

1   **Reply to Comments from Reviewers and Editor**

2   Please notify that all the comments and reply are regarding to the pdf version in the  
3   discussions, which page and line numbers are not the same in the marked-up version.

4   **Reply to Editor's comment:**

5   **Editor's comments:**

6   This paper is a well structured and well formulated, providing a clear though general  
7   overview of Operational Oceanography in Europe mainly from the perspectives of European  
8   Global Ocean Observing System (EUROGOOS). The topics although not truly scientific in  
9   nature perfectly map on the objective of this special issue to explain the current state of the art  
10   and developments of Operational Oceanography in Europe. System components such as the  
11   observing network and the modeling and forecasting capability are explained in general terms  
12   and related projects. Key references are made to project acronyms and recent publications,  
13   providing the reader an interesting general perspective and overview. Acronyms are spelled  
14   out. Furthermore, the paper focus on two major application areas: coastal operational  
15   oceanography and operational (marine) ecology. In these areas, the 'blue' and 'green' services  
16   are expected to substantially contribute to (economic) growth. Small remarks: 'JPI-Ocean' is  
17   neither referenced nor in the acronym list. Is 'BONUS-163' sufficiently explained? Generally,  
18   the list of acronyms may need to be checked again on completeness.

19   **Reply:**

20   Thanks for the comment. I went through the text to check if the acronym has been used  
21   properly. The following changes in the text will be applied:

22   P9, L6: ERIC -> ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium)

23   P9, L9: JPI-Oceans -> JPI-Oceans (The Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive  
24   Seas and Oceans)

25   P13,L9: ISO->ISO(International Organization for Standardization)

26   P13, L17: DG-MARE -> DG-MARE (The Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and  
27   Fisheries)

28   P22, L20: NCAR -> NCAR (National Center for Atmospheric Research)

29   P45, L20: IBM -> IBM (Individual Based Model)

- 1 P48, L22: BONUS-163 -> BONUS (The joint Baltic Sea research and development
- 2 programme)
- 3 P48, L25: IOC -> IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission)
- 4 P55, adding a line “GODAE Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment”
- 5

1

2 **Review from Reviewer #1**

3 Anonymous Referee #1 Received and published: 1 March 2016

4 Written by leading scientists from EuroGOOS and the European operational oceanography  
5 community (<http://www.eurogoos.eu/>), this whitepaper presents in a clear, concise and well  
6 structured way knowledge gaps and scientific challenges that shall be addressed by the  
7 community for the next decade. This paper is clearly written to arouse the awareness of the  
8 national and European research funding agencies to these challenges that request their  
9 support. However, the interestof this papergoes further thisinitial objective as itprovides a  
10 ratherfair and extensive description of the current operational oceanography landscape and  
11 helps identifying and explaining several emerging, often misunderstood but already important  
12 concepts such as operational ecology.

13 That being said, by definition, such a whitepaper defends subjective positions even if I would  
14 say most of the presented positions are largely shared by the community. As a consequence  
15 reviewing such paper is also a difficult task since reviewers' position is for sure as subjective  
16 as the authors' one. I will therefore limit my review to two points that according to me are not  
17 fair enough or don't reflect the reality. The first comment is about section 3.1 "Model  
18 development". This is a clear example of a subjective position. In response to the concept of  
19 "Unified Earth Modelling system" introduced by WMO, the Authors introduce the concept of  
20 "Unified Ocean Modelling system" or UOM. They define it as an ocean model able to  
21 simulate in a seamless and coupled way all the different subsystem models : waves,  
22 hydrodynamics –and not only ocean- , sediment transport, water quality and ecosystem. The  
23 authors present the concept of UOM as a brand new idea and clearly developed this long  
24 section (~150 lines between slide 16 to slide 20) in order to defend the vision of the CMEMS  
25 SAC members about the future developments of the models used in the framework of the  
26 Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS). However, models such as  
27 for instance the Belgian COHERENS model  
28 (<http://odnature.naturalsciences.be/coherens/about>) or the Portugese MOHID model  
29 (<http://www.mohid.com/>) already fulfil the UOM definition. Being continuously developed  
30 and improved for the last 25years, both models are used in operational oceanography  
31 applications and have worldwide user communities dealing with local, coastal, regional and  
32 basin-scale applications for short term forecast as well as for climate applications. As a

1 consequence, the paper will really gain in pertinence and credibility if the Authors could  
2 refine their vision instead of just inserting the following poor disclaimer: “It is worthwhile to  
3 mention that the model development in the CMEMS strategy mainly focuses on the evolution  
4 of the existing global and basin scale operational models, new emerging models (...) and  
5 models for downstream services (...) have not been sufficiently addressed in the strategy”  
6 (slides 20 and 21).

7 The second major comment is about the introductory paragraph of “Modelling and  
8 forecasting” in section 4.1.1 “Operational oceanography in the coastal waters – State-of-the-  
9 Art ” in slides 29 and 30. The Authors suggest there that CMEMS plays a leading role to  
10 consolidate and homogenise the fragmented coastal forecasting community and has therefore  
11 taken over objectives and tasks of the ECOOP project. According to me, this is false. The  
12 ECOOP project has been closed out 5 years ago. Since then, some activities developed in the  
13 ECOOP project have been taken over by EuroGOOS ROOSes; other have been continued at  
14 Institute’s level; the remaining ones have simply disappeared by lack of financial support. For  
15 these 5 years, CMEMS and the previous MyOcean projects have plaid no significant role to  
16 structure the coastal forecasting community. Therefore, I would really advice the Authors to  
17 better explain their meaning. In particular, I’m wondering whether the sentence “Such  
18 objectives and tasks are now largely taken over by CMEMS” (line 27, slide 29) has just been  
19 added to better sell the subjective position of the CMEMS SAC members : “The research in  
20 this area has been identified as a CMEMS research priority - seamless interactions between  
21 basin and coastal systems” (lines 1 and 2, slide 30) or whether this sentence finds its origin in  
22 the delegation agreement Mercator-Océan has received from the European Commission to  
23 implement the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service. To conclude my review,  
24 this article is a position paper listing the challenges that request the support of the main  
25 national and European funding agencies for the next decade. In case Ocean Science publishes  
26 such articles, I would advice the editor to accept it for publication provided the final  
27 manuscript takes into account the two comments I’ve pointed out.

28 **Reply to Review #1**

29 Thank you for your good comments. Sorry for a little delayed reply as I just had two BONUS  
30 proposals submitted yesterday.

31  
32 In general, I agree with your view on the two issues, but with some reservations on point 1.  
33

1 | **First comment:**

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2 The vision in the paper is to develop European operational UOMs in i) pan-European scale, ii)  
3 Arctic-N. Atlantic Scale, for all ocean variables and all scales. Currently all model systems,  
4 either CMEMS model system or estuary-coast-sea model systems (e.g., COHERNS, MOHID,  
5 Delfta3D, MIKE system etc) have their own strengths and weaknesses, and only fulfil part of  
6 the seamless modelling requirements (here seamless means spatiotemporal-parameter). But it  
7 is true that it may cause confusion if the paper refers too much to CMEMS. Modelling is a  
8 general issue. So I have modified original text to:

9  
10 Pages 20/21  
11 Emerging modelling areas: the future UOM needs integration and extensions of current  
12 European modelling capacity in spatial-temporal scale and parameter dimensions. It is  
13 worthwhile to mention that the model development in the CMEMS strategy mainly focuses  
14 on the evolution of tThe existing global and basin scale operational models (ocean-sea ice-  
15 wave-biogeochemistry) can be evolved to resolve estuary and straits, while existing estuary-  
16 coastal-sea models can be extended to cover multi-basins. New emerging models such as  
17 sediment transport and high trophic level models, and models for downstream services such  
18 as coastal inundation model, unstructured grid models- need to be further matured and  
19 developed and integrated with existing operational systems for operational applications. have  
20 not been sufficiently addressed in the strategy. In addition to the model development,  
21 comprehensive verification studies should be made especially for the ecological models and  
22 models in Arctic models in order to understand their drawbacks.of the models. For the ice  
23 model, mesoscale sea ice rheology will be needed to describe lead dynamics of the ice. More  
24 discussions on the development of marine ecosystem models can be found in Sect. 5 –  
25 Operational Ecology.

26  
27 | **Second comment:**

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28 I agree with your comment: CMEMS is mainly part of continuation of MERSEA and  
29 MYOCEAN focusing on Global and Basin scales; ECOOP is for the coastal-shelf sea part.  
30 Although CMEMS has done some extension to the coast but has not taken over what ECOOP  
31 has developed (e.g. models for 15 high resolution coastal areas). The “seamless interactions  
32 between basin and coastal systems” as one of the research priority for CMEMS Service  
33 Evolution is not from originally delegation agreement, but to address coastal user needs in  
34 downstream services.

35  
36 So the original text will be modified to:  
37  
38 Pages 29/30  
39 Such objectives and tasks should be further addressed, extended to resolve the estuary-coast-  
40 sea interaction and developed into an operational framework through integration into basin-  
41 scale operational systems, are now largely taken over by CMEMS. Recently the research in  
42 this area has been identified as a CMEMS research priority – seamless interactions between  
43 basin and coastal systems (CMEMS STAC, 2015).

1  
2     **Review from Review #2**  
3     Anonymous Referee #2 Received and published: 5 May 2016  
4     This position paper has been drafted by leading scientists, all deeply involved in the  
5     development of various components of operational oceanography at national, regional, and  
6     global scales. The paper is quite extensive and despite the fact that the various sections are  
7     well written, certain sections confuse the reader, probably due to jumps from one topic to  
8     another: as for example on page 9, lines 10-27. The paper has to be shortened and be more  
9     focused on those aspects that indeed concern practical topics of operational oceanography,  
10    and not on the theoretical topics. This is because several activities mentioned in the paper, as  
11    for example those regarding the ocean monitoring and data management, are not directly  
12    related to operational oceanography (SeaDataNet, EMODNET, ICES). As clearly stated by  
13    the terms of the service operation, operational oceanography at coastal waters is not addressed  
14    by CMEMS. Following ECOOP, there was almost no serious-coordinated attempt to  
15    harmonize coastal operational oceanography on a systematic way, in order to align the models  
16    for example with the new developments implemented at regional levels of CMEMS. Any  
17    effort on coastal operational oceanography, particularly on forecasting, was mainly based on  
18    national interest. The extended references for an ocean UOM system are indeed a vision.  
19    However, the operational oceanographic community at present, need to be consolidated with  
20    common tools that will ensure the harmonization with CMEMS in the coming years, to  
21    reproduce the correct sea conditions, assimilating in a common way in-situ and remote  
22    sensing observations. Within the section on research priorities in the coastal waters, on page  
23    30, lines 2328, the text on EuroGOOS new membership does not add any important issue to  
24    the scope of the paper, therefore these lines must be deleted. The paper as is in its present  
25    form is quite extensive, therefore I propose: a) To reduce it, excluding those paragraphs that  
26    do not add important or significant information about the needs and the aspects of operational  
27    oceanography. b) Present in a different and separate ways the vision for both global and  
28    regional operational oceanography, which despite their similarities are quite different. c)  
29    Provide further information about the coastal scale operational oceanography and expand on  
30    what has been achieved so far, as very little information is given in the paper at the present.

31     **Reply to Reviewer #2**

1 The authors thank the useful comments given by the reviewer. We divided the comments into  
2 6 questions and reply to them one by one.

3 **Q1:** This position paper has been drafted by leading scientists, all deeply involved in the  
4 development of various components of operational oceanography at national, regional, and  
5 global scales. The paper is quite extensive and despite the fact that the various sections are  
6 well written, certain sections confuse the reader, probably due to jumps from one topic to  
7 another: as for example on page 9, lines 10-27.

