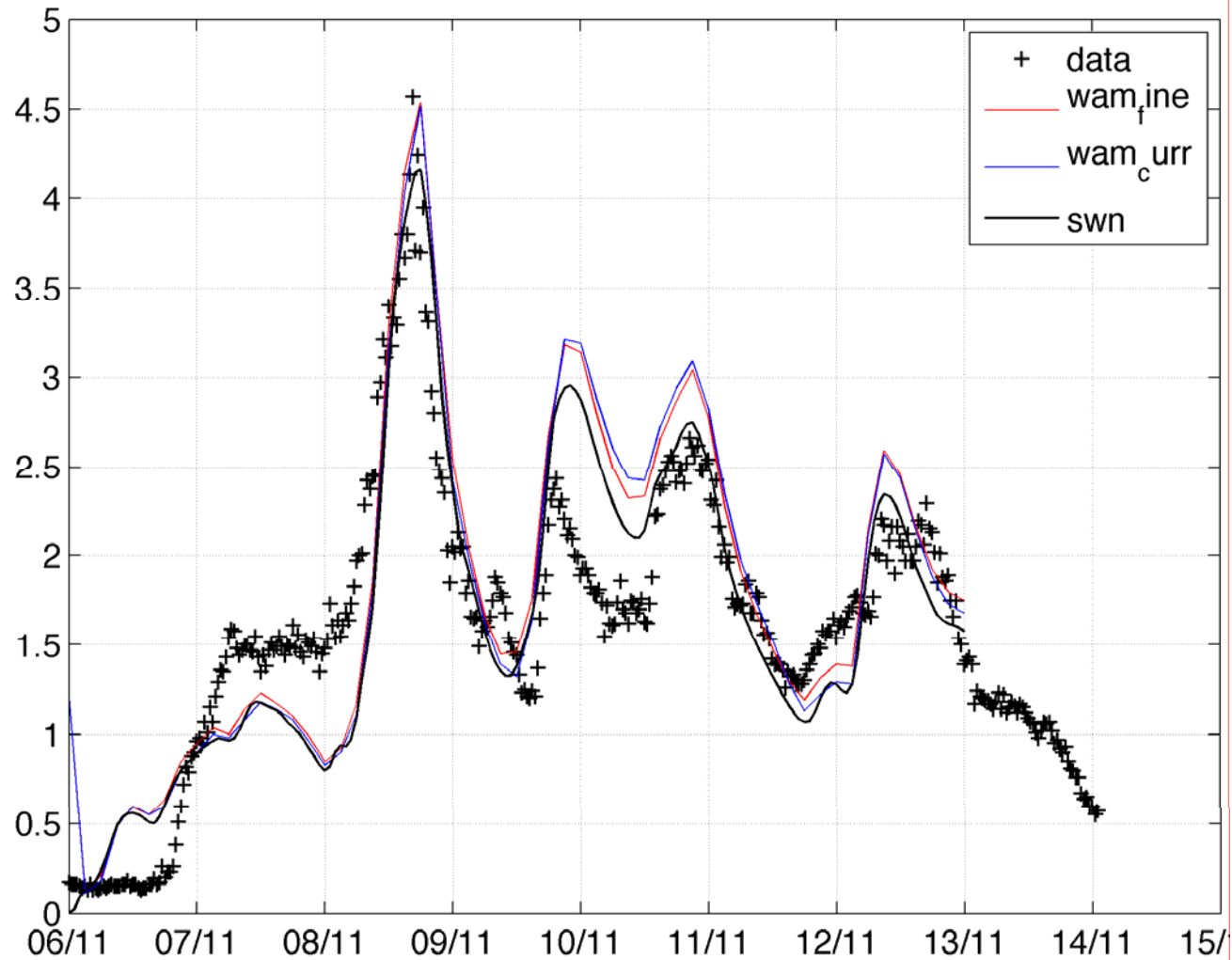
  

248 38.3	.....	44 44 44 43 43 42 42 42 41 41 41 40 40 39 39 39 39 38 38 37 37 37 37 37 36 42 34
247 38.3	.....	43 43 44 43 43 42 42 41 41 41 41 40 40 39 39 38 38 38 37 37 37 37 36 36 36 32 ...
246 38.2	.....	43 43 44 42 42 42 41 41 41 40 40 40 39 39 38 38 37 37 37 36 36 36 36 35 35 31 ...
245 38.2	.....	43 42 43 43 42 42 41 41 41 40 40 40 39 39 38 38 37 37 37 36 36 36 36 35 9 ...
244 38.2	.....	42 42 43 42 42 41 41 41 40 40 39 39 39 38 38 37 37 36 36 36 35 35 35 34 8 ...
243 38.1	.....	42 42 42 42 41 41 40 40 39 39 39 38 38 37 37 36 36 35 35 35 34 34 34 33 34 ...
242 38.1	.....	41 41 41 41 41 40 40 39 39 38 38 37 37 37 36 35 35 34 34 33 33 33 32 32 32 ...
241 38.1	.....	41 41 40 40 39 39 39 38 37 36 35 35 35 34 34 33 32 31 31 31 30 30 24 ...
240 38.0	.....	40 40 40 39 38 37 37 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 31 29 29 28 28 20 ...
239 38.0	.....	39 29 29 28 27 27 26 ... 5 13 17 18 19 20 18 18 ... 8 12 13 13 ...
238 38.0	41 41 41 23 39 39 38 38 38 37 37 36 ... 22 25 27 29 29 25 14 11 13 14 13 11 ...	
237 37.9	41 40 40 22 22 21 21 21 20 20 20 19 17 16 15 14 14 14 13 ... 18 21 18 ...	
236 37.9	7 7 7 40 39 39 38 38 38 37 37 36 35 34 34 33 33 32 12 28 27 26 25 ...	
235 37.9	7 6 6 5 5 5 4 4 4 3 3 3 2 2 1 0 0 -1 -1 31 ...	
234 37.8	6 5 5 5 4 4 4 3 3 3 2 2 2 1 1 0 0 -1 -1 31 ...	
233 37.8	5 5 4 4 4 3 3 3 2 2 2 1 1 0 0 -1 -1 -2 30 ...	
232 37.8	4 4 3 3 3 2 2 2 1 1 1 0 0 0 -1 -1 -2 -2 -2 30 ...	
231 37.7	3 3 3 2 2 2 1 1 1 0 0 0 -1 -1 -1 -2 -2 -3 -3 29 ...	
230 37.7	3 2 2 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 -1 -1 -1 -2 -2 -2 -3 -3 -4 29 ...	
229 37.7	37 36 36 36 35 35 35 34 34 34 34 34 33 33 33 33 32 32 32 -4 -4 28 ...	
228 37.6	36 35 35 35 34 34 34 34 34 34 33 33 33 32 32 32 31 31 -4 -5 28 ...	
227 37.6	35 35 35 34 34 34 34 33 33 33 33 32 32 32 31 31 30 -5 -5 27 ...	
226 37.6	35 34 34 34 33 33 33 33 33 32 32 32 32 31 31 31 30 -5 -6 27 ...	
225 37.5	34 33 33 33 33 32 32 32 32 32 32 31 31 31 30 30 29 -6 -6 26 ...	
224 37.5	33 33 32 32 32 32 31 31 31 31 31 30 30 30 29 29 -6 -6 26 ...	
223 37.5	32 32 32 31 31 31 31 31 31 30 30 30 30 29 29 29 28 -7 -7 26 ...	
222 37.4	32 31 31 31 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 29 29 29 28 28 -7 -7 25 ...	
221 37.4	31 31 31 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 29 29 28 28 28 -8 -8 25 ...	
220 37.4	31 30 30 30 30 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 28 28 27 27 -8 -8 25 ...	
219 37.3	30 30 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 28 28 27 27 27 -8 -8 24 ...	
218 37.3	29 29 29 29 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 27 27 27 26 -9 -9 24 ...	
217 37.3	29 28 28 28 27 27 27 28 28 28 28 27 27 26 26 26 -9 -9 24 ...	
216 37.2	28 28 27	

With 1/30 deg resolution and a radius of influence of ~100 km the OI is not working properly: trivial error found in the original code.



## Carrara significant wave height (m)







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## The Mediterranean Coastal Wave Forecast System (MC\_WAF) operational in July 2012:

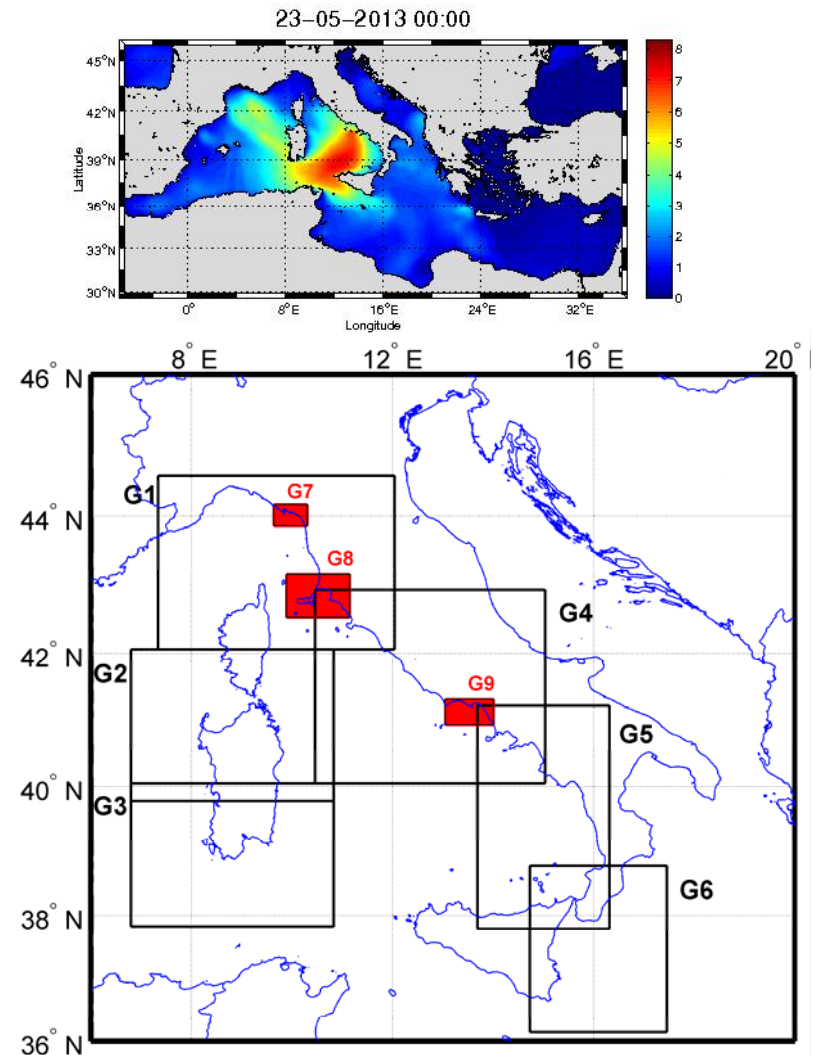
WAM cycle 4.5 grid covers the entire Mediterranean at 1/30 deg. res.

Nested in smaller regional scale areas at 1/60 deg. res. →6 areas

Nested inside each regional area one (or more) coastal grids at 1/240 deg. res.: coastal model is SWAN cycle 2 (40.72)

3 1/2 days operational forecast –every day (almost!)

WAM model cycle 4.5 (MPI version) has been made available by Heinz Gunther, GKSS

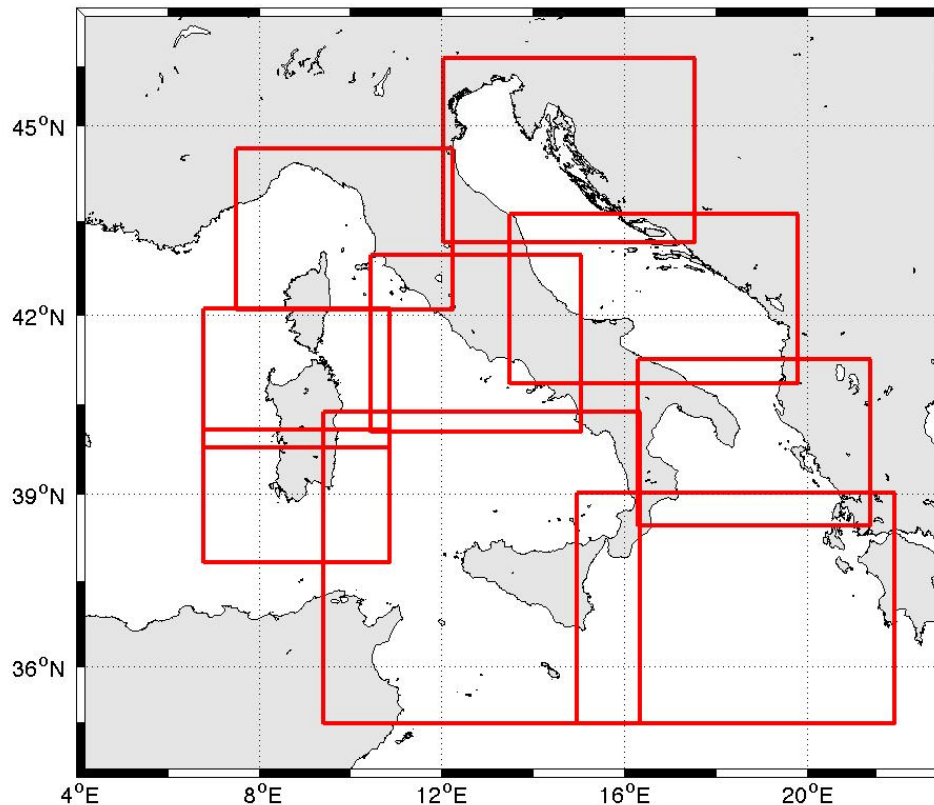




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The Mediterranean Coastal Wave Forecast System (MC\_WAF)  
operational in June 2013:  
9 regional areas – 5 coastal areas:



Regional grids:

Ligurian Sea –Northern Tyrrhenian Sea

North Sardinia

South sardinia

Central Tyrrhenian Sea

Southern Tyrrhenian/Sicily Channel

Ionian Sea

Otranto Channel/Gulf of Taranto

Central Adriatic Sea

Northern Adriatic Sea



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## Coastal Areas in the northern Tyrrhenian Sea- Ligurian Sea

Currently there are 5 operational  
coastal grids

-3 are nested in the WAM northern  
Tyrrhenian regional grid

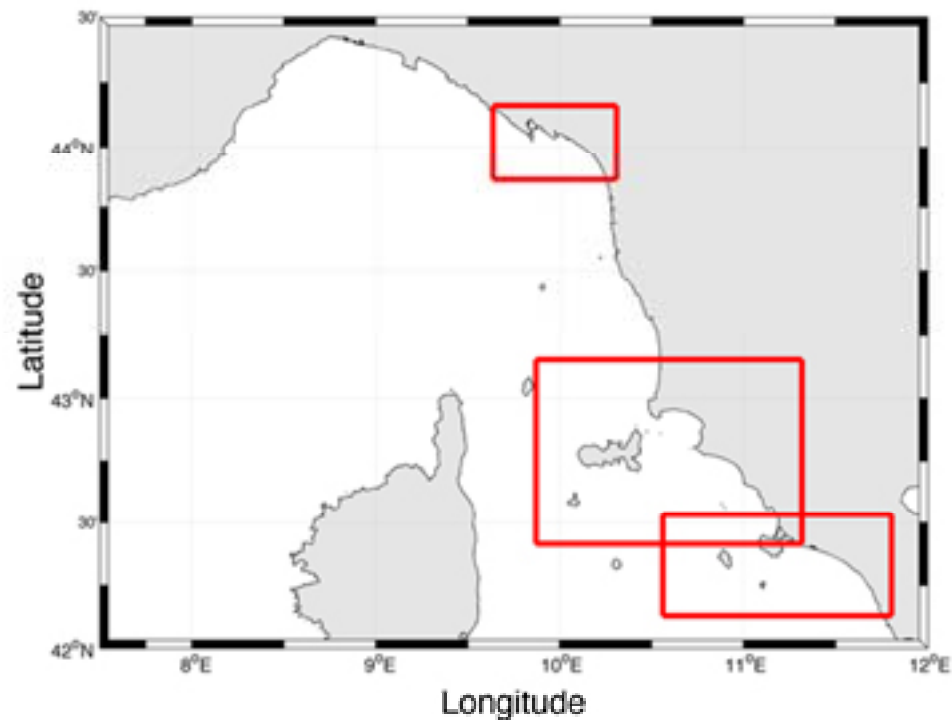
Coastal Model : SWAN  
Resolution 1/240 deg. (~ 400 m)

Operational Coastal grids:

Carrara

Isola d'Elba

Isola del Giglio





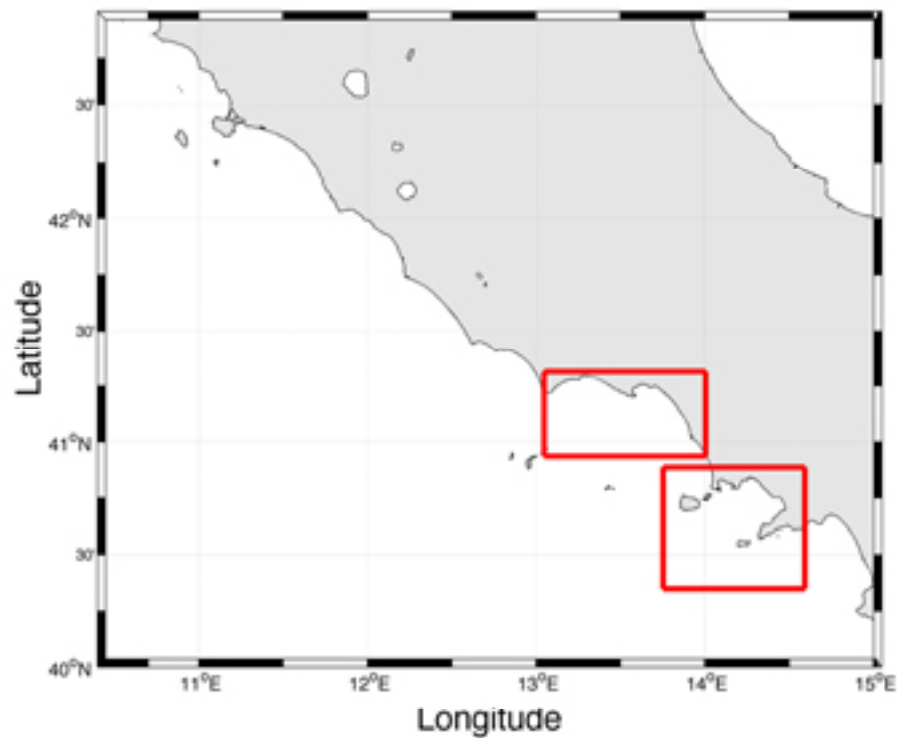
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## Coastal grids in the central Tyrrhenian Sea

The 2 areas are nested in the central Tyrrhenian WAM regional grid

Model used : SWAN  
Resolution 1/240 deg. (~400 m)

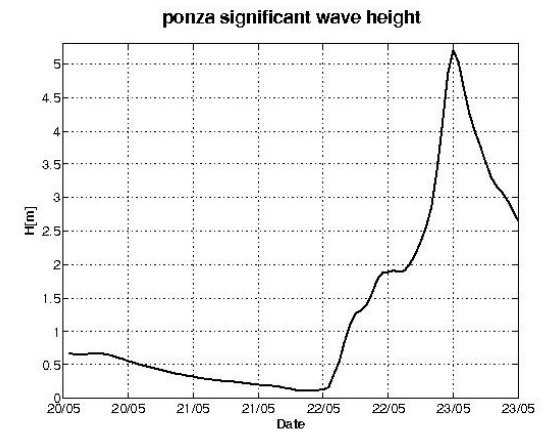
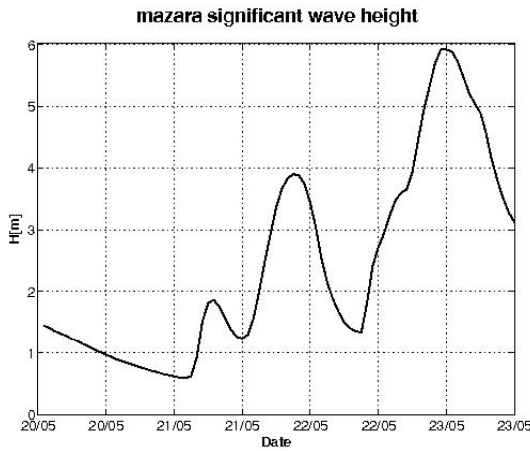
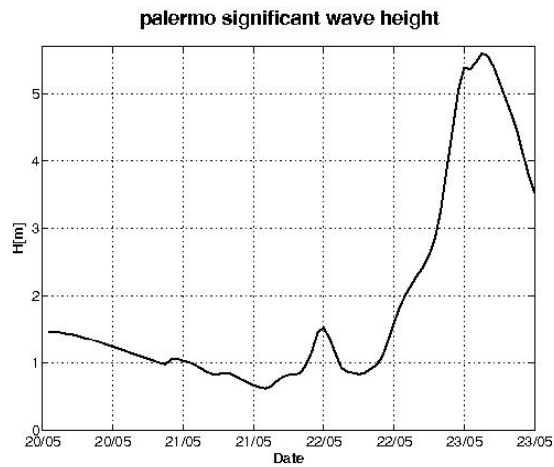
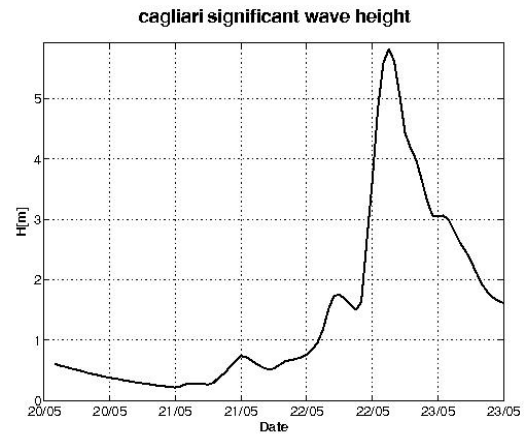
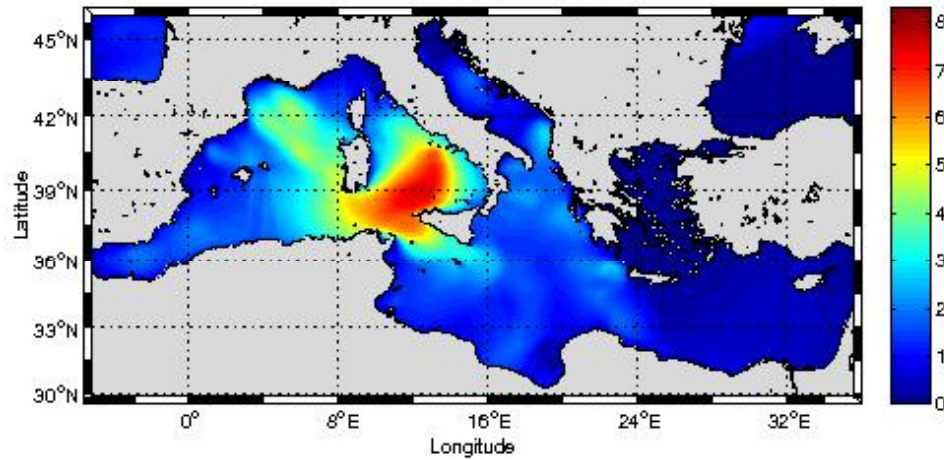
Operational coastal grids:  
Terracina  
Golfo di Napoli