8 **Reply:**

9 The paragraph mentioned here (p9, L10-27) is about satellite oceanography. As pointed out  
10 by the reviewer, the topic is shifted from in-situ observations to satellite. I proposal to use  
11 following sentences from L10, to avoid such a feeling of jump of topics:

12 ~~Besides the progresses made in in-situ marine observations, the development of~~ satellite  
13 oceanography ~~in the last two decades~~ has also been significantly advanced in the last two  
14 decades and become a major component of operational oceanography~~-,~~ as documented by Le  
15 Traon et al. (2015). Satellites provide real time and regular, global, high spatial and temporal  
16 resolution observation of key ocean variables that are essential to constrain ocean models  
17 through data and/or to serve downstream applications.

18  
19 **Q2:** The paper has to be shortened and be more focused on those aspects that indeed concern  
20 practical topics of operational oceanography, and not on the theoretical topics. This is because  
21 several activities mentioned in the paper, as for example those regarding the ocean monitoring  
22 and data management, are not directly related to operational oceanography (SeaDataNet,  
23 EMODNET, ICES).

24 **Reply:**

25 In view of the authors, the future development of operational oceanography will not only be  
26 limited in the Operational Oceanography (OO) community, the development of OO will have  
27 to engage some key non-operational players in the monitoring and modelling community.  
28 One issue is the coordination and integration of the OO observations with non-operational  
29 observing components: on the one hand, this will provide much larger datasets, both near real  
30 time and offline data, for operational modelling, assimilation and forecasting. On the other  
31 hand, the OO community integrates data with models which maximize the value of  
32 observations from environmental, fishery and research monitoring activities.

1 Considering this is a strategic paper, the authors think that we should keep the relevant issues  
2 described in the paper, which will be difficult to reach if the paper is shortened.

3 **Q3:** As clearly stated by the terms of the service operation, operational oceanography at  
4 coastal waters is not addressed by CMEMS. Following ECOOP, there was almost no serious-  
5 coordinated attempt to harmonize coastal operational oceanography on a systematic way, in  
6 order to align the models for example with the new developments implemented at regional  
7 levels of CMEMS. Any effort on coastal operational oceanography, particularly on  
8 forecasting, was mainly based on national interest.

9 **Reply:**

10 In Europe, it is expected that the future coastal OO will be covered by following components:

- 11 1. National operational agencies which are providing some coastal operational services, e.g.,  
12 storm surge, hydrological forecast, oil spill drift forecast, agitation, inundation/flooding  
13 forecast etc. This part of the coastal OO will be expanded due to the increasing user needs,  
14 improved monitoring and forecasting capacities;
- 15 2. Private companies which have extensive experiences in the coastal services. It is expected  
16 that some of their service areas will be transformed into an operational approach, either  
17 through cooperation with operational agencies or run the service by themselves;
- 18 3. EC funded coastal service, e.g., through CMEMS. Through enhanced resolution, two-way  
19 nesting or unstructured grid, regional models can also provide certain type of coastal services  
20 based on modelling and forecast of hydro-biogeochemical parameters. Similar experiments  
21 have been carried out in ECOOP. However, due to the complexity in the coastal waters,  
22 significant research on the estuary-coast-sea interaction will be needed to fill in the  
23 knowledge gaps.
- 24 4. European ROOSs are the main coordination body which covers the coastal OO. It can be  
25 expected that the ROOSs will play a more active role in the integration of coastal OO in the  
26 future.

27 So, the integration of coastal OO in Europe is a complicated multi-actor program, which  
28 landscape has not yet well defined. This is also why the paper does not go into details for the  
29 future solution. However, as suggested in Q6c by the reviewer, that the coastal OO section  
30 will be rewritten to reflect more state-of-the-art and potential approaches for building up the  
31 coastal services.

32 **Q4:** The extended references for an ocean UOM system are indeed a vision. However, the  
33 operational oceanographic community at present, need to be consolidated with common tools  
34 that will ensure the harmonization with CMEMS in the coming years, to reproduce the correct  
35 sea conditions, assimilating in a common way in-situ and remote sensing observations.

1   **Reply:**

2   The authors agree. The short-term research objective of the ocean modelling is to optimize the  
3   deterministic models, data assimilation scheme etc, which is consistent with what is  
4   mentioned by the reviewer. The paper has promoted community models (e.g. NEMO is  
5   mentioned).

6   **Q5:** Within the section on research priorities in the coastal waters, on page 30, lines 23-28,  
7   the text on EuroGOOS new membership does not add any important issue to the scope of the  
8   paper, therefore these lines must be deleted.

9   **Reply:**

10   We do believe EuroGOOS new membership for private companies will strengthen the  
11   cooperation between operational agencies and private companies, especially in developing  
12   future coastal operational oceanography. However, as this is just an expectation from the  
13   authors and the situation in the future can be quite complicated, we would like to be more  
14   careful about this statement. **Therefore we decide to delete it, as suggested by the reviewer.**

15   **Q6:** The paper as is in its present form is quite extensive, therefore I propose: **a)** To reduce it,  
16   excluding those paragraphs that do not add important or significant information about the  
17   needs and the aspects of operational oceanography. **b)** Present in a different and separate ways  
18   the vision for both global and regional operational oceanography, which despite their  
19   similarities are quite different. **c)** Provide further information about the coastal scale  
20   operational oceanography and expand on what has been achieved so far, as very little  
21   information is given in the paper at the present.

22   **Reply:**

23   Q6a: we haven't covered all important issues in OO but we tried to address major important  
24   issues in the four knowledge areas. The authors would like to keep the current structure of the  
25   paper.

26   Q6b: the suggested extension to cover the global part will make the text further lengthy.  
27   Actually, many challenges in global operational oceanography, e.g., monitoring and  
28   modelling systems, have not been addressed by the paper. This is the weakness of the paper.  
29   Similar to satellite oceanography (not fully addressed in the paper), global OO should be  
30   addressed in a separate paper. Nevertheless the authors have decided to focus on regional  
31   operational oceanography.

1 Q6c: Coastal OO will be re-written, to add state-of-the-art in the area and to give a more clear  
2 picture about what has been done and what are still needed. The modified text of section 4.1.1  
3 is as follows:

4        4.1.1 State-of-the-art

5 *Monitoring:*

6 Monitoring in the coastal waters has been particularly active in the past decade through both  
7 in situ and remote sensing. Comprehensive coastal observatories have been established and  
8 maintained in the UK, Germany and some other countries. Integrated monitoring using HF  
9 radar, ferrybox, mooring buoy, shallow water Argo floats, gliders, integrated sensors and  
10 satellites have provided huge amounts of observations. An important feature is that many of  
11 these in-situ datasets have high spatial or temporal resolution, which reveals mesoscale and  
12 sub-mesoscale features in coastal waters and processes of estuary-coast-sea interaction. The  
13 EC has also strongly supported the development and integration of coastal monitoring  
14 infrastructure, e.g. through projects JERICO, COMMONSENSE, JERICO-NEXT and other  
15 funding instruments (e.g. European structural funds). Monitoring for commercial purposes  
16 also represents a significant data source. However, the value of existing observations in the  
17 coastal waters has far from been fully exploited, especially for operational oceanography.  
18 First, project-oriented observations have poorly been integrated into operational data flow for  
19 forecasting; second, new knowledge generated from the high resolution observations in the  
20 coastal waters is still limited; third, the coastal observations have rarely been assimilated into  
21 operational models in near real time mode.

22

23 In the next few years, a large amount of high resolution satellite observations will be available  
24 including the ocean colour (Sentinel 3), sediment (FCI from Meteosat Third Generation) and  
25 coastal altimetry (Sentinels). In the long-run it is expected that SWOT will provide altimetry  
26 sea level in swath and hydrological monitoring of big rivers. This will provide a sustainable  
27 monitoring base for operational oceanography in coastal waters.

28 Vertical stratification in coastal areas, especially in the river mouths, estuaries and enclosed  
29 basins, largely influences the vertical transport of substances as well as their transformation in  
30 the pycnoclines, redoxcline and at the water–sediment interface. Thus, high resolution  
31 observations through the entire water column to resolve relevant features and processes in

1 stratified regions have to be applied. The challenge here is to achieve the proper resolution  
2 both in time and in space.

3 *Modelling and forecasting:*

4 There have been two major issues in focus in the past decade: one is to develop forecasting  
5 models and systems for new operational coastal services, e.g., agitation forecast, inundation  
6 forecast, estuary/fjord flooding forecast and different types of drift forecasts etc.; the other is  
7 how to bridge and couple the global and basin scale forecasting systems with coastal  
8 modelling applications; the other is and to integrate the fragmented coastal modelling systems  
9 at European scale (She and Buch, 2003).

10 For the first issue, the new operational services are mainly developed by national operational  
11 agencies. The horizontal resolution has been refined to  $10^{0-2}$  meters. This part of the coastal  
12 OO is expected to be expanded due to the increasing user needs, improved monitoring and  
13 forecasting capacities. Private companies have also played a major role in coastal services  
14 which are mostly case by case services. Significantly advanced coastal modelling systems  
15 have been developed and applied in the coastal services. Some of these systems have been  
16 used for operational forecasting. It is expected that some of the commercial service areas will  
17 be transformed into an operational approach, either through cooperation with operational  
18 agencies or run the service by themselves. The European research community has also  
19 contributed significantly to the coastal modelling systems, by developing a variety of coastal  
20 solutions, e.g. two-way nesting, unstructured grid, coupled systems and data assimilation.

21 However, the existing coastal operational modelling, forecasting and services are fragmented.  
22 The coordination only happens at a limited level, mainly done by ROOSes. A significant  
23 effort made for integrating existing coastal monitoring and forecasting capacities is the EC  
24 funded The FP6 project ECOOP, which aims was developed with the objective to at  
25 consolidating, integrating and further developing existing European coastal and regional  
26 seas operational observing and forecasting systems into an integrated pan-European system  
27 targeted at detecting environmental and climate changes, predicting their evolution, producing  
28 timely and quality assured forecasts, and providing marine information services (including  
29 data, information products, knowledge and scientific advices). Unfortunately the integrated  
30 approach in ECOOP did not continue. In Copernicus service, the coastal service has been  
31 regarded as a downstream activity and therefore has not been part of CMEMS. Recently such  
32 objectives and tasks are now largely taken over by CMEMS. The research in this area has

1 been identified as a CMEMS research priority - Seamless interactions between basin and  
2 coastal systems (CMEMS STAC, 2015).

3 However, many key dynamic processes in the CSW have not been well resolved by the  
4 existing forecasting systems developed in ECOOP and CMEMS. This includes coupling  
5 between sediment, optics, physical and ecosystem, vertical exchange between atmosphere,  
6 water and bottom, bathymetry change, interaction between river and sea waters, small scale  
7 features such as sub-mesoscale eddies, river plumes etc., Sediment transport and coastal  
8 morphology models have not been included as part of the forecasting system.

9 Alternatively, the coupled hydrodynamic-wave-sediment models have been developed and  
10 used in commercial applications for many years. Some of them are even made available for  
11 the public use. It is expected that the existing knowledge and modelling tools for CSW will be  
12 integrated into operational systems through close cooperation between the operational  
13 oceanography community and the private sector.

14 |

1 **Developing European operational oceanography for Blue Growth, climate change  
2 adaptation and mitigation and ecosystem-based management**

3  
4 **J. She<sup>1</sup>, I. Allen<sup>2</sup>, E. Buch<sup>3</sup>, A. Crise<sup>4</sup>, J. A. Johannessen<sup>5</sup>, P. Y. Le Traon<sup>6</sup>, U.  
5 Lips<sup>7</sup>, G. Nolan<sup>4</sup>, N. Pinardi<sup>8</sup>, J. H. Reißmann<sup>9</sup>, J. Siddorn<sup>10</sup>, E. Stanev<sup>11</sup> and H.  
6 Wehde<sup>12</sup>**

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15 Italy}

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19 Hamburg, Germany}

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21 Correspondence to: J. She (js@dmi.dk)

22

23

1

2 **Abstract**

3 “Operational Approaches” have been more and more widely developed and used for  
4 providing marine data and information service for different socio-economic sectors of the  
5 Blue Growth and to advance knowledge about the marine environment. The objective of  
6 operational oceanographic research is to develop and improve the efficiency, timeliness,  
7 robustness and product quality of this approach. This white paper aims to address key  
8 scientific challenges and research priorities for the development of operational oceanography  
9 in Europe for the next 5-10 years. Knowledge gaps and deficiencies are identified in relation  
10 to common scientific challenges in four EuroGOOS knowledge areas: European Ocean  
11 Observations, Modelling and Forecasting Technology, Coastal Operational Oceanography  
12 and Operational Ecology. The areas “European Ocean Observations” and “Modelling and  
13 Forecasting Technology” focus on the further advancement of the basic instruments and  
14 capacities for European operational oceanography, while “Coastal Operational  
15 Oceanography” and “Operational Ecology” aim at developing new operational approaches for  
16 the corresponding knowledge areas.

17

18

1    **1 Introduction**

2    Operational oceanography, including ocean monitoring, analysis, reanalysis, forecasting and  
3    service provision is a branch of science that requires continuous implementation of the most  
4    advanced research findings to comply with ocean user needs. Inherent to operational  
5    oceanography is also the sustained production, timely delivery, automated qualification and  
6    free access to observations in near real time. Moreover, operational oceanography delivers  
7    products and information that are crucial for the research community to gain major  
8    understanding and advance knowledge and technology in the marine sector.

9    In the past decades, due to growing blue economy and challenges for adaption and  
10   mitigation to climate change as well as the improved capacities on operational marine service,  
11   “Operational Approaches” have been developed for a variety of socio-economic sectors,  
12   ranging from public service for coastal hazards in the beginning to emerging areas such as  
13   marine ecosystem and maritime services and integrated coastal zone management services.  
14   Such Operational Approaches share common features in their value-chain, i.e., user- and  
15   science-driven, knowledge- and technology-based, operation-practiced and service-oriented  
16   (She, 2015). The areas of interests for future research are determined by both user needs and  
17   current state of the scientific frontier. New knowledge and technologies, generated from the  
18   research, will then be incorporated into operational oceanography systems that provide the  
19   users with data and information products.

20   Operational oceanography in Europe was mainly initiated and sustained at national level  
21   before the 1990s. Aiming at integrating the operational oceanography development in  
22   regional and European scales, EuroGOOS from its very start established Regional Operational  
23   Oceanography Systems (ROOSes), such as for the Arctic Ocean, Baltic Sea, Northwest Shelf  
24   Sea, Ireland-Biscay-Iberia Seas and the Mediterranean Sea, EuroGOOS and its ROOSes have  
25   played an active role in data exchange, sharing the best practice and knowledge, harmonising  
26   monitoring networks and forecasting systems and stimulating joint research activities. Since  
27   Framework Program IV, the European Commission (EC) has continuously supported research  
28   on integration and development of European operational oceanography monitoring and  
29   forecasting systems, especially through Operational Forecasting Cluster projects  
30   (Cieslikiewicz et al. 2004), MERSEA (Marine Environment and Security for the European  
31   Area, Johannessen et al, 2006) and GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security,  
32   currently referred to as Copernicus) Marine Service program (Bahurel et al. 2010). The

1 development in the last 20 years has helped advance the existing national services and  
2 establishing new ones in many of the European countries. At the European level, an integrated  
3 capacity – the MyOcean operational monitoring and forecasting systems for global, Arctic  
4 and European regional seas has been established, which is now transformed into the  
5 Copernicus Marine Environmental Monitoring Service (CMEMS,  
6 <http://marine.copernicus.eu/>) program in the period 2015-2020.

7 Thanks to these national- and EU-funded programs we have seen major scientific  
8 achievements in the development of Earth Observation (EO) data management, short-term  
9 forecasting systems (including data assimilation) and reconstruction of long-term historical  
10 database through reanalysis and reprocessing. Long-term prediction, ecosystem prediction,  
11 coastal services and optimisation of European marine monitoring systems, have also been  
12 improved but with relatively lower levels of maturity and integration than the physical part of  
13 the CMEMS system.

14 In recent years, user requirements for operational marine data and information have largely  
15 increased due to the growing blue economy (e.g. marine energy, maritime transport, coastal  
16 and offshore engineering and marine bio-resources), implementation of European polices in  
17 marine-related Directives and regional marine environmental conventions (e.g. ecosystem-  
18 based management), adaptation to and mitigation of climate change as well as public services  
19 (e.g. disaster warning and protections). Although European operational oceanography has  
20 made significant advancements in the last two-decades, great challenges still exist in view to  
21 serve fast growing user needs. A large part of them can be summarised in four key knowledge  
22 areas: (i) European ocean observations; (ii) Modelling and forecasting technology; (iii)  
23 Operational oceanography in the coastal oceans and (iv) Operational Ecology (OE) (She,  
24 2015).

25 This paper describes the objectives, challenges and research priorities in the above four  
26 areas, both in the short- to mid- term (1-5years) and long-term (5-10 years and more). Among  
27 the four areas, (i) and (ii) focus on the further advancement and integration of existing  
28 operational oceanography areas. The two areas are closely integrated and provide a basis for  
29 building up European operational oceanography, which will be described in the Sect. 2 and 3.  
30 (iii) and (iv) are identified as two of the major emerging operational oceanography areas  
31 where the operational approaches based on the scientific state-of-the-art are still under  
32 development and which have to increase the significance in supporting sustained socio-

1 economic development. Such an operational approach will provide a sustained development  
2 and service platform and significantly improve efficiency, quality and timeliness of the  
3 current services supporting Blue Growth, especially for the implementation of integrated  
4 coastal zone management and ecosystem-based management. The research in (iii) and (iv) can  
5 benefit from (i) and (ii), but also develop in their own directions as emerging research areas.  
6 Details can be found in Sect. 4 and 5. It is notified that the areas (iii) and (iv) are partly  
7 overlapping with (i) and (ii) but with different focuses and ambitions. A summary and  
8 discussion is given in Sect. 6, to provide a harmonised overview and address some missing  
9 issues of the paper.

## 10 **2 European Ocean Observations**

11 Since the establishment of EuroGOOS, it has been a central focal issue of EuroGOOS  
12 research to sustain, enhance and optimise the European ocean observing systems (Prandle et  
13 al., 2003; Nittis et al., 2014). With dual roles in ocean monitoring, i.e., both as observation  
14 providers and users, EuroGOOS members have different concerns. As a data provider, one  
15 needs to maximise the value of end-to-end data delivery and improve the cost-efficiency for  
16 making observations; as a user, one requires easy, fast and open access to a maximum of  
17 available qualified observations for operational oceanography applications.

18 Maximising the value delivery: as monitoring agencies, EuroGOOS members are  
19 responsible for delivering observations with maximised benefits to users for supporting  
20 European Blue Growth and public affairs:

- 21 | - Values from data to product: improving observational data use for core marine products through i) the timely delivery of available observations for operational use; ii) the maximum use of observations in analysis, forecast, reanalysis and reprocessing; iii) improved understanding of product skill through improved use of observations in validation and verification activities.
- 26 | - Values from data to knowledge: new knowledge generation by using observations together with models to understand physical and ecosystem processes and improve model parameterisations/forecasts.
- 29 | - Values from data to socio-economic benefit: exploiting societal value of marine observations through innovative fit-for-purpose socio-economic applications in a variety of social benefit areas by using observations together with models and sectorial data.

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1 Improving the cost-efficiency: EuroGOOS members need to undertake cost-efficient  
2 monitoring activities. This requires research and development on the assessment and design  
3 of cost-effective ocean observing networks through optimisation of sampling strategy,  
4 integration and coordination of observational infrastructure and efficient data management.

5 Data access and harvesting for operational oceanography applications: EuroGOOS needs to  
6 quantify the needs of ocean observations for operational oceanography applications, including  
7 parameters, data quality, sampling density and delivery time window. This analysis is  
8 instrumental to produce a coherent vision on future development of the observational  
9 component and its research and innovation priorities. In addition, timely access to the  
10 observations, both in online and offline modes, must be ensured. This requires EuroGOOS to  
11 work closely with other European ocean monitoring and data providers and management  
12 centres. Among the former are the environmental monitoring agencies coordinated under  
13 regional conventions (Helsinki Convention, Oslo and Paris Convention, and Barcelona  
14 Convention) and EEA, fishery monitoring community and research and commercial  
15 monitoring communities. Data management centres include ICES for handling marine and  
16 ecosystem data from the Baltic and North Sea, SeaDataNet for managing the offline physical  
17 and biogeochemical data, the CMEMS In-Situ Thematic Assembly Centre (TAC) for real  
18 time and delayed mode data required by the CMEMS and EMODnet for managing all types  
19 of marine data ranging from physical data to human activities, both online and offline. All  
20 these initiatives are and should be further coordinated. EuroGOOS members are directly  
21 involved in EMODnet and the CMEMS in-situ TAC and this ensures that these two major  
22 initiatives contribute to the overarching goal of facilitating the access to ocean data for  
23 operational oceanography. EuroGOOS also has a vision on observing systems for a close  
24 dialogue with major users (e.g. COPERNICUS Marine Services) in order to align efforts to  
25 their requirements (and take advantages of feedbacks) and at same time to  
26 influence/harmonize the development of the national components.

27 Operational monitoring and data handling in emerging areas: our knowledge on marine  
28 ecosystems are evolving in the process of serving the growing blue economy and ecosystem-  
29 based management, and new challenges are also identified for data and information needs in  
30 emerging areas. Such emerging areas include, but not limited to, bottom sedimentation and  
31 resuspension, ocean acidification, marine pollution in related to noise and marine litter  
32 especially plastic/paraffin etc. These areas are normally beyond the existing scope of

1 operational oceanography hence new monitoring and modelling technology should be  
2 developed. Furthermore, it becomes increasingly important to integrate “non-operational”  
3 observations, e.g., from tagged marine mammals, offshore commercial platforms and research  
4 observatories as well as sectorial information, e.g. ship data from Automatic Identification  
5 System, into an operational monitoring and data management framework.

6 Research on European Ocean Observations will aim at delivering the above objectives. The  
7 basic aspect of this research is to integrate existing observational infrastructure in operational  
8 oceanography. As emphasized in the EuroGOOS Strategy Plan (2014-2020), (Nittis et al.  
9 2014), EuroGOOS will promote the need for the development of an integrated European  
10 Ocean Observing System (EOOS) during the coming years in partnership with the  
11 EuroGOOS ROOSes. The proposed system will be based to a large extent on past and  
12 planned investments: national systems, regional collaborative observing programs such as  
13 FerryBox and Voluntary Observing Ships, European programs and research infrastructures  
14 such as: Euro-Argo, JERICO-NEXT, FixO3, EGO, HF-Radars etc. However, following a  
15 *system* approach implies an additional level of operational networking and a governance  
16 scheme that will allow common programming and joint investments.

17 EuroGOOS is taking the initiative to lead and coordinate activities within the various  
18 observation platforms by enhancing the ROOS cooperation and establishing a number of  
19 Ocean Observing Task Teams such as HF-Radar, Glider, Ferrybox and Tide Gauges etc. and  
20 with strong link to Euro-Argo and its European legal entity (~~Euro-Argo ERIC~~ [\(European  
21 Research Infrastructure Consortium\)](#)). The purpose is to get these groups well organized  
22 creating synergy within the Task Teams themselves and across the Task Teams. This effort  
23 will be carried out in collaboration with the European Marine Board and other initiatives such  
24 as JPI-Oceans [\(The Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans\)](#).

25 ~~Besides the progresses made in in-situ marine observing, The development of~~ satellite  
26 oceanography ~~has also been significantly advanced~~ in the last two decades ~~has also and~~  
27 become a major component of operational oceanography, as documented by Le Traon et al.,  
28 (2015). Satellites provide real time and regular, global, high spatial and temporal resolution  
29 observation of key ocean variables that are essential to constrain ocean models through data  
30 assimilation and/or to serve downstream applications.