## Forecast of the last significant event: 22-23 may 2013

22-05-2013 23:00

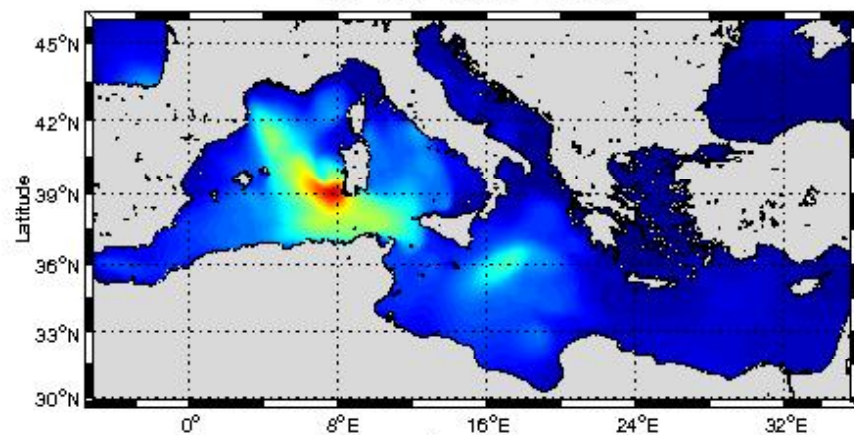




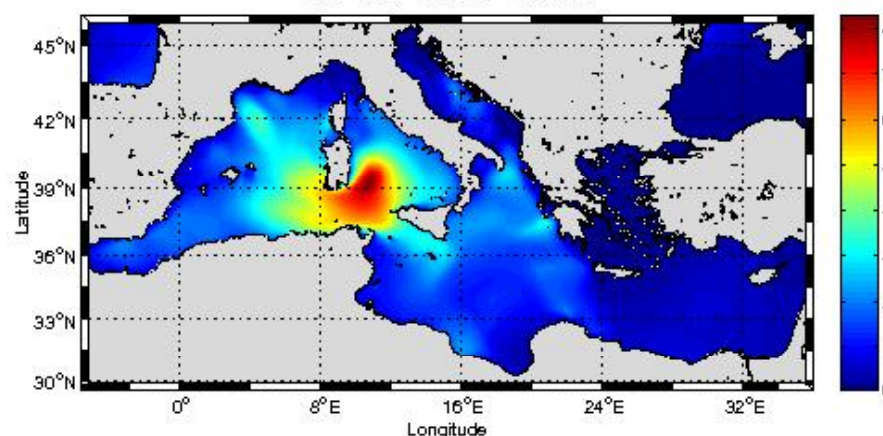
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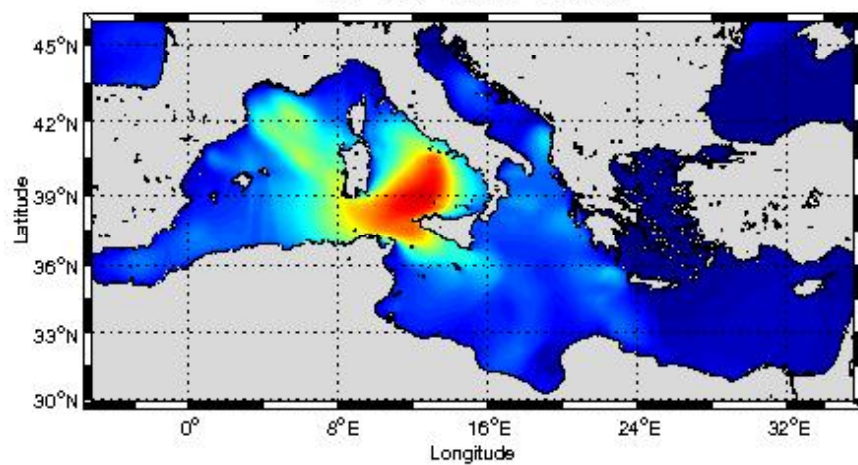
22-05-2013 11:00



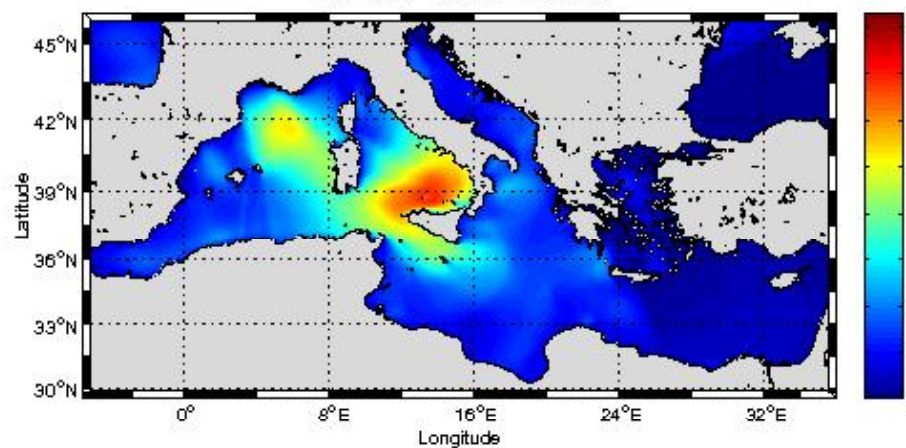
22-05-2013 18:00



22-05-2013 23:00



23-05-2013 04:00



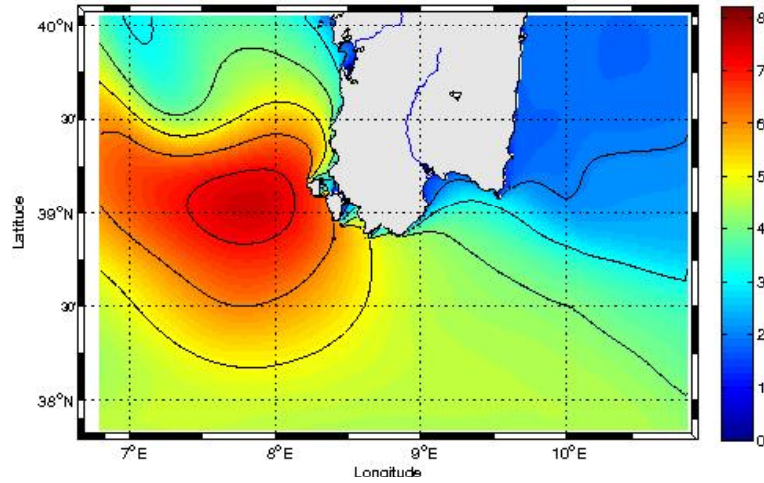


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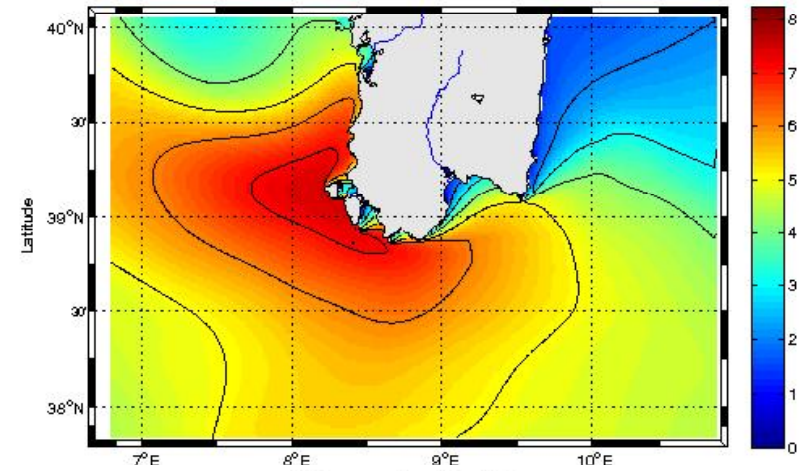
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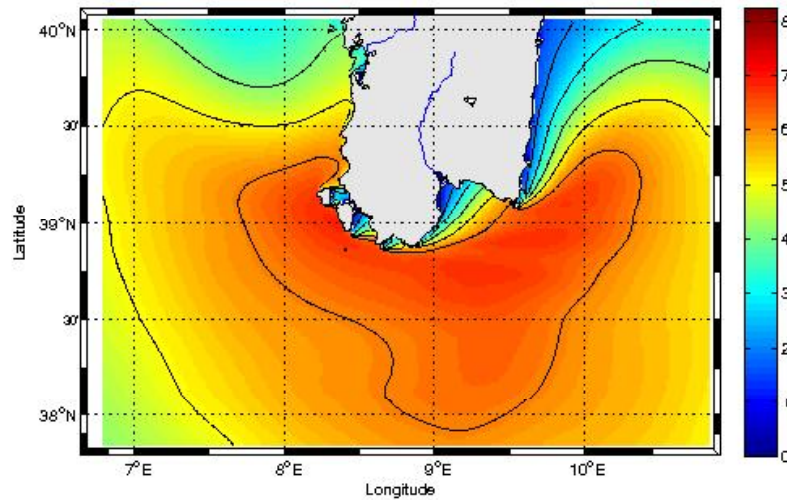
22-05-2013 11:00