1      The future research on European ocean observations will evolve with advances in the  
2      observation capacities, such as the variety of Argo profiling floats (e.g. Bio-Argo, shallow  
3      water-Argo, abyssal-Argo, under-ice Argo), innovative in-situ monitoring (e.g. ITP – Ice  
4      Tethered Profiler, Ice Mass Balance Buoys, ferrybox and gliders etc.), cabled observatories  
5      and ocean acoustics. Moreover, integration with satellite based observations, both polar-  
6      orbiting and geostationary satellites, are highly important. The outlook on future missions  
7      within the next decade is promising. The satellite constellation should be improved and new  
8      missions with a potentially large impact for operational oceanography (such as the Sentinel  
9      missions) should be demonstrated. International collaboration will be crucial to optimize and  
10     make best use of the satellite observations (e.g. sensor synergy, calibration, validation) from  
11     the growing number of space agencies. Moreover, more efforts will also be required to ensure  
12     homogenized and inter-calibrated data sets from multiple missions for all essential ocean  
13     variables.

14     The on-going and forthcoming EC Horizon 2020 supported projects such as AtlantOS for  
15     the Atlantic Ocean, JERICO-NEXT for coastal observatories, and the calls on the Integrated  
16     Arctic Observing System and the Mediterranean Observing System with submission in  
17     February 2016 will strengthen the integration of European ocean observing systems.

18     In the long-run, it is foreseen that European Ocean Observations will become more  
19     integrated, coordinated and efficient. The related activities will be described below in two  
20     categories: development and integration of ocean observing systems and assessment and  
21     optimisation of observational networks. The former is dedicated to maximum value delivery  
22     of observations, ad hoc optimisation of monitoring networks and data harvesting for  
23     operational oceanography and the latter to improve the cost-effectiveness of the EOOS  
24     through quantitative impact and design studies.

## 25     **2.1 Development and integration of ocean observing systems**

26     The goals of the integration of the ocean observing systems are: (i) maximising the amount of  
27     timely and quality assured observations for operational oceanography; (ii) improving the cost-  
28     effectiveness of current monitoring components; (iii) improving the sustainability; (iv)  
29     delivery of new observations for operational oceanography and (v) improving the efficiency  
30     of managing and using big data. To reach these goals, the following challenges have been  
31     identified.

### 1    2.1.1 Short- to mid-term objectives

- 2    - Reducing the observation gaps: Integrating existing non-operational, multi-source  
3    observations at regional level to ensure more timely access, delivery, and usage of  
4    observations for analysis/forecasting and regular ocean state estimation; identify critical  
5    “data delivery time windows” for operational forecasting and harmonise the data format,  
6    metadata and quality standard; integrating new observations into the existing operational  
7    data flow, promoting the historical data gathering in coordination with EMODnet (in  
8    particular for biogeochemical variables); widening the usage of innovative cost-effective  
9    monitoring technology e.g. ferrybox, HF radar and Bio-Argo etc. in operational  
10   monitoring.
- 11   - Ensuring open availability of innovative multi-sensor satellite observation retrieval  
12   algorithms for essential ocean and ice variables with higher quality: Using *in-situ*  
13   measurements and multi-variate met-ocean data to calibrate, validate and improve the  
14   relevant remote sensing data and products, including possible new products derived from  
15   space infrastructures both in Europe and other countries such as USA, China, Japan and  
16   India etc.
- 17   - Coordinated use of marine infrastructures at regional level: For instance in multi-lateral  
18   coordination of research vessel based monitoring, mobilisation of additional relocatable  
19   observational infrastructure (e.g., AUVs, gliders and drifters) with coordinated sampling  
20   schemes etc. Although difficult, coordinated monitoring planning such as on ship time,  
21   sampling locations and mobilisation of the observational infrastructure can make  
22   significant improvements in terms of the cost and benefit.
- 23   - Testing the effectiveness of existing (semi)automated sensors for chemical and biological  
24   observations.
- 25   - Data processing: further development of real-time quality control protocols; development  
26   of advanced data products (value-added) merging different type of observations,  
27   especially those including new satellite and in-situ observations; establishing systematic  
28   and consistent observation-based analyses framework as suggested by Chapron et al.,  
29   (2010).

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## 1    2.1.2 Longer-term objectives

- 2    - New observations: Filling the monitoring gaps in key locations by deploying innovative  
3    multi-platform sensors; promote the development of a deep-sea network of pressure gauge  
4    (needed also for calibration of satellite sea level products); developing limited number of  
5    supersites located in critical areas (in particular in open sea) with a multi-platform  
6    approach; developing marine mammal tagged observations; developing operational  
7    monitoring instruments and data handling tools for underwater noise and marine litter.
- 8    - Integration of observations from the research community and private sectors: With the  
9    progress of engaging research community (e.g. promoting the use of data doi) and private  
10   sectors in operational oceanography, the observations made by them should be collected  
11   and shared for operational oceanography research and other secondary uses.
- 12   - Coordinated and cost-effective deployment of multi-platform infrastructure at regional  
13   level, e.g. high quality ship-board and bottom-mounted ADCP monitoring, ferrybox, HF  
14   radar, moorings, cabled stations, innovative use of light houses and other offshore  
15   platforms etc.
- 16   - Transferring, expanding and integrating mature, cost-effective monitoring technology e.g.  
17   HF radar for general operational use.
- 18   - New technology for operational monitoring: Developing cost-effective multi-sensors and  
19   robust calibration protocol especially for biogeochemical measurements, sediment,  
20   underwater noises and marine pollutants.
- 21   - Exploring the operational potential of present and innovative initiatives in the field of  
22   citizen science (sea state observation, marine litter, ocean colour, jellyfish, etc.).
- 23   - Efficient big data management: It has been a challenge to quickly access and extract  
24   increasing amounts of Earth Observation (EO) data which can be of order of Peta- to  
25   Exabyte scale. The Earth System Grid Framework has been developed to facilitate data  
26   extraction from multiple data centres. However bottlenecks exist inside each data centre  
27   for online access to medium amounts of data ( $10^2$  - $10^3$  Tb). An efficient data management  
28   framework should be developed for online access, download, view and analysis to data  
29   from a distributed multi-server local network. Novel technologies will be foreseen to  
30   move toward an open source array-oriented database management system. Further

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1 development of data mining and image processing techniques is needed to facilitate the  
2 automatic extraction and analysis of patterns from big data sets.

- 3 - Interoperability: Identifying a strategy to move from the NetCDF, file transfer based, data  
4 exchange technology to the GEOSS philosophy (compliant where necessary to ISO  
5 [\(International Organization for Standardization\)](#) standards) based on interoperable web  
6 services.

## 7 **2.2 Assessment and optimal design of ocean observing networks**

8 The goal of the marine monitoring network assessment and optimal design research is to  
9 identify the gaps in existing observing systems and to optimise their cost-effectiveness. The  
10 EC has continuously supported this research area since early 2000. The assessment and design  
11 studies can be divided into ad-hoc studies and quantitative studies. The ad-hoc studies have  
12 been carried out in many EC funded observing system projects such as EDIOS, SeaDataNet  
13 and recent fit-for-purpose assessment by DG-MARE ([The Directorate-General for Maritime](#)  
14 [Affairs and Fisheries](#)) ([Sea Basin Checkpoint projects for European Seas](#)). The ad hoc  
15 assessment work has led to the establishment of the meta database and identification of data  
16 availability and accessibility etc. On the other hand, a variety of quantitative assessment and  
17 optimal design research have also been carried out in EC projects ODON, ECOOP, JERICO  
18 and OPEC, and are now continuing in JERICO-NEXT and AtlantOS. Both statistical  
19 assessment and optimal design methods as well as assimilative model-based method – OSE  
20 (Observing System Experiment) and OSSE (Observing System Simulation Experiment), have  
21 been developed and applied in these projects. Large parts of the physical and biological  
22 operational monitoring network (SST, T/S, nutrients, oxygen and chl-a) in European Seas  
23 have been assessed in terms of effective coverages and explained variance (She et al., 2007;  
24 Fu et al., 2011). The OSEs and OSSEs have also been applied in assessing and optimising  
25 physical monitoring networks, e.g., in FP5 project ODON and FP7 project JERICO. The  
26 strengths of OSEs and OSSEs are that impacts of a given sampling scheme can be  
27 quantitatively assessed in terms of improvements of forecasts (Oke and Sakov, 2012; Turpin  
28 et al., 2015). The weakness is that the results are model dependent and it can only address one  
29 sampling scheme per simulation. The statistical method has the strength of being a quick  
30 assessment and can be easily applied to find one optimal sampling scheme among many given  
31 candidates. A potential integration of the two approaches is expected to combine the relative  
32 strong points.

### 1    2.2.1 Short- to mid-term objectives

- 2    - Quantitative assessment of gaps and redundancy for operational forecasting: Assessing representativeness, sampling error and impacts of European marine monitoring in-situ components (incl. non-operational components) on operational analysis and forecasting to identify critical gaps and redundancy areas, with including existing satellite data, modelling and assimilation techniques.
- 7    - Development of automatic observation network evaluation tools which can provides estimates of quality parameters of the network, such as effective coverage, sampling error, explained variance, reconstruction error and forecasting error, for sampling schemes defined by the users.
- 11   - Impact study method development: Development of more robust methodologies (i.e. to ensure results as independent as possible from model and error assumptions) to conduct impact studies;

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### 14    2.2.2 Longer-term objectives

- 15   - Optimal design: Identification of critical observation gaps and redundancy in parameters, space and time; providing quantitative optimal designs of new cost-effective components of EOOS as well as guidance to the in situ observing communities on how to optimise observing strategies (e.g., sampling scheme, technology etc.) and the complementarity with Sentinel missions; adopting an integrated, user-driven and science- and technology-based design approach by combining the relevant scientific, technological and management resources.
- 22   - Improvement of monitoring schemes at regional level: Based on impact and/or design study, identifying monitoring cases with significant cost-effectiveness improvement in the integration of existing systems, ship time planning, integrated and/or mobilised use of observational infrastructures etc.; implementing the cases by integrating monitoring technology (in-situ and remote sensing), sampling schemes, monitoring objectives, modelling capacity, user needs and investment as a whole. Detailed knowledge should be developed on how different monitoring platforms, assimilation and understanding of dynamic processes can benefit each other to reach a cost-effective design of the system. Delivery time vs. user needs should also be mapped and evaluated for both physical and biogeochemical variables.

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1 | - Promote, design and carry out large scale, integrated field experiments: in order to make  
2 | breakthrough in new areas of operational oceanography, such as for coastal shallow  
3 | waters and operational ecology, dedicated large scale field experiments are needed with an  
4 | integrated monitoring-modelling approach. The knowledge and technological gaps should  
5 | be identified, filled and transformed into the corresponding monitoring and forecasting  
6 | systems. Examples with more details can be found in Sects. 4 and 5 – Coastal Operational  
7 | Oceanography Experiment and Operational Ecology European Experiment.

8 |  
9 | **3 Operational modelling and forecasting technology**  
10 | Modern ocean and ecosystem prediction and state estimation is built upon a combination of  
11 | ocean models and observations. The advanced science and technology in forecasts is at the  
12 | centre of earth system science challenges, as shown in Fig. 1, together with innovation,  
13 | observing, responding and confining the impacts (ICSU, 2010). The accuracy of the ocean  
14 | prediction relies on the model quality both on dynamics and numerical solver, model setup,  
15 | quality and amount of forcing data and observation data and the quality of pre-processing,  
16 | assimilation and post-processing technology. In this section we divided the modelling related  
17 | research areas into model development and forecasting technology, e.g., data assimilation,  
18 | nowcasting and probabilistic forecast etc.

19 |  
20 | **3.1 Model development**  
21 | In recent years seamless modelling and forecasting system development has become a major  
22 | focus to develop a unified framework for modelling and forecasting on both weather and  
23 | climate scales (Shukla 2009). Recently the WMO published the scientific report “Seamless  
24 | prediction of the earth system: from minutes to months” which announces a new era of  
25 | development of our forecasting capacity into “Unified Earth System Models - UEM” (WMO,  
26 | 2015). Some countries, such as the United Kingdom and USA, have worked on a seamless  
27 | approach to weather and climate prediction by developing common modelling tools for  
28 | weather and climate for years. For the ocean-sea ice-wave-ecosystem prediction, existing  
29 | boundaries of prediction between different time scales were mainly delimited due to  
30 | computational and model complexity considerations. Current CMEMS operational models  
31 | such NEMO, HYCOM and HBM etc. have also been used in the long-term simulations such

1 as hindcast, reanalysis and climate projections. It is timely to build the next generation  
2 European operational ocean-sea ice-wave-ecosystem models in the framework of the “Unified  
3 Ocean system Model (UOM)”.

4 The UOM means that the ocean subsystem models (i.e., ocean, sea ice, wave, sediment  
5 transport, marine ecosystem etc.) are able to serve the purpose of applications on all time  
6 scales, ranging from nowcasting to climate projections. This requires that the model (i) has a  
7 high coding standard, flexible grid and efficient numerical schemes to meet computational  
8 needs for both operational forecast and climate modelling; (ii) is able to properly resolve  
9 small scale features and extreme events as well as other features needed for operational  
10 services; (iii) meets the energy and mass conservation requirements for long-term simulations.  
11 The UOM should also be fully coupled between the subsystem models and the Unified  
12 Atmospheric Model (UAM).

13 Operational ocean modelling has been significantly advanced in the last 20 years in Europe.  
14 A great number of physical ocean-ice models have been developed and used in operational  
15 forecasting such as NEMO, HBM, HYCOM, ROMS, MITGCM etc. In recent years a very  
16 strong movement in the physical ocean modelling community is the NEMO model  
17 development, with supports from both the national and European level. More and more  
18 countries start to use NEMO as their operational model. On the other hand, using different  
19 models in Europe for operational forecasting are also necessary as no single model can solve  
20 all problems. Quite a few ecological models have also been developed for operational  
21 forecasting such as ERSEM, ERGOM, BFM, ECO3M, BIMS\_ECO, NORWECOM,  
22 ECOSMO etc. High trophic models have also been developed for the forecasting purpose e.g.  
23 in OPEC project. The state-of-the-art European wave models and ocean-wave coupling have  
24 been further advanced for operational forecasting in MyWave project, which is an important  
25 step towards Copernicus wave service.

26 There will probably be in the future several prototype European UOMs, depending on  
27 further development of the existing state-of-the-art and available resources (both funding and  
28 modelling expertise) in Europe. Some UOMs may have a capacity to covers a wide range of  
29 spatial scales ranging from coastal to global ocean. Others may only cover multi-basin, basin  
30 and coastal oceans.

31 The operational ocean models for the European Seas provide nowcasting and forecasting  
32 ranging from hours to days, which have to resolve mesoscale and smaller scales, high

frequency phenomena and extreme events. The models have to be calibrated to reach certain quality standards to meet the user needs, and regularly verified against observations. These models have also been used for generating hindcast, reanalysis and climate projections. However, in order to use the existing operational models for climate scale applications, there still exist significant challenges in improving the computing efficiency and energy and mass conservation features of the operational models. The benchmark test of the climate UOM should be made for above two issues.

The computational aspect of the UOM concerns both computation speed and total consumption of electricity. Computational efficiency is the key both to enhance the speed and reduce the total energy consumption. Forecasting and climate modelling for the entire coupled ocean system in a probabilistic framework are extremely computational demanding. For future seamless modelling, the minimum requirement is that the UOM should fulfil computational limits for both operational and climate modelling, e.g. delivering a 5-10 day forecast daily within 2-4 hours and a hundred year run within a few months. In addition, the model code should be optimised in order to minimise the total electricity consumption which needs close cooperation between model developers, HPC experts and hardware producers.

In order to use the operational UOM for climate applications, the model should be able to generate a stable solution (with no significant trend) by running for several hundreds of years without including anthropogenic effects. This serves as a basic requirement (of energy and mass conservation) for climate modelling. The development of UOM is a long-term goal which may be reached in 10 years or even longer, while the short- to mid-term model development will be mainly driven by large scale operational oceanography projects such as CMEMS and those in Horizon 2020 Calls which mainly focus on developing the existing modelling framework at basin and global scales. The ideal situation is that the short- to mid-term European ocean model development can be effectively integrated into the UOM framework.

In the short- to mid-term, the objective of the model development work is to develop a European UOM framework and continuous improvement of the deterministic prediction models with forecast range of 10 days or longer. The research should focus on (i) designing the UOM concept and framework and develop a roadmap towards the UOM; (ii) improving description of model processes so that each UOM sub-model can effectively model major features in the subsystem; (iii) improving the code quality and high performance computing;

1 (iv) improving the UOM subsystem coupling and UOM-UAM coupling and (v) developing  
2 high resolution models with flexible grids and interfaces with basin and global scale models,  
3 and resolving coastal processes for downstream applications. Some of the above research  
4 topics, such as increased resolution, improved parameterisations and atmosphere-ocean-sea  
5 ice-wave coupling etc., have been addressed in the research priorities of CMEMS Service  
6 Evolution strategy (CMEMS STAC (Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee), 2015).

7 Modelling framework development: in the European ocean modelling community, a  
8 roadmap towards the UOM is needed, which shall cover but not be limited to, coding  
9 standards, code adaptation to many-core computer architectures, coupling framework, new  
10 model component e.g., sediment transport and high trophic level models, and sharing best  
11 practices of the model development. Detailed analysis of user and computational needs on the  
12 future UOMs should be made. The best practices from both ocean and atmospheric model  
13 development should be used to develop such a roadmap.

14 Integration of best practice into the UOM framework: due to the lack of resources at  
15 national level for ocean model development it is very important to share best practice in  
16 operational modelling. One way for sharing best practice is through Community model  
17 development such as NEMO. There are also a few initiatives started recently to develop a  
18 Research to Operations (R2O) strategy meeting the needs for modernization of numerical  
19 models to support the forecasting process. One of such interesting platforms is the hurricane  
20 R2O developmental testbed (Bernardet et al., 2015), an initiative hinging on three activities:  
21 establishing a solid code management practice, supporting the research community in using  
22 the operational model and inserting innovations and conducting model testing and evaluation  
23 in a well-established and harmonized framework. Such ideas, though applied in meteorology,  
24 can also be useful in the establishment of the UOM framework. Concerted action among the  
25 European modelling groups is also important for integrating the progress in the different  
26 modelling groups into the future UOM framework. EuroGOOS has initiated a Coastal and  
27 Shelf model Working Group (COSMO) to promote the model knowledge exchange and best-  
28 practice sharing.

29 Improving deterministic models: although operational physical ocean models are much  
30 more mature than the ecological models, there still exists well-known challenges such as  
31 unrealistic diapycnal mixing, resolving bottom layers and sharp pycnoclines, flow over steep  
32 topography, water exchange through narrow straits, configuration of surface fluxes in a

1 coupled framework, vertical transport of substances, sub-grid parameterisation, binary  
2 identical code and capacity for using new high performance computing architectures. Progress  
3 in the above areas will directly improve the model quality.

4 Development of coupled systems: research in the development of the coupled system and  
5 predictability study will evolve in Horizon 2020 program and the Copernicus Service  
6 especially CMEMS systems. While coupled atmosphere-ocean-ice-wave models have been  
7 developed in global level for climate research and seasonal forecasting, regional coupled  
8 systems for synoptic scale prediction remain to be developed. Proper implementation of the  
9 air-sea-ice interaction and data assimilation for the coupled system are essential for correctly  
10 resolving corresponding diurnal variability. Predictability is expected to be prolonged in a  
11 coupled forecasting system, which should be explored. The future development will also  
12 contribute and draw momentum from on-going GODAE-OceanView (Brassington et al. 2015,  
13 in prep., [https://www.godae-](https://www.godae-oceanview.org/publications/special-issues/)  
14 [oceanview.org/publications/special-issues/](https://www.godae-oceanview.org/publications/special-issues/)).

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15 Emerging modelling areas: in order to develop future UOM, integration and extensions of  
16 current European capacity in spatial-temporal scale and parameter dimensions are needed. It  
17 is worthwhile to mention that the model development in the CMEMS strategy mainly focuses  
18 on the evolution of The existing global and basin scale operational models (ocean-sea ice-  
19 wave-biogeochemistry) can be evolved to resolve estuary and straits, while existing estuary-  
20 coastal-sea models can be extended to cover multi-basins. New emerging models such as  
21 sediment transport and high trophic level models, and models for downstream services such  
22 as coastal inundation model, unstructured grid models need to be further matured and  
23 integrated with existing operational systems. have not been sufficiently addressed in the  
24 strategy. In addition to the model development, comprehensive verification studies should be  
25 made especially for the ecological models and models in Arctic models in order to understand  
26 their drawbacks of the models. For the ice model, mesoscale sea ice rheology will be needed  
27 to describe lead dynamics of the ice. More discussions on the development of marine  
28 ecosystem models can be found in Sect. 5 – Operational Ecology.

29 The above short- and mid-term research will significantly improve the efficiency and  
30 accuracy of the model performance at synoptic scales, which will provide a basis for building  
31 up European UOMs. In the long-term, it is important to reach breakthroughs in seasonal  
32 forecasting for the European earth system and to improve the quality and efficiency of the

1 UOMs in generating climate simulations. The research here focuses on probabilistic forecast,  
2 coupled UAM-UOM models with multi-grids and medium-high resolution, efficient high  
3 performance computing for global, multi-basin and coastal scales. The research is a further  
4 extension and integration of the existing deterministic UAM-UOM modelling framework  
5 which has been developed in the short- and mid-term research.

6 In the long-term, UOMs for solving problems at pan-European Seas and Arctic-North  
7 Atlantic scale should be developed. Since European regional seas are connected through  
8 straits (some with widths of a few hundred meters to kilometres), the UOM for climate scale  
9 applications have to resolve such scales in order to model correctly the inter-basin transport.  
10 Besides, implementation of European policies, such as the Climate Directive, Common  
11 Fishery Policy and Marine Strategy Framework Directive etc., needs a harmonised European  
12 Seas database to support the decision-making. An UOM at pan-European scale will fit this  
13 purpose. The model system should be able to resolve and/or permit mesoscale eddies and  
14 resolve narrow straits. The current operational models, such as the UOM developed for  
15 deterministic prediction, can be further developed for this purpose with two-way nesting.  
16 Other alternatives include unstructured grid models.

17 For the seasonal and longer scales, it has been found that the Arctic condition has great  
18 impacts on the European weather and climate. An Arctic-North Atlantic coupled atmosphere-  
19 ocean-ice-wave component should be developed as a key part of the future European Earth  
20 System Model. The advantage of the regional coupled Arctic system is that high resolution  
21 can be used and research efforts can be focused on the Arctic related processes such as  
22 atmosphere-ocean-ice coupling and sea ice dynamics etc. A few regional coupled atmosphere-  
23 ocean-ice systems, e.g. RASM (Maslowski et al., 2012) and national systems in Sweden,  
24 Norway and Denmark, have already been tested for Arctic climate research. The development  
25 of the future Arctic-North Atlantic coupled model should also take the advantage of the  
26 Horizon 2020 Blue Growth Calls on Arctic: BG9 – Integrated Arctic Observing System and  
27 BG10 – Impact of Arctic on weather and climate in Northern Hemisphere and Europe, as well  
28 as the Year of Polar Prediction (YOPP).