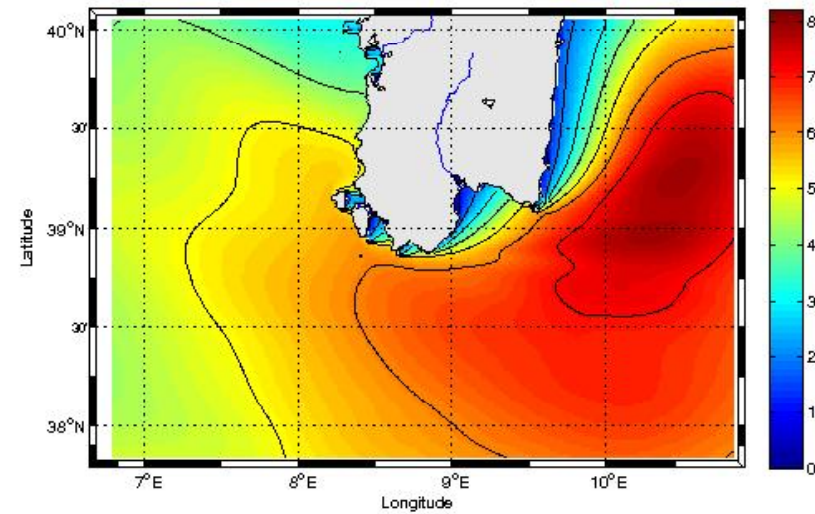
22-05-2013 13:00



22-05-2013 15:00



22-05-2013 17:00

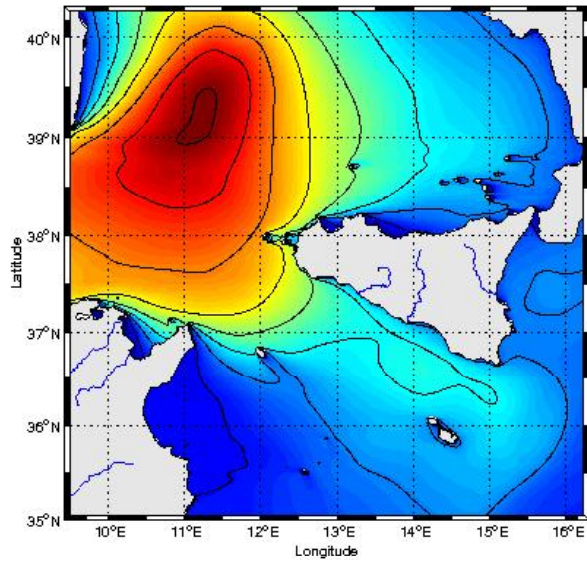




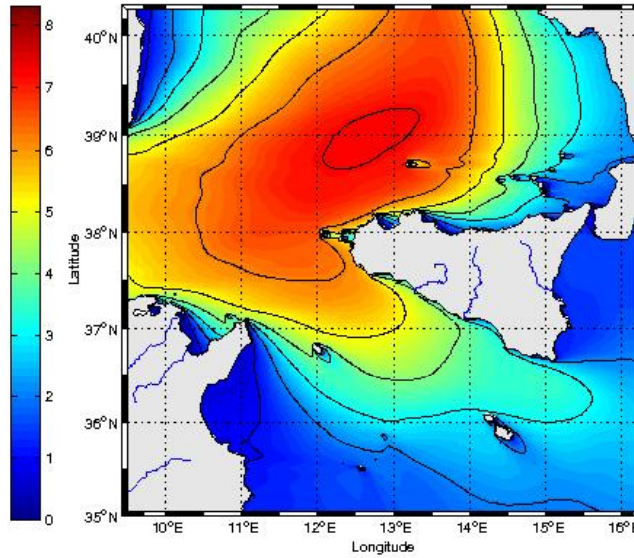
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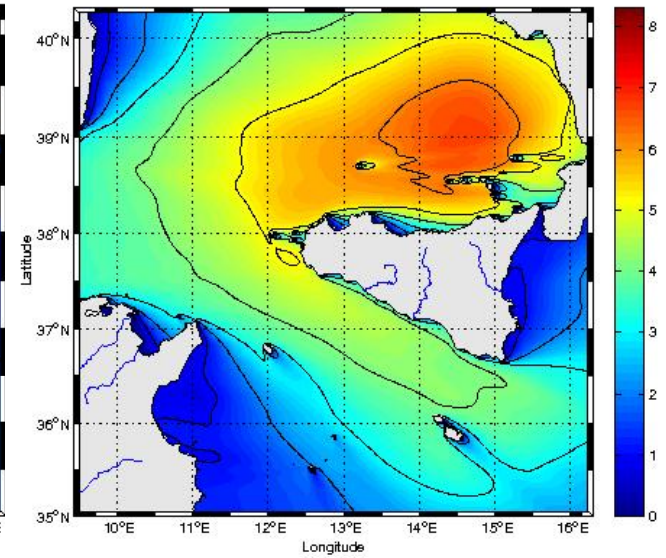
22-05-2013 19:00



23-05-2013 00:00



23-05-2013 06:00



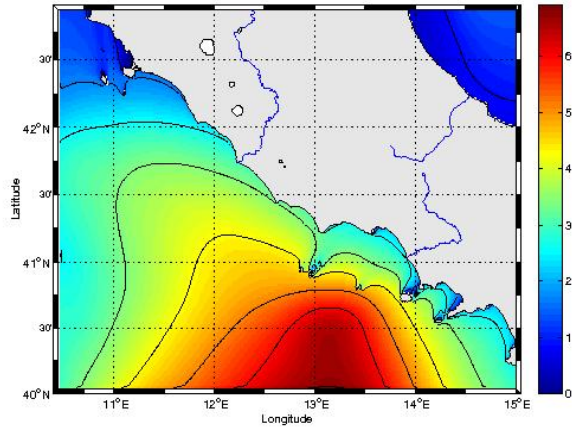




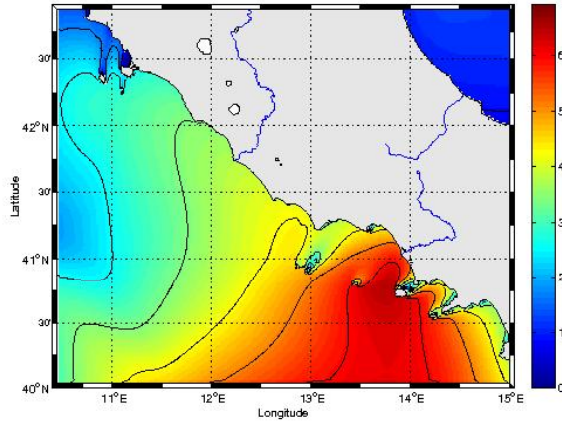
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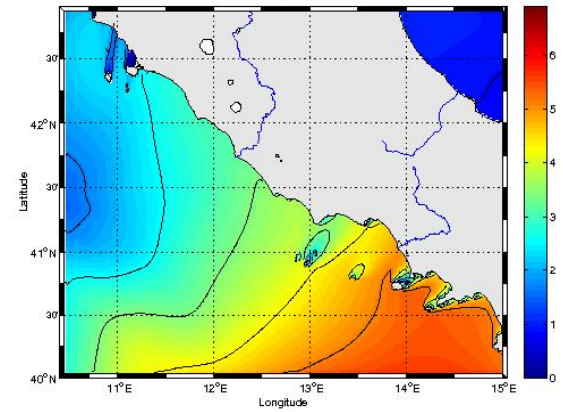
22-05-2013 23:00



23-05-2013 01:00



23-05-2013 03:00





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## Comparison between Mediterranean WAM and buoys of the Italian National Wave Network (RON)

$$\rho = \frac{\text{Cov}(x_m x_b)}{s_{x_m} s_{x_b}}$$

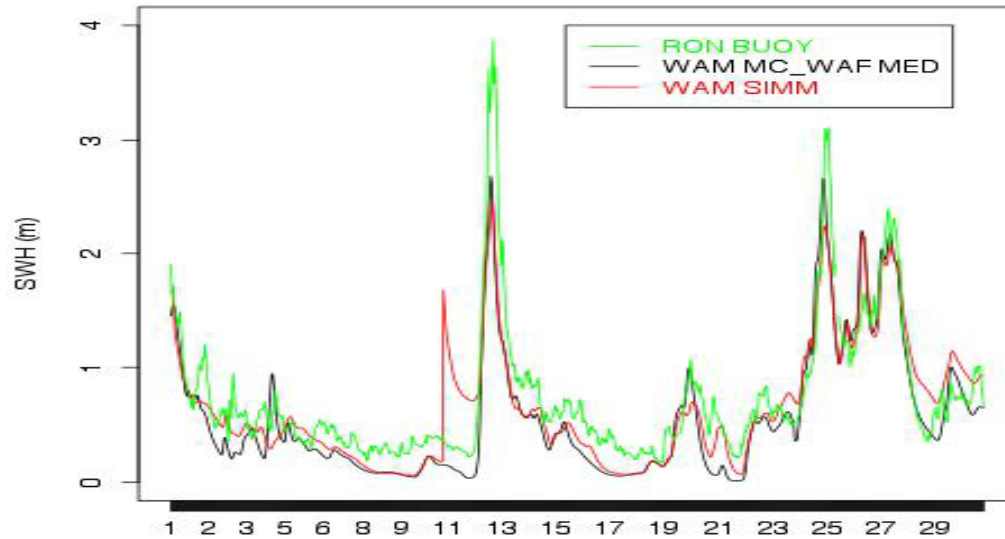
$$\text{BIAS} = \frac{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_{mi}}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_{bi}}$$



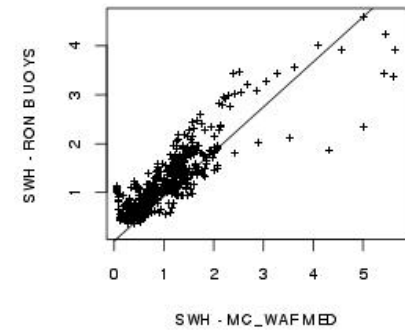
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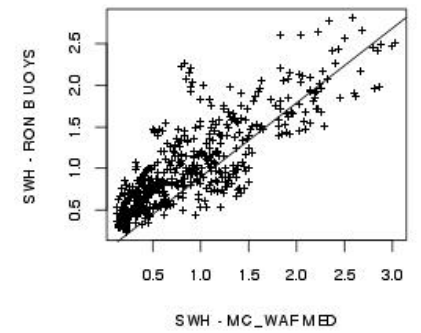
**SWH (m) La Spezia Settembre 2012**