29 As mentioned before, it is essential that the Climate UOM should be adapted to the multi-  
30 core and many-core supercomputing processors with efficient and balanced hybrid parallel  
31 computing. The current model code may have to be rewritten and restructured, as reported

1 recently in the High Performance Computing workshops organised by ECMWF and NCAR  
2 ([National Center for Atmospheric Research](#))

3 . For example, stricter coding standard should be applied to ensure the run-to-run  
4 reproducibility. More efficient coding principle such as PSyKAI (Parallel System, Kernel and  
5 Algorithm), taken in the GungHo Project which is developing a new Dynamical Core suitable  
6 for the weather and climate simulations, may benefit the UOM development; upgrading the  
7 code with SIMD (Single Instruction Multiple Data, Poulsen et al. 2014) feature has proven the  
8 benefit for the model by using new vectorisation and efficient hybrid threading for multi-core  
9 and many-core architectures.

10 **3.2 Forecasting technology**

11 Advanced model code does not necessarily mean a good forecast. Initial and forcing errors are  
12 the two major sources of the forecasting error. There are normally two ways to deal with the  
13 initial error: one is assimilating observations to obtain a more realistic initial field; the other is  
14 to perturb the initial field to generate ensembles which will be used to make a probabilistic  
15 forecast. The benefit of the ensemble forecast is that (at least) the white noise of the forecast  
16 can be largely removed by using ensemble mean, and the probabilistic forecast gives a  
17 valuable estimation of forecast uncertainties, furthermore the method enables possibilities for  
18 risk management. In this section we focus on the future research on ocean data assimilation  
19 and ensemble forecasting technology.

20 **3.2.1 Data assimilation**

21 The reduction of the product uncertainties is a central challenge for operational modelling and  
22 services, which requires continuous innovations in data assimilation. Present day assimilation  
23 approaches encompass a hierarchy of methods of increasing complexity, ranging from  
24 optimal interpolation to non-linear stochastic methods (CMEMS STAC, 2015). For open  
25 oceans, satellite measurements such as sea surface temperature, sea ice concentration and sea  
26 surface height and in-situ observations of SST and T/S profiles have been assimilated in  
27 global and regional forecasting systems for the North Atlantic, Arctic and Mediterranean Sea,  
28 such as in CMEMS Marine Forecasting Centres. For coastal and shelf sea assimilation, there  
29 have been a number of successful stories, e.g. sea level assimilation in North Sea storm surge  
30 forecast (Zijl et al., 2013), SST assimilation in CMEMS NW shelf MFC and assimilation of  
31 SST, sea ice concentration and T/S profiles in the Baltic Sea.

1 Major challenges in operational assimilation remain in the coastal and shelf waters for  
2 assimilating sea level both from satellite and in-situ tidal gauges, surface currents from HF  
3 radar, ice thickness and ice drift as well as for assimilating biogeochemical parameters. In this  
4 area, traditional Gaussian-distribution based assimilation methods such as 3DVAR or Kalman  
5 Filter-based methods have shown improvements and potential for operational applications,  
6 such as in assimilating blended satellite-in situ sea level data in Baltic-North Sea in eSurge  
7 project, satellite chl-a assimilation in OPEC project (<http://www.marine-opec.eu/documents/deliverables/D2.6.pdf>)  
8 and ferrybox SST/SSS/HF radar surface currents  
9 assimilation in the German COSYNA project (Stanev et al., 2013; 2015). However, technical  
10 difficulties remain, especially in cases with large spatial and temporal variations and high  
11 non-linearity, relatively large model uncertainties and insufficient real-time observations. All  
12 these factors, especially when added together, may often lead to non-Gaussian model error  
13 statistics which cannot be solved properly by traditional assimilation methods based on non-  
14 biased Gaussian distribution of error statistics. Severe model instability or unrealistic  
15 correction of the model initial fields may be generated.  
16

17 New, innovative assimilation methods such as stochastic assimilation methods and a  
18 common data assimilation framework such as PDAF (Parallel Data Assimilation Framework)  
19 have been developed in the FP7 SANGOMA project. Independently of SANGOMA, other  
20 efforts on modular software development have also been initiated at other European  
21 institutions, such as the OOPS project at ECMWF. The following research and development  
22 activities on data assimilation are required:

### 23 **In the short- to mid-term**

- 24 - Common assimilation framework developments: development of community tools and  
25 diagnostics in observation space, sharing of assimilation tools with the ocean modelling  
26 community and observational experts; verification methods and inter-comparison  
27 protocols suitable to probabilistic assimilation systems.
- 28 - Transferring existing best practices into operational systems: calibrating and  
29 operationalising mature assimilation schemes for observations from research vessel,  
30 buoys, ferrybox, HF radar, altimetry and tidal gauges for coastal and shelf seas.

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- 1 | - Development of new assimilation methods: stochastic assimilation methods, hybrid  
2 | assimilation methods and assimilation methods addressing non-Gaussian error statistics.  
3 | - Development of assimilation of new and novel observations: ice thickness, currents,  
4 | nutrient profiles and plankton; new data assimilation methods designed to handle strongly  
5 | nonlinear dynamics and semi-qualitative information from satellites.

6 **In the longer-term**

- 7 | - Further development of innovative assimilation methods: improving atmospheric forcing  
8 | using available observations via the ensemble Kalman filter and smoother; non-Gaussian  
9 | extensions for non-linear transformations of probability distributions to reduce data  
10 | assimilation biases by more realistic stochastic models; development of hybrid data  
11 | assimilation method; developing and implementing advanced techniques to assimilate  
12 | data into coupled ocean-ice-wave-atmosphere model systems.

13 More details the above research priorities can be found in the CMEMS Scientific Strategy  
14 (CMEMS STAC, 2015).

15 **3.2.2 Probabilistic forecasts and forecast uncertainty quantification**

16 Risk assessment and management has been set as a standard requirement for many sea-going  
17 operations and policy making, which raises needs for probabilistic forecasts and estimation of  
18 the forecast uncertainties. Due to the lack of ocean observations, it is not easy to quantify the  
19 forecast uncertainties by comparing the model data with observations. One way to estimate  
20 the model product uncertainties is to use single model ensembles or multi-model (super-  
21 ensemble) forecasts. Through perturbing the initial state, the lateral and vertical boundary  
22 condition errors and/or the model shortfalls in a sufficiently large range, it is expected that an  
23 ergodic set of the forecast ensembles can be generated which contains the true solution (the  
24 truth) as a subset. In this case, a probabilistic forecast can be estimated from the ensemble  
25 and/or super-ensemble products according to different user requirements, e.g., probability of  
26 the significant wave height higher than 5 meters within the next 24 hours. The best estimate  
27 of the forecast and its spread can also be derived. With a Gaussian-distribution assumption,  
28 the spread can be used as an estimation of the forecast uncertainty. A framework of  
29 probabilistic forecast production, validation and application has been well established in  
30 meteorology but much less in oceanography. Operational oceanography is presently  
31 developing these methods for marine short term forecasting (Counillon and Bertino, 2009).

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1 Probabilistic forecast for waves and physical ocean conditions has been developed and used  
2 in European operational oceanography in the last decade, both with ensemble and (multi-  
3 model) super-ensemble forecast. ECMWF has operated global ocean wave ensemble  
4 forecasting for some years. A regional Baltic-North Sea wave ensemble forecast has been put  
5 in operation in 2014 in the MONALISA2 project. Increasing use of ensemble data  
6 assimilation method also provides a natural platform for making 3D ocean ensemble forecast.  
7 For the European Seas, multi-model water level prediction has been developed for European  
8 Seas in ROOSes and in the ECOOP project, and used for national storm surge forecasts since  
9 early 2000s (Perez et al. 2012). Further development of multi-model ocean forecasting system  
10 has been an active part of MyOcean and CMEMS (Golbeck et al., 2015).

11 However, essential challenges in the ocean ensemble/super-ensemble forecast remain: due  
12 to the insufficient coverage of all kinds of uncertainties when generating the forecast  
13 ensembles, that the ensembles often partly contain the truth and cannot form an ergodic set;  
14 inefficient generation of the ensembles often leads to convergence of the ensembles which  
15 makes this issue worse. Multi-model ensemble in a certain sense effectively increases the  
16 number of independent ensembles and has shown very good results in ensemble forecasts.  
17 Furthermore the ensembles may not be Gaussian distributed and non-biased. In order to get a  
18 proper estimation of forecast uncertainty, probability distribution function (pdf) based and  
19 bias-corrected uncertainty estimation should be developed and applied.

20 In the short- to mid-term, research is needed for establishing a framework for ocean model  
21 probabilistic forecast validation; building up probabilistic forecasts through advancing  
22 ensemble-based assimilation; improvement of ocean model ensemble generation with more  
23 effective perturbation of initial states, forcing, lateral boundary conditions and model  
24 shortfalls to get close to an ergodic set of ensembles; further development of multi-model  
25 ensemble forecasting and transferring to operations and advancing the ensemble/super-  
26 ensemble forecast by including real-time observations and Model Output Statistics (MOS) for  
27 forecast corrections.

28 It is obvious that seamless forecasting has to be treated in a probabilistic way for a fully  
29 coupled system. In the long-term, efficient methods should be developed for estimating the  
30 forecast uncertainty including bias correction and non-Gaussian distribution of the ensembles.  
31 With the Unified Earth System Models developed for the pan-European Sea and Arctic-North  
32 Atlantic scale, a probabilistic framework should be developed for seasonal forecasting and

1 climate projections. The predictability study is needed to understand and assess the  
2 predictability of the ocean circulation, biogeochemistry and marine ecosystems at global,  
3 basin scale or regional scale, and to identify spatial and temporal scales with the strongest  
4 predictable signals in model system dynamic processes, initial states and forcing. For the  
5 historical data, the probabilistic framework and metrics are needed for the ocean reanalysis  
6 using ensemble techniques. Methods should be developed to ensure quality, homogeneity and  
7 robust uncertainty measures in the long-term time-series reconstructed from data or model  
8 reanalyses.

#### 9 **4 Operational Oceanography in the coastal ocean**

10 The coastal oceans, including coastal zones, offshore and open coastal waters, are important  
11 economic zones and key areas of European Blue Growth. One third of the EU population  
12 lives within 50 km of the coast. The GDP generated by this population amounts to more than  
13 30% of the total EU GDP. The economic value of coastal areas within 500 metre of the  
14 European shores has a total between €0.5-1 trillion per annum (European Commission,  
15 [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/state\\_coast.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/state_coast.htm) | [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/state\\_coast.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/state_coast.htm)).

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17 The coastal environment is experiencing its fastest changes ever recorded by instrumentally  
18 - sea level rise, coastal erosion, increasing water temperature and changing riverine inputs,  
19 water mass properties and mixing feature. The most vulnerable part of the coastal ocean is the  
20 Costal Shallow Waters (CSW) with a depth of a few tens of meters. This zone is subject to  
21 most dynamic changes made by winds, waves, tides, sediment transport, riverine inputs and  
22 human activities. They are also the hottest spots in marine spatial planning, maritime safety,  
23 marine pollution protection, disaster prevention, offshore wind energy, climate change  
24 adaptation and mitigation, ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management), WFD (Water  
25 Framework Directive) and MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) especially on  
26 habitat, eutrophication and hydrographic condition descriptors.

##### 27 **4.1 Operational oceanography in Coastal Waters**

###### 28 **4.1.1 State-of-the-art**

###### 29 **Monitoring**

1 Monitoring in the coastal waters has been particularly active in the past decade through both  
2 in-situ and remote sensing. Comprehensive coastal observatories have been established and  
3 maintained in the UK, Germany and some other countries. Integrated monitoring using HF  
4 radar, ferrybox, mooring buoy, shallow water Argo floats, gliders, integrated sensors and  
5 satellites have provided huge amounts of observations in the coastal waters. An important  
6 feature is that many of these datasets have high spatial or temporal resolution, which reveals  
7 mesoscale and sub-mesoscale features in coastal waters and processes of estuary-coast-sea  
8 interaction. The EC has also strongly supported the coastal monitoring infrastructure, e.g.  
9 through projects JERICO, JERICO-NEXT, COMMONSENSE and other funding instruments  
10 (e.g. European structural funds). Monitoring for commercial purposes also represents a  
11 significant data source. However, the value of existing observations in the coastal waters has  
12 far from been fully exploited, especially for operational oceanography. First, project-oriented  
13 observations have poorly been integrated into operational data flow for forecasting; second,  
14 new knowledge generated from the high resolution observations in the coastal waters is still  
15 limited; third, the coastal observations have rarely been assimilated into operational models in  
16 near real time mode.