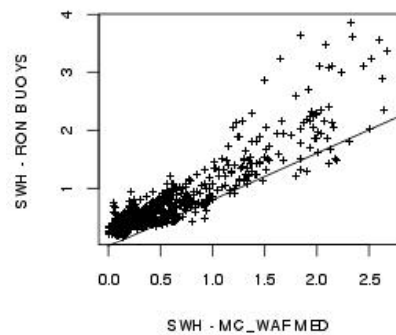
**SWH (m) La Spezia Dicembre 2012**



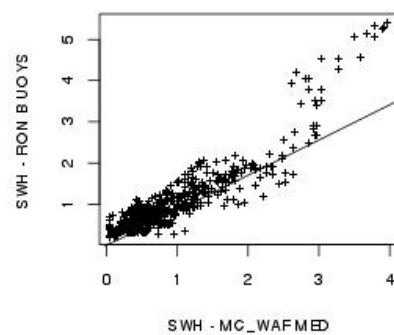
**SWH (m) La Spezia Gennaio 2013**



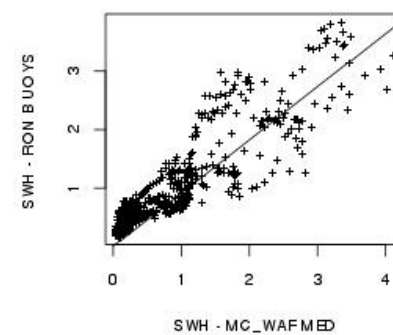
**SWH (m) La Spezia Settembre 2012**



**SWH (m) La Spezia Ottobre 2012**

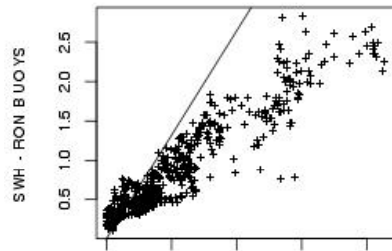


**SWH (m) La Spezia Novembre 2012**

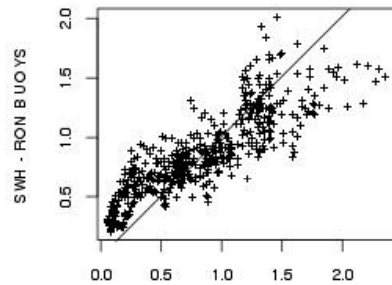




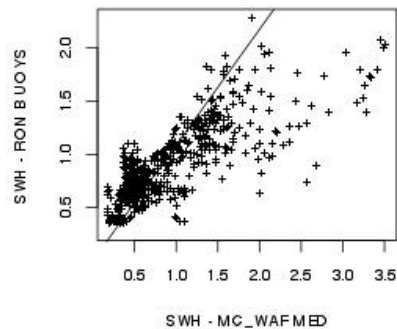
**SWH (m) Cagliari Novembre 2012**



**SWH (m) Cagliari Dicembre 2012**

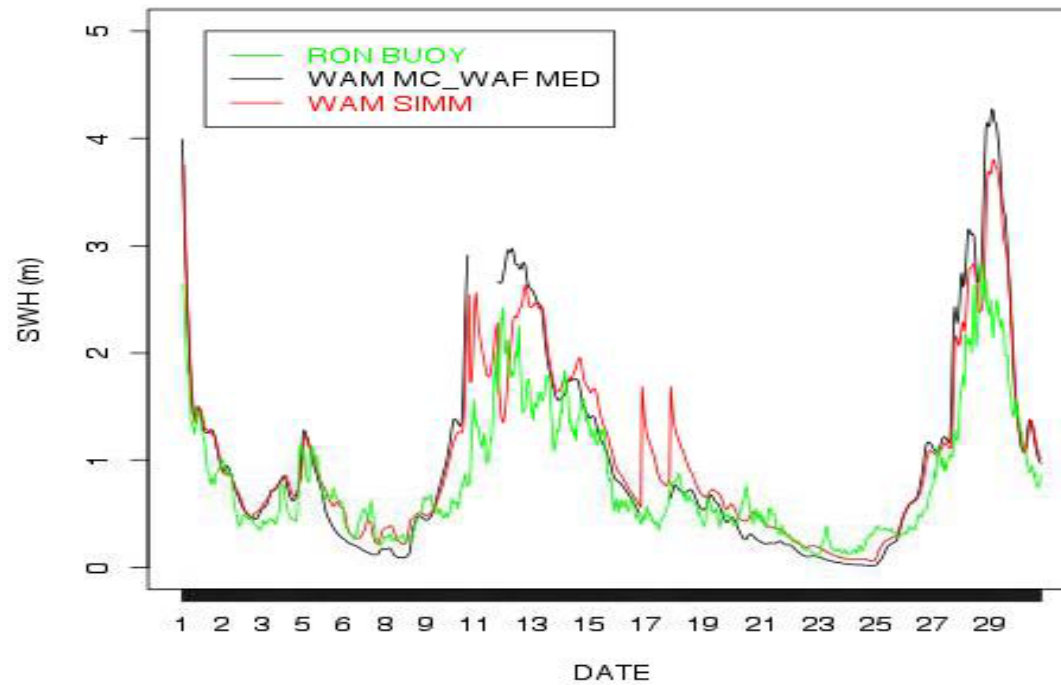


**SWH (m) Cagliari Gennaio 2013**



## Comparison between Mediterranean WAM and buoys of the Italian National Wave Network (RON)

**SWH (m) Cagliari Novembre 2012**

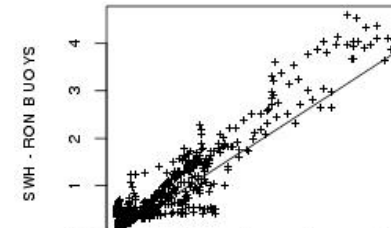




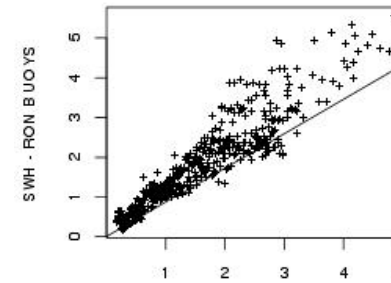
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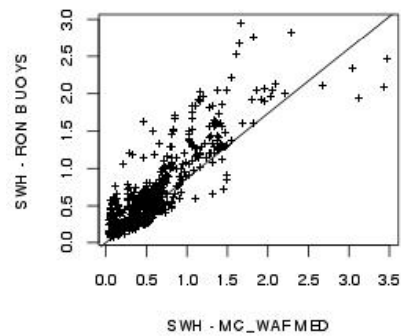
**SWH (m) Cetraro Novembre 2012**



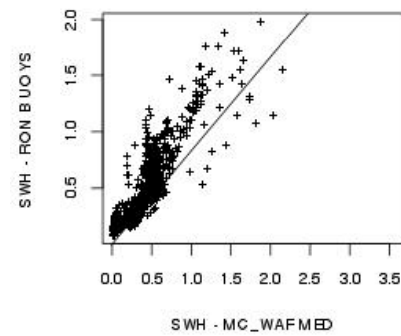
**SWH (m) Cetraro Dicembre 2012**



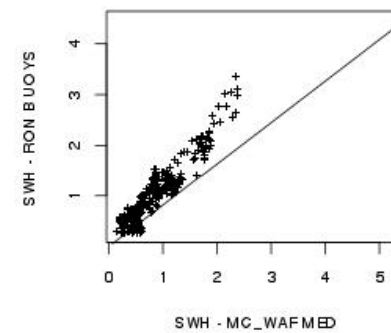
**SWH (m) Cetraro Settembre 2012**



**SWH (m) Cetraro Ottobre 2012**



**SWH (m) Cetraro Gennaio 2013**

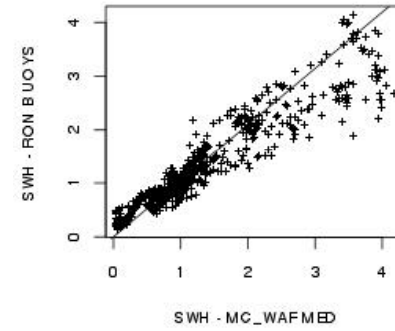




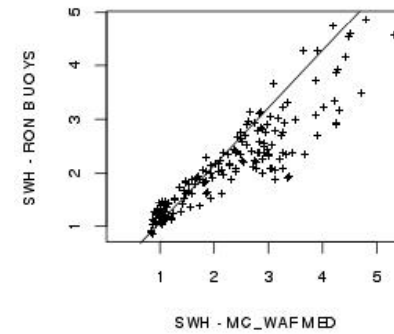
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**SWH (m) Mazara Novembre 2012**



**SWH (m) Mazara Dicembre 2012**

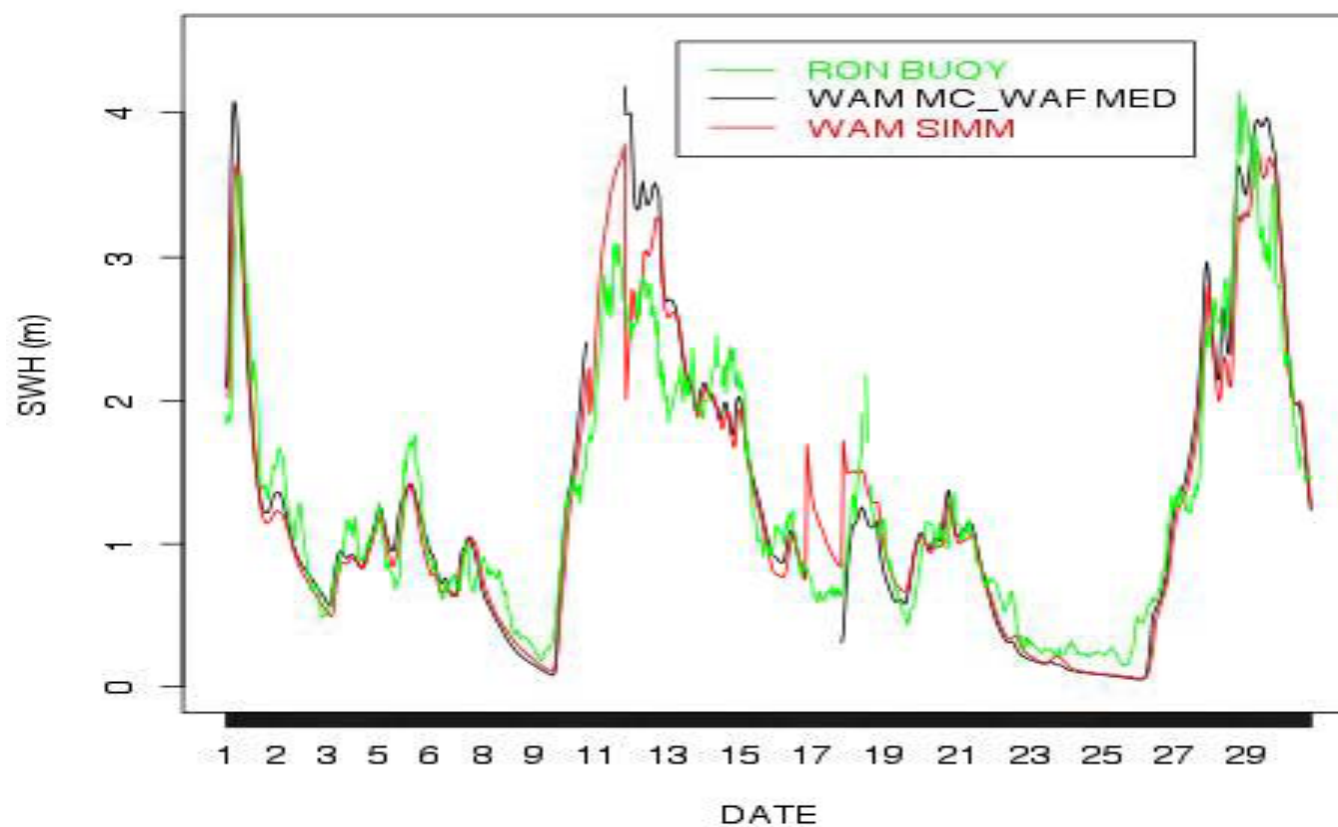




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### SWH (m) Mazara Novembre 2012

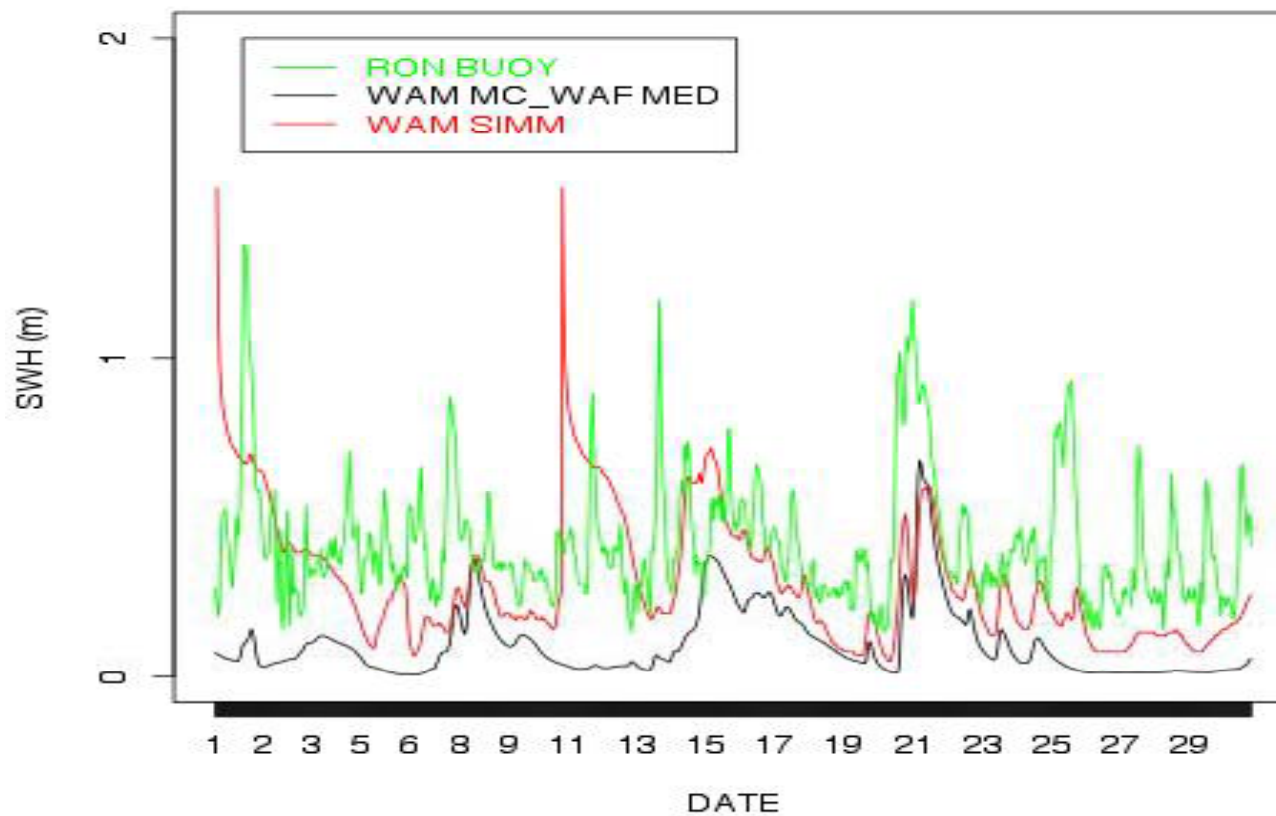




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### SWH (m) Catania Settembre 2012