17 In the next few years, a large amount of high resolution satellite observations will be  
18 available including the ocean colour (Sentinel 3), sediment (FCI from Meteosat Third  
19 Generation) and coastal altimetry (Sentinels). In the long-run it is expected that SWOT will  
20 provide altimetry sea level in swath and hydrological monitoring of big rivers. This will  
21 provide a sustainable monitoring base for operational oceanography in coastal waters.

22 Vertical stratification in coastal areas, especially in the river mouths, estuaries and enclosed  
23 basins, largely influences the vertical transport of substances as well as their transformation in  
24 the pycnoclines, redoxcline and at the water-sediment interface. Thus, high resolution  
25 observations through the entire water column to resolve relevant features and processes in  
26 stratified regions have to be applied. The challenge here is to achieve the proper resolution  
27 both in time and in space.

## 28 **Modelling and forecasting**

29 There have been two major issues in focus in the past decade: one is to develop forecasting  
30 models and systems for new operational coastal services, e.g., agitation forecast, inundation  
31 forecast, estuary/fjord flooding forecast and different types of drift forecasts etc.; the other is  
32 how to bridge and couple the global and basin scale forecasting systems with coastal

1 modelling applications; ~~the other is and~~ to integrate the fragmented coastal modelling systems  
2 at European scale (She and Buch, 2003).

3 ~~For the first issue, the new operational services are mainly developed by national~~  
4 ~~operational agencies. The horizontal resolution has been refined to  $10^{0-2}$  meters. This part of~~  
5 ~~the coastal OO is expected to be expanded due to the increasing user needs, improved~~  
6 ~~monitoring and forecasting capacities. Private companies have also played a major role in~~  
7 ~~coastal services which are mostly case by case services. Significantly advanced coastal~~  
8 ~~modelling systems have been developed and applied in the coastal services. Some of these~~  
9 ~~systems have been used for operational forecasting. It is expected that some of the~~  
10 ~~commercial service areas will be transformed into an operational approach, either through~~  
11 ~~cooperation with operational agencies or run the service by themselves. The European~~  
12 ~~research community has also contributed significantly to the coastal modelling systems, by~~  
13 ~~developing a variety of coastal solutions, e.g. two-way nesting, unstructured grid, coupled~~  
14 ~~systems and data assimilation.~~

15 ~~However, the existing coastal operational modelling, forecasting and services are~~  
16 ~~fragmented. The coordination only happens at a limited level, mainly done by ROOSes. A~~  
17 ~~significant effort made for integrating existing coastal monitoring and forecasting capacities is~~  
18 ~~the EC funded The FP6 project ECOOP, aiming at was developed with the objective to~~  
19 ~~consolidating, integrating and further developing existing European coastal and regional~~  
20 ~~seas operational observing and forecasting systems into an integrated pan-European system~~  
21 ~~targeted at detecting environmental and climate changes, predicting their evolution, producing~~  
22 ~~timely and quality assured forecasts, and providing marine information services (including~~  
23 ~~data, information products, knowledge and scientific advices). Unfortunately the integrated~~  
24 ~~approach in ECOOP did not continue. In Copernicus service, the coastal service has been~~  
25 ~~regarded as a downstream activity and therefore has not been part of CMEMS. Such~~  
26 ~~objectives and tasks should be further addressed, extended to resolve the estuary-coast-sea~~  
27 ~~interaction and developed into an operational framework through integration into basin-scale~~  
28 ~~operational systems. are now largely taken over by CMEMS. Recently tThe research in this~~  
29 ~~area has been identified as a CMEMS research priority - Seamless interactions between basin~~  
30 ~~and coastal systems (CMEMS STAC, 2015).~~

31 However, many key dynamic processes in the CSW have not been well resolved by the  
32 existing forecasting systems developed in ECOOP and CMEMS. This includes coupling

1 between sediment, optics, physical and ecosystem, vertical exchange between atmosphere,  
2 water and bottom, bathymetry change, interaction between river and sea waters, small scale  
3 features such as sub-mesoscale eddies, river plumes etc., Sediment transport and coastal  
4 morphology models have not been included as part of the forecasting system.

5 Alternatively, the coupled hydrodynamic-wave-sediment models have been developed and  
6 used in commercial applications for many years. Some of them are even made available for  
7 the public use. It is expected that the existing knowledge and modelling tools for CSW will be  
8 integrated into operational systems through close cooperation between the operational  
9 oceanography community and the private sector.

#### 10 **4.1.2 Research priorities in coastal waters**

11 The long-term goal is to develop an operational oceanography framework which can resolve  
12 major marine data and information service issues especially in the CSW. This requires  
13 upgrading existing operational coastal ocean forecasting system with new components (e.g.,  
14 sediment transport, inundation model, marine optics model) and new dynamic processes  
15 which are currently missing.

16 Establishment of operational oceanography addressing CSW is a significant initiative and  
17 big step to lift the role of operational oceanography in Blue Growth. This needs support at  
18 European scale. ~~EuroGOOS has revised the agreement for membership which now allows a~~  
19 ~~private company to be a formal member. This will largely facilitate the cooperation between~~  
20 ~~the operational community and private sectors.~~ Support from the EC with large-scale projects  
21 is essential to ensure the necessary funding for both integration activities and research on new  
22 knowledge generation and transformation into operational systems.

23 The short- to mid-term objective is to build up operational monitoring and forecasting  
24 systems in the CSW. Engaging existing monitoring into an operational framework, harvesting  
25 new knowledge and developing CSW modelling and forecasting technology are the three  
26 major pillars to reach the objective.

27 Monitoring and data management research: in addition to research recommended in Sect. 2,  
28 specific R&D activities are needed: enhance monitoring coordination in cross-board and  
29 regional scales; expanding existing HF-radar observing system to cover European coastal  
30 seas; engaging research and commercial monitoring activities to be part of the operational  
31 dataflow; ensuring delivery of new in-situ and satellite observations for operational usage.

1 New knowledge generation for improving CSW models: new knowledge on key dynamic  
2 processes, such as hydrodynamic-sediment-optics-biological interactions, three dimensional  
3 current-/sea level-wave interaction, vertical flux exchange between atmosphere, water and sea  
4 floor, sub-mesoscale phenomena and interaction between sea and river waters etc., can be  
5 obtained by using high resolution in-situ and remote sensing data together with modelling  
6 tools. The new knowledge harvesting shall aim at improving coastal ocean models.

7 Modelling and forecasting technology: developing coastal ocean models for the CSW to  
8 resolve key dynamic processes in CSW through transferring new knowledge obtained into  
9 models, including hydrodynamic-sediment-optics-biological coupling, ocean-wave-ice  
10 coupling, improved description of vertical exchange and sub-mesoscale parametrisation;  
11 developing sub-kilometric resolution estuary models; coupling between storm surge, wave  
12 and inundation models; building up operational monitoring and forecasting capacity for  
13 sediment transport, including operational data provision, model development and data  
14 assimilation; data assimilation of high resolution observation data: ocean colour, sediment,  
15 currents, sea level etc.; preparation of high quality input datasets for the CSW forecasting  
16 system: high resolution bathymetry, sea floor sedimentation types and updates of such  
17 datasets, high resolution weather reanalysis and forecasts at kilometre resolution with riverine  
18 inputs.

#### 19 **4.1.3 Coastal hazard prediction**

20 Coastal hazards, including hydro-meteorological hazards, coastal erosion, pollution and  
21 ecological hazards, are one of the major threats to sustainable development in Blue Growth.  
22 Risk management in response to the coastal hazards require improved deterministic and  
23 probabilistic predictions in the short-term as well as estimation of historical events and  
24 statistics and future projections.

25 For Coastal erosion and pollution: research shall aim at gaining understanding of: (i)  
26 processes governing variability in the surface layer (mixed layer turbulence, interactions with  
27 air-sea fluxes) and linking surface wave, currents and sediment resuspension and pollutant  
28 transportation; (ii) processes in the bottom boundary layer including resuspension that are  
29 important, e.g., for the exchange of properties across shelf breaks and for the behaviour of  
30 dense sill overflows and better water column optics; (iii) the role of riverine inputs, advection  
31 and sedimentation in coastal sediment balance and modelling and predicting coastal sediment  
32 balance; (iv) the impact of coastal erosion due to waves and sea level rise. The knowledge

1 obtained from the above should be used to improve predictive sediment and pollutant models.  
2 The in-situ monitoring of sediment should be enhanced with innovative technology.  
3 Operational sediment transportation models should be developed, calibrated and satellite  
4 sediment data should be assimilated. The long-term goal of coastal sediment transport  
5 research should aim at an operational framework that can support seamless data and  
6 information flows for a well-balanced and objective decision-making in ICZM.

7 For coastal hydro-meteorological hazards: understanding, modelling and prediction of  
8 hydro-meteorological hazards such as flooding, storm surge and high seas; developing  
9 ensemble and super-ensembles technology for forecasting hydro-meteorological extreme  
10 events; developing nowcasting technology by assimilating real time radar, in-situ and satellite  
11 data into operational models for search and rescue; for civil protection and risk management,  
12 coupled weather-ocean-wave-inundation models in the coastal zone should be developed and  
13 calibrated.

14 For ecological hazards: understanding, modelling and prediction of ecosystem hazards;  
15 integrated forecasting system should be developed for predicting HAB, hypoxia and loss of  
16 habitat. New knowledge and understanding on the driving forces and internal mechanisms  
17 and evolution of ecological hazards are required. Based on the new knowledge obtained, the  
18 operational models can be further optimised so that they are capable of properly simulating  
19 the ecological hazard events. Assimilation technology should be used to develop the forecast  
20 and pre-warning capacity of the ecological hazard. The research in this area needs to be  
21 integrated with R&D activities in Sect. 5 – Operational Ecology.

22 In the long-term, an operational approach for the integrated coastal service focusing on the  
23 coastal zone should be developed. Such an approach will, on the one hand, extend existing  
24 coastal and shelf sea forecasting system to coastal zone with higher resolution; on the other  
25 hand, develop new, standardized and integrated service tools and products, which feature

- 26 - a common framework to bridge CMEMS and national coastal services,
- 27 - a seamless coastal forecasting service: model resolution ranging from hundreds of meters  
28 to kilometres; high resolution measurements from HF radar, ferrybox, buoys and gliders  
29 assimilated; The model system shall resolve challenging processes and features in coastal  
30 waters such as currents/sea level-wave-ice interaction, inter-basin and inter-sub-basin  
31 exchange, strong density gradients in estuaries, transport of momentum, heat and sediment  
32 in very shallow waters etc. Combining modelling and monitoring tools: assimilating;

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1 advantages of High Performance Computing are drawn for high resolution climate  
2 simulations,  
3 | - objective methods of generating indicators for ICZM based on seamless flow of data and  
4 information products,  
5 | - value-added operational indicator products for public stakeholder use,  
6 | - transformation from new knowledge into new operational services such as sediment  
7 forecast and coastal morphology forecast,  
8 | - transformation from new knowledge into operational information products in pan-  
9 European coastal waters, such as rapid mapping of coastal water mass properties (water  
10 quality and physical features), dynamic features such as position of river fronts,  
11 distribution of eddy energy, position of (semi)permanent coastal currents etc.,  
12 | - Reconstruction, prediction and projection of the changing coastal environment due to  
13 climate change and natural variability.