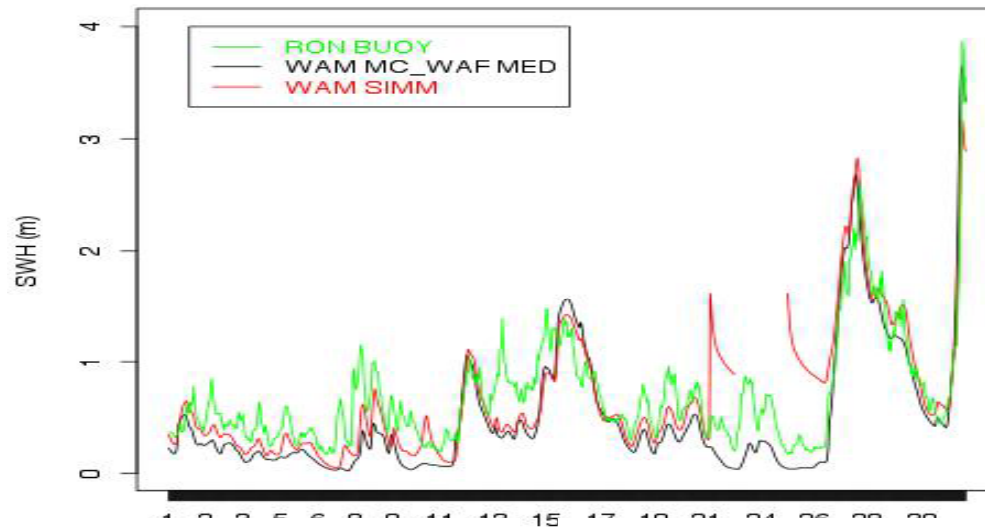
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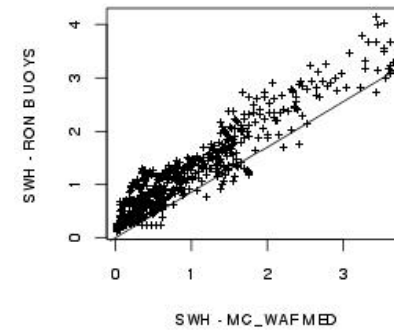




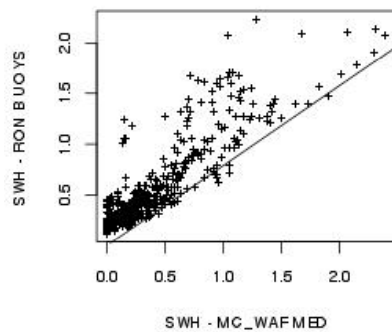
**SWH (m) Crotone Ottobre 2012**



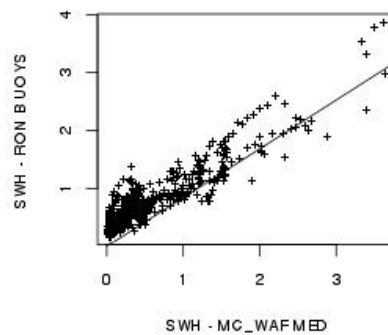
**SWH (m) Crotone Novembre 2012**



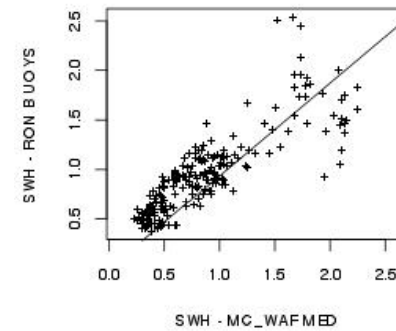
**SWH (m) Crotone Settembre 2012**



**SWH (m) Crotone Ottobre 2012**

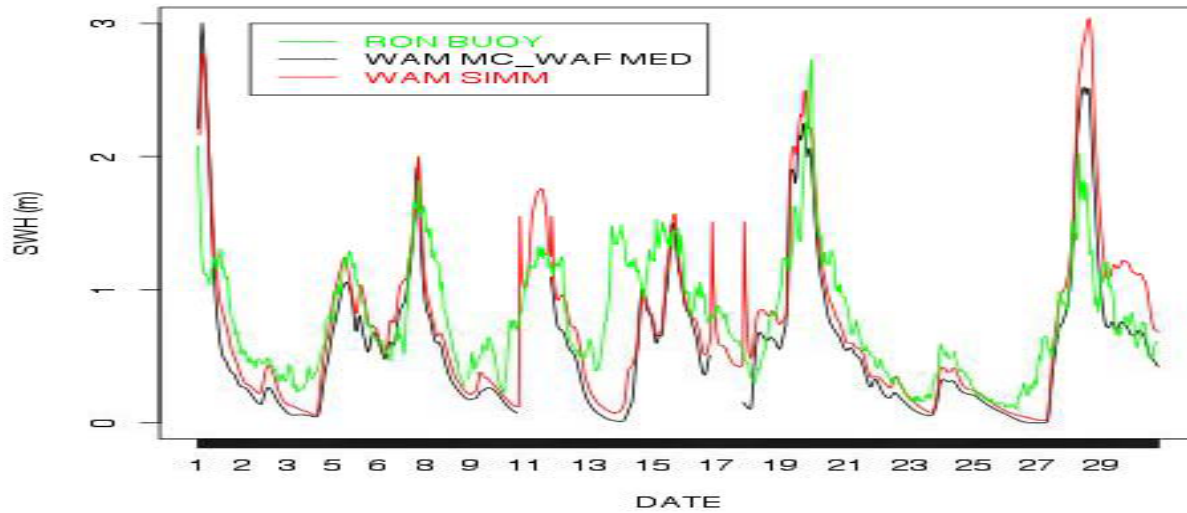


**SWH (m) Crotone Dicembre 2012**

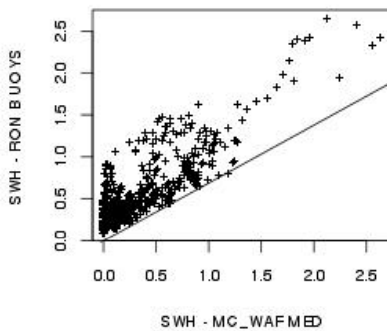




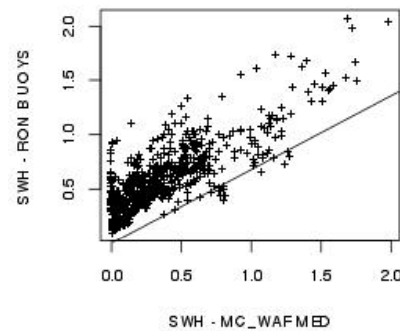
**SWH (m) Monopoli Novembre 2012**



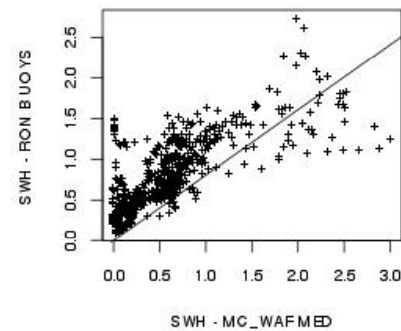
**SWH (m) Monopoli Settembre 2012**



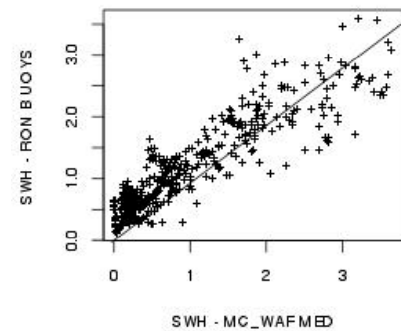
**SWH (m) Monopoli Ottobre 2012**



**SWH (m) Monopoli Novembre 2012**



**SWH (m) Monopoli Dicembre 2012**

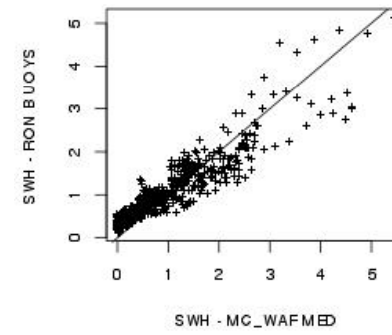




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**SWH (m) Ancona Novembre 2012**

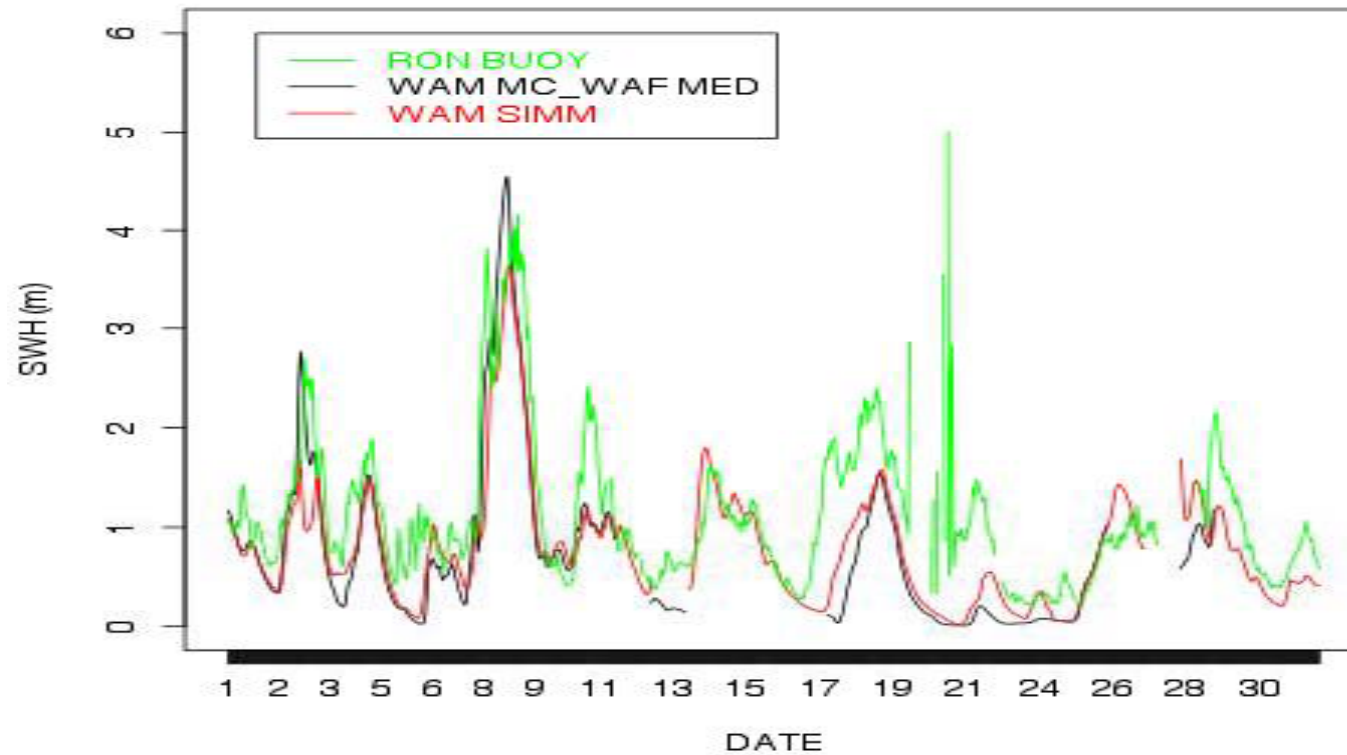




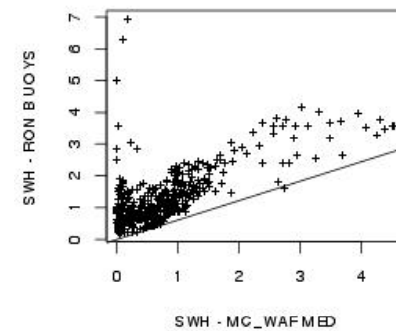
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### SWH (m) Ancona Dicembre 2012



### SWH (m) Ancona Dicembre 2012

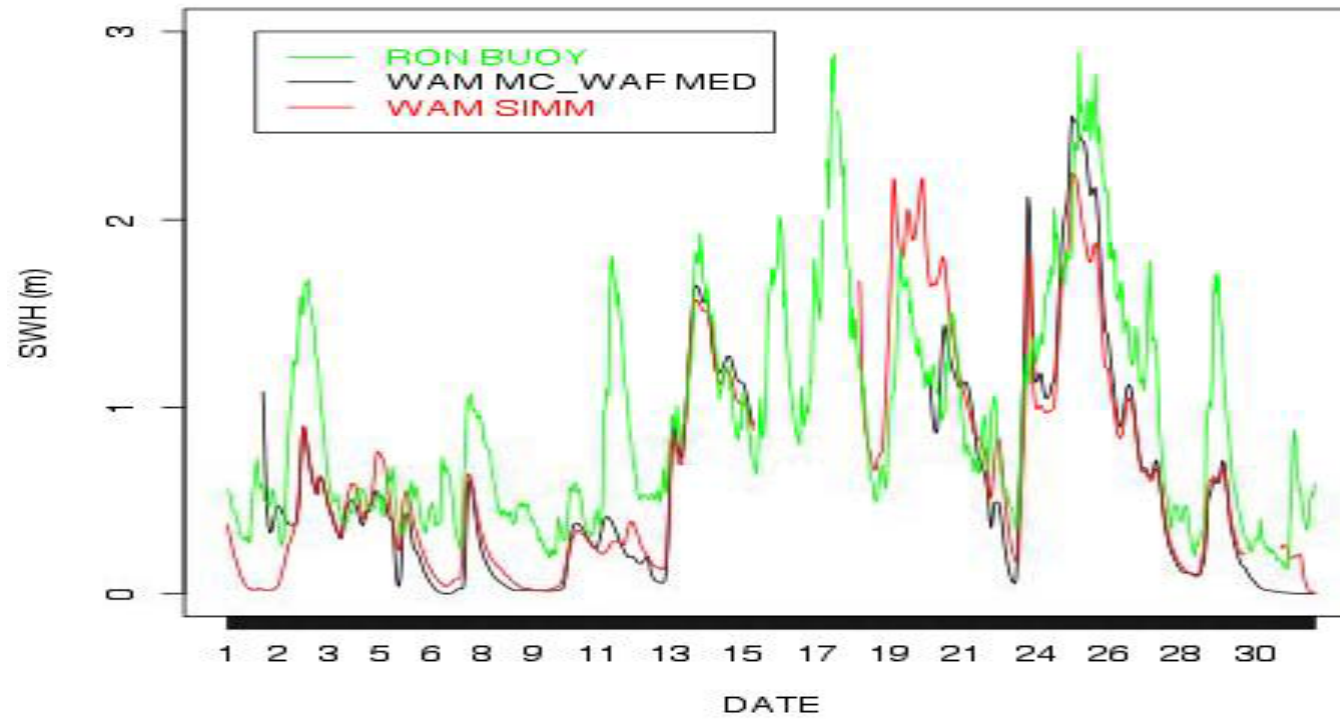




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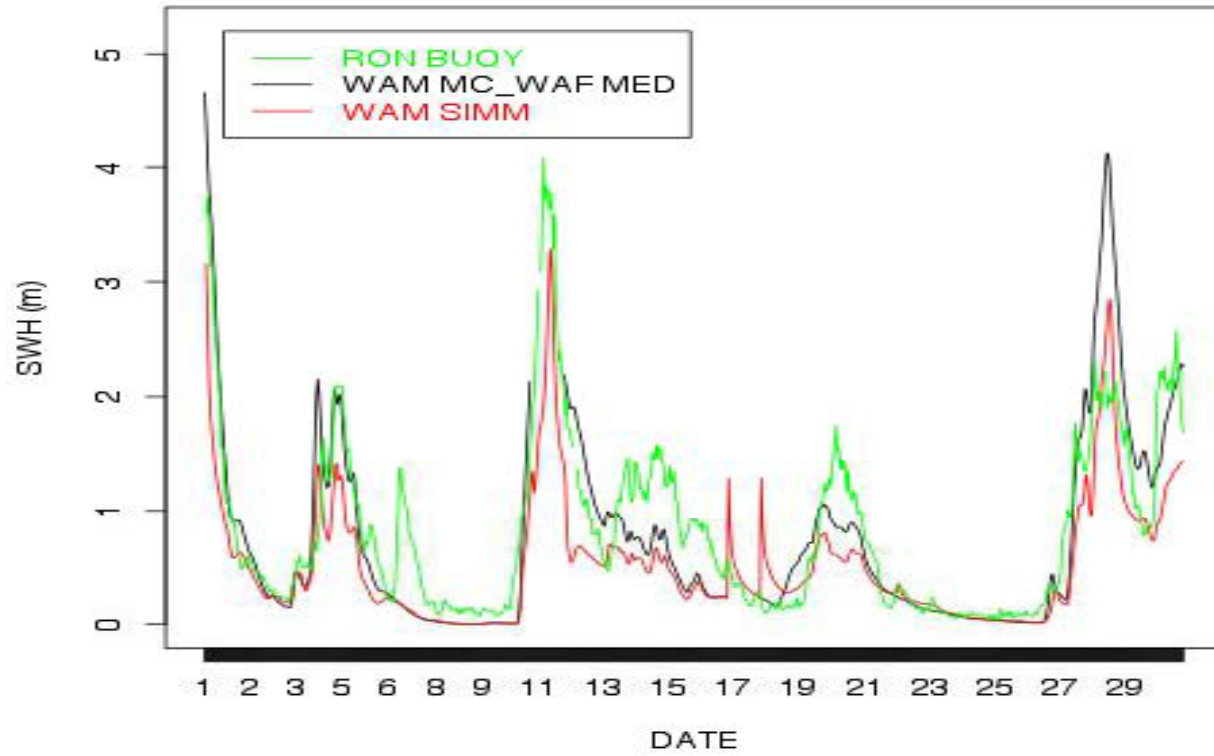


**SWH (m) Ancona Gennaio 2013**

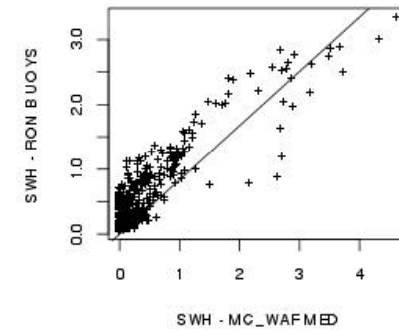




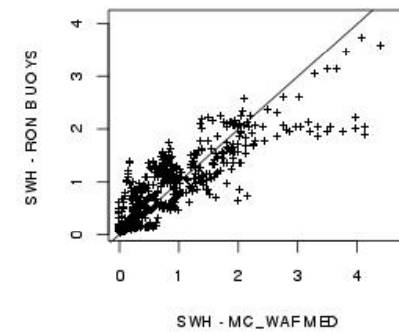
**SWH (m) Venezia Novembre 2012**



**SWH (m) Venezia Ottobre 2012**



**SWH (m) Venezia Novembre 2012**





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***The wave energy flux per unit of wave-crest length ( $P$ ) is easy to calculate from the fields of  $H_{m0}$  and  $T_m$  produced by swan in the coastal areas***

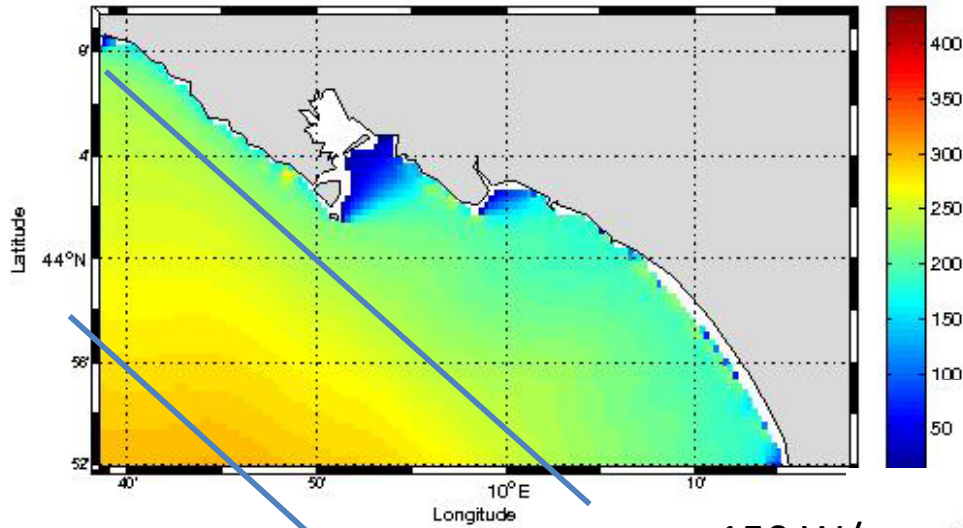
$E$  average energy density  
 $C_g$  group velocity

***-> the seasonal average of wave power was used to estimate the parameter 'wave exposure' in the MSFD***





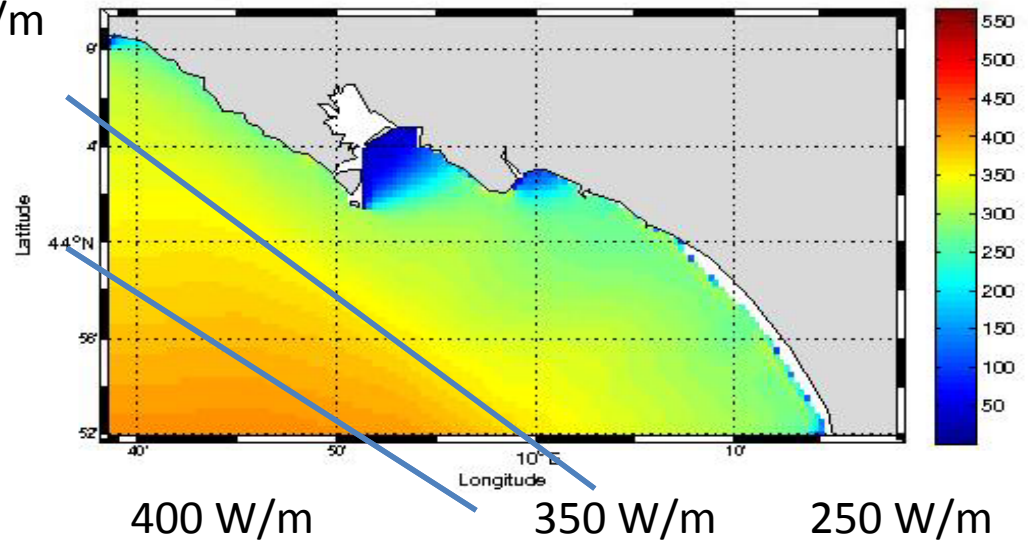
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*wave energy flux per unit of wave-crest length [W/m]*  
**Carrara grid -Autumn**

300 W/m  
200 W/m 150 W/m

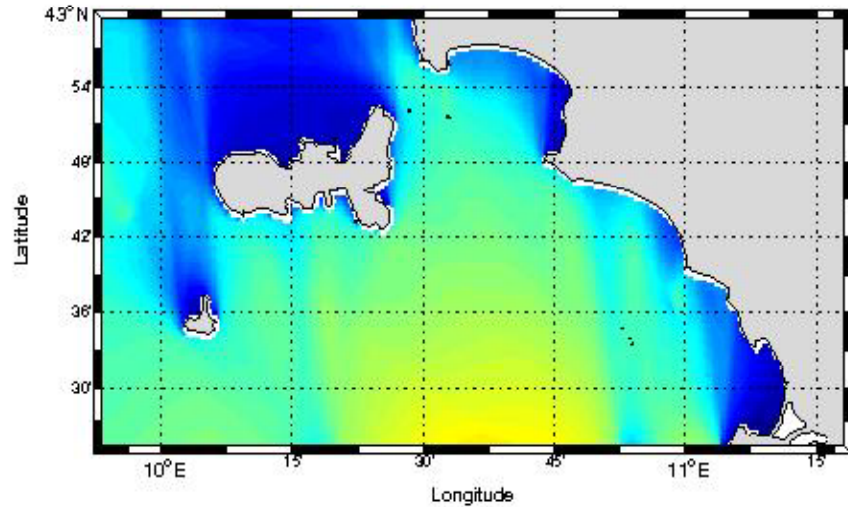
*wave energy flux per unit of wave-crest length [W/m]*  
**Carrara grid -Winter**



400 W/m 350 W/m 250 W/m



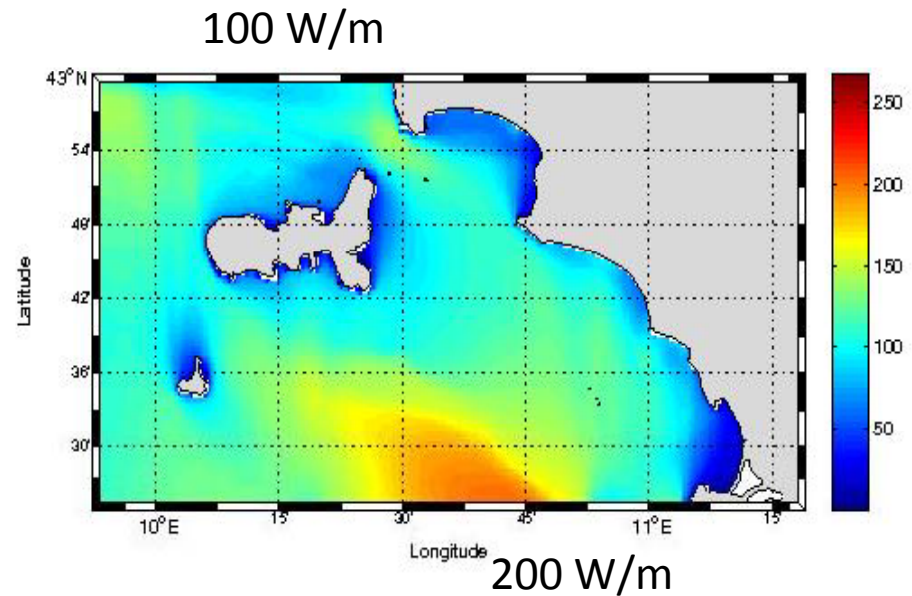
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*wave energy flux per unit of wave-crest  
length [W/m]*  
**Elba grid -Autumn**

200 W/m

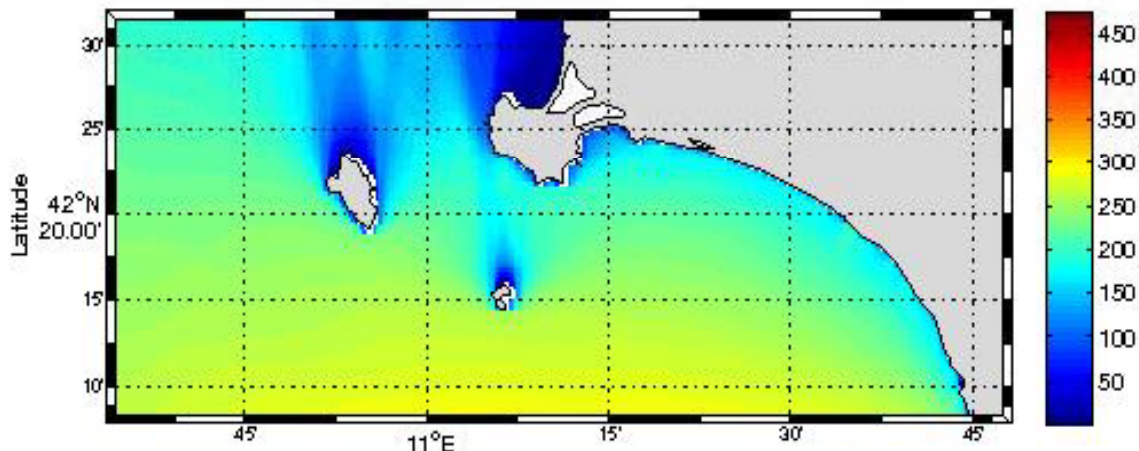
*wave energy flux per unit of wave-crest  
length [W/m]*  
**Elba grid -Winter**



200 W/m

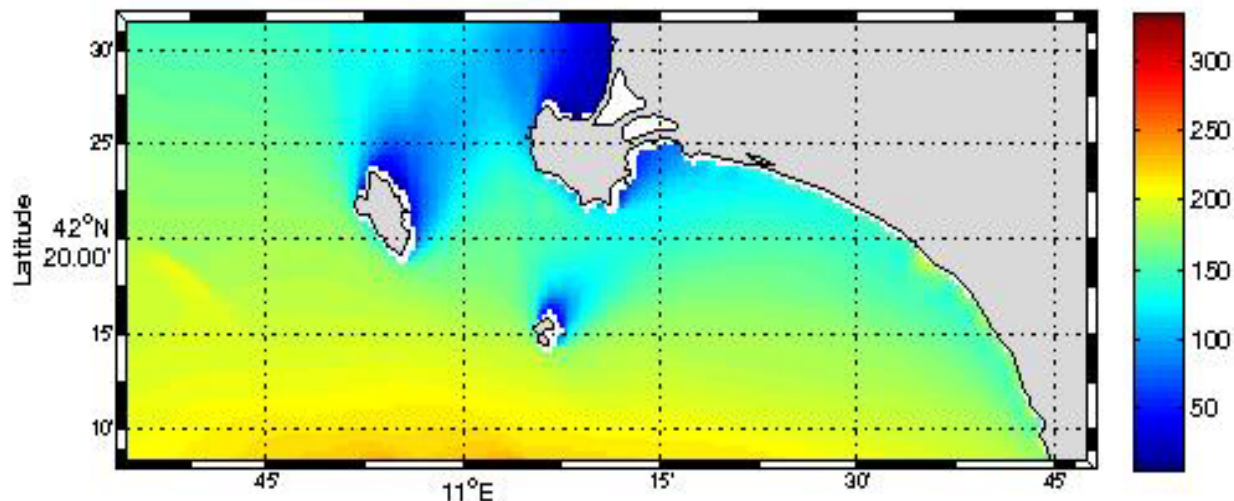


200 W/m



*wave energy flux per unit of  
wave-crest length [W/m]  
Giglio grid -Autumn*

270 W/m



*wave energy flux per unit of  
wave-crest length [W/m]  
Giglio grid -Winter*

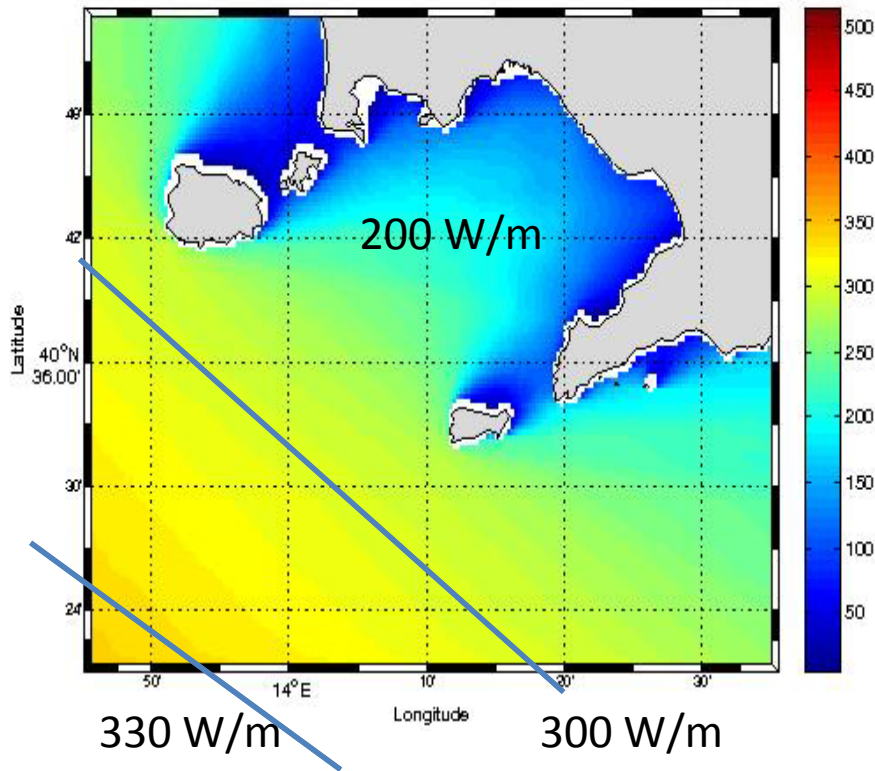
230 W/m

Longitude

150 W/m



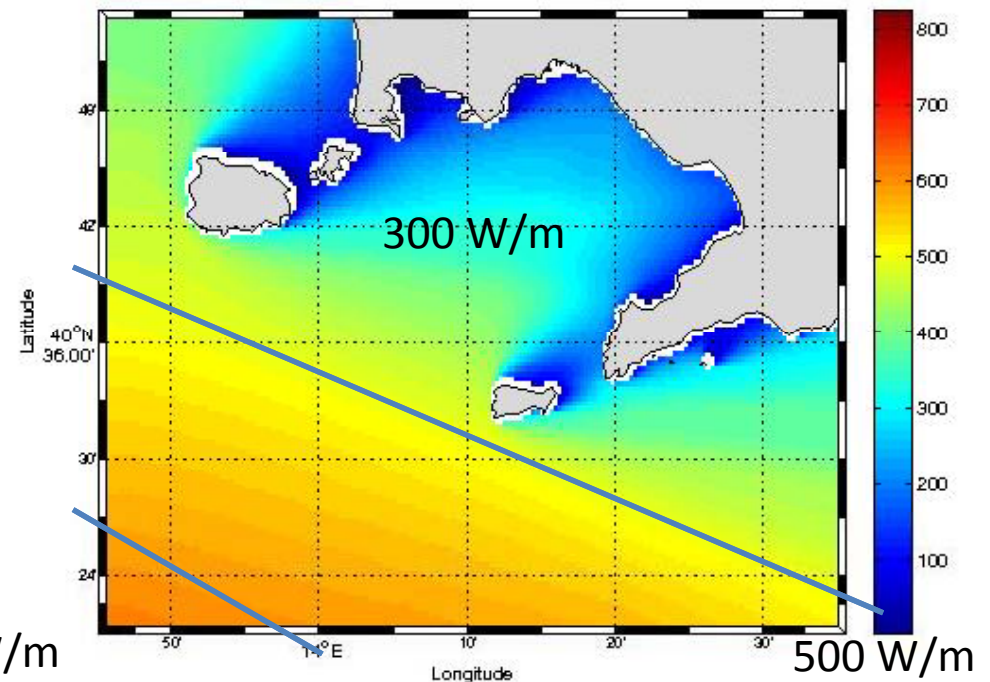
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*wave energy flux per unit of wave-crest length [W/m]*  
*Gulf of Naples grid -Autumn*

*wave energy flux per unit of wave-crest length [W/m]*  
*Gulf of Naples grid -Winter*

600 W/m



500 W/m



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### MC\_WAF next steps:

- Strengthen the system: the current link between meteorological system and coastal system too prone to small (but very disturbing) malfunctions
- Start using non-hydrostatic MOLOCH 5-km wind in regional and coastal areas before October 2013
- Start Testing currents in Sicily Channel regional grid before September
- start working at operational altimeter assimilation in Mediterranean and regional grids in 2014