14 Potential change of human activities in coastal oceans due to climate change adaptation and  
15 mitigation, societal and economic change should be considered and transferred into scenarios  
16 for European coastal oceans, such as

17 | - change in offshore exploitation (wind energy, oil and gas etc, some are due to climate  
18 change adaptation),  
19 | - change in shipping activities (some are due to climate change such as ice melting),  
20 | - change in riverine discharge (due to legislation),  
21 | - change in land use in the coastal zone,  
22 | - change in fishery (due to climate change and fishery management).

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23 The impacts of these scenarios can be projected and assessed by using the tools and  
24 products developed for the integrated coastal service.

25 Another long-term goal is to deepen our understanding on the sub-mesoscale features in  
26 coastal and shelf seas. Due to the launch of the SWOT satellite mission after 2020, swath-  
27 based altimetry data and hydrological observations will be available. This may lead to  
28 enhanced knowledge on the sub-mesoscale features in the coastal waters. Advection and  
29 mixing associated with mesoscale and sub-mesoscale oceanic features such as river fronts,  
30 meanders, eddies and filaments are of fundamental importance for the exchanges of heat,  
31 fresh water and biogeochemical tracers between the surface and the ocean interior, but also  
32 exchanges between the open oceans and shelf seas.

1 The challenges associated with mesoscale and sub-mesoscale variability (between 1-20 km)  
2 in the coastal oceans imply therefore high-resolution observations (both in situ and satellite)  
3 and multi-sensor approaches. Accordingly, as suggested in CMEMS Service evolution  
4 strategy (CMEMS STAC, 2015), multi-platform synoptic experiments have to be designed in  
5 areas characterized by intense density gradients and strong mesoscale activity to monitor and  
6 establish the vertical exchanges associated with mesoscale and sub-mesoscale structures and  
7 their contribution to upper-ocean interior exchanges.

## 8 **4.2 Climate change impacts on the coastal environment**

9 Climate change poses one of the main challenges faced by society in the coming decades,  
10 especially to fragile coastal environment. Its impact in many cases is amplified by  
11 anthropogenic activities in coastal regions. Operational oceanography community in Europe  
12 also provides marine climate service to the society and Blue Growth through further  
13 extending its operational monitoring and modelling capacities to climate scale. Considering  
14 recent trend in seamless earth system modelling and prediction, weather, ocean and climate  
15 research will become more and more integrated. In this section we address research on the  
16 coastal ocean climate change adaptation and mitigation related to operational oceanography.

17 Major research objectives of coastal operational oceanography on climate scales are (i) to  
18 provide long-term historical data, including both observations through integrating and re-  
19 processing and model reanalysis by assimilating observations into operational models; (ii) to  
20 develop operational ocean-ice models for climate modelling and projections; (iii) to identify  
21 major climate change signals in the past and future coastal environment ranging from  
22 seasonal to centennial scales and (iv) to assess the impact of climate change and adaptation  
23 and mitigation measure on operational scenarios. In addition to improving the climate service  
24 quality at national level, these activities will also contribute to the consolidation of Ocean  
25 State reports delivered by CMEMS, and to the development of the Copernicus Climate  
26 Change Service (C3S). The following research activities have been identified.

### 27 **4.2.1 Short- to mid-term objectives**

28 | - Reduction of systematic errors in the reprocessing, modelling and assimilation  
29 components for the production of long-term historical data, improved methods to account  
30 for representability and sampling observation errors.

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- 1 | - Advancement of operational coastal ocean-ice models for climate modelling; benchmark  
2 | equilibrium test of operational models to ensure their long-term stability using “free runs”;  
3 | to reduce uncertainties in climate downscaling by optimising downscaling model  
4 | dynamics and setup; Development of reliable techniques to forecast regional/local sea-  
5 | level rise including the land-rising term in the ocean climate models; enhance the ocean  
6 | climate model performance on modelling storm surge events; resolving “skin effect” for  
7 | more accurate SST modelling.
- 8 | - Improved understanding of coastal sea-level forcing mechanisms and coupling with the  
9 | regional variability in climate models; research on relative sea-level trends in relation to  
10 | future storm tracks and changing storm surges; developing and undertaking a detailed  
11 | assessment of the extent of coastal erosion in the EU at appropriate temporal and spatial  
12 | scales; identification of climate variability on stratification and its relation to climate  
13 | change of other ocean properties.

14 **4.2.2 Longer-term objectives**

- 15 | - Developing a probabilistic framework and metrics for ocean reanalysis using ensemble  
16 | and super-ensemble techniques, including inter-comparison, verification, defining and  
17 | generating probabilistic tailored products for users etc.; developing methods to ensure  
18 | quality, homogeneity and robust uncertainty measures In the long-term time-series  
19 | reconstructed from data or model reanalysis.
- 20 | - New methods and diagnostics to evaluate the climate change predictability of the ocean  
21 | circulation, biogeochemistry and marine ecosystems at basin scale and coastal scale to  
22 | provide a theoretical basis for the long-term prediction.
- 23 | - Methodologies to project information about the present ocean state and variability into the  
24 | future, based on a combination of reanalysis and Earth system models.

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25 **5 Operational Ecology**

26 Timely and regular assessment of the status of the marine environment and its ecosystems is  
27 essential for ecosystem-based management in the implementation of EU regulations such as  
28 MSFD, Water Framework Directive (WFD), Common Fishery Policy (CFP) and regional  
29 conventions etc. Operational Ecology (OE) is the systematic and operational provision of  
30 quality assured data and information on the status of marine ecosystems (environment, low  
31 trophic and high trophic levels) to stakeholders through integrating research, operations and

1 services (the relationship of OE Research to the Operational-Service is shown in the flowchart  
2 in Fig. 2). OE data products are generated from combinations of remote sensing and in-situ  
3 measurements and marine ecosystem models with data assimilation for the past (reprocessed  
4 long-term observation time series and reanalysis), current and recent (analysis and updated  
5 rolling reanalysis) and future (short-term/seasonal/decadal forecast and scenario projections).  
6 OE information products are value-added and derived from the OE data products, for example  
7 GES (Good Environmental Status) criteria and indicators (as defined in the MSFD Common  
8 Implementation Strategy) and seasonal/annual marine ecosystem status reports, derived from  
9 the OE data products. OE products will make ecosystem-based management more reliable,  
10 operational, efficient and timely by providing:

- more frequent updates of environment and ecosystem state,
- more reliable and efficient assessments based on an integrated model-EO approach;
- new capabilities for ecosystem forecast at seasonal to decadal scales,
- flexible operational tools for scenario-based ecosystem management through end-to-end modelling (lower trophic level, e.g. plankton, to higher trophic level, e.g. fish, mammals etc., Rose et al., 2010),
- provision of an operational higher trophic level service for fishery management,
- more reliable forecasts of biohazards such as harmful algal bloom, hypoxia etc.,
- more reliable projections of long-term trend, fluctuation, and regime shift of marine ecosystems.

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## 21 **5.1 Enhanced monitoring and forecast capacities for marine ecosystems**

22 Recent scientific developments and breakthroughs have provided a preliminary knowledge  
23 base and associated data delivery, models and analysis tools to begin to address the above  
24 issues. For example the EU FP7 project OPEC (Operational Ecology) has developed and  
25 evaluated ecosystem monitoring tools to help assess and manage the risks posed by human  
26 activities on the marine environment, thus improving the ability to predict the “health” of  
27 European marine ecosystems. OPEC developed prototype ecological marine forecast systems  
28 for European seas (North-East Atlantic, Baltic, Mediterranean and Black Seas), which include  
29 hydrodynamics, lower and higher trophic levels (plankton to fish) and biological data  
30 assimilation and made demonstration reanalysis simulations, assessed the effectiveness of the  
31 current operational ecosystem monitoring systems and demonstrated the potential to make  
32 robust seasonal ecosystem forecasts. In addition the OPEC project has developed an open

1 source web GIS data portal and a model benchmarking tool which allows users to visualize,  
2 plot, download and validate large spatial-temporal data sets. Figure 3 shows an example of  
3 dynamic viewing of reanalysis and rapid environmental assessment for a user-selected region  
4 (marked as square).

5 Simultaneously, the FP7 OSS2015 project has developed R&D activities with the objective  
6 to derive representations of biogeochemical variables from the integration of gliders and  
7 floats with EO satellite data into cutting-edge numerical biogeochemical and bio-optical  
8 models. There is an expectation that the integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing System  
9 (developed through AtlantOS) will increase the number and quality of in-situ observations on  
10 chemistry, biology and ecology over the next decade. A co-evolution of the data use in  
11 assessment and predictive models holds great potential for new products and users.

12 It is expected that results from these projects as well as similar advances in the field will be  
13 transferred to operational services such as CMEMS. The relevant short- to long-term research  
14 objectives in this area have been identified in the MSFD Session in the CMEMS Service  
15 Evolution and User Uptaking Workshop (Brussels, 2015). They are further evolved in  
16 following sections.

### 17 **5.1.1 Short- to mid-term objectives**

- 18 | - Data: increasing the amount of biogeochemical data which can be used for validation and  
19 | assimilation, through enhanced data sharing, shortening the delivery time and  
20 | making new observations via innovative instruments e.g. Bio-Argo; extension of  
21 | existing monitoring capabilities from primary production to plankton.
- 22 | - Quality assurance: developing a standardized validation method/system for ecosystem  
23 | model products/variables (particularly related to non-assimilated  
24 | observations/variables); to identify major weaknesses of existing operational  
25 | ecological models regarding to needs of ecosystem-based management in national and  
26 | regional levels (e.g. MSFD).
- 27 | - Model optimisation: improving existing operational ecological models regarding the  
28 | weaknesses identified by transferring state-of-the-art biological knowledge into model  
29 | terms; developing new modules linking optical properties in the near-surface ocean to  
30 | biomass; improved representation of key processes such as primary production,  
31 | nutrient uptake, grazing etc. in models resolving the diurnal variability; demonstration

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1 of consistent interfacing (nesting, downscaling) between open ocean biogeochemical  
2 models and regional/coastal ecosystem models and downstream applications.

- 3 | - Forecast technology: development of probabilistic (ensemble-based) ecosystem  
4 | modelling approaches including uncertainty estimation capabilities.  
5 | - Multi-data assimilation capabilities (combining state and parameter estimation):  
6 | combining ocean colour and sub-surface data from relevant ecological observations  
7 | especially in regional seas ; simultaneous assimilation of physical and biological  
8 | properties.  
9 | - Tailored provision of operational products\_in addition to standard (water temperature,  
10 | salinity, ice, waves, mixing features, residence time, Chl-a, oxygen, pH, nutrients,  
11 | light, plankton biomass) in support of predictive habitat forecasts, for ecological status  
12 | and fisheries modelling and risk assessment (e.g. invasive species, HABs).  
13 | - Rapid environmental and ecosystem assessment: developing an efficient data  
14 | framework, assimilation and assessment tools to provide a rapid mapping of seasonal  
15 | or annual marine environment and ecosystem states. The marine environment and  
16 | ecosystem states are assessed by a set of GES (Good Environmental Status) indicators  
17 | derived from the rolling analysis. Since the GES indicators are used in MSFD  
18 | assessment, the assessment means an ‘operational approach’ for the sustainable  
19 | management of ecosystem resources which provides solid basis for the future MSFD  
20 | assessment.

21 **5.1.2 Longer-term objectives**

- 22 | - Monitoring: more homogenous biogeochemical monitoring network in Europe; Improved  
23 | methodologies for supplying operational information on sources of nutrients and  
24 | pollution/chemicals to the oceans (e.g., CDOM, underwater noise and plastic/paraffin  
25 | etc.).  
26 | - Modelling: improved description of benthic-pelagic coupling on short-term (seasonal) and  
27 | long-term (decadal) scale; identification of good initial conditions; improving  
28 | representation of biological cycles in sea ice, including optical properties of sea ice and  
29 | vertical migration of nutrients in sea ice.  
30 | - New capabilities for ecosystem projections at seasonal (to decadal) scales.

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1   **5.2    Climate variability and marine ecosystems**

2   While seasonal variability is the most prominent mode in the natural variability of marine  
3   ecosystems these seasonal cycles are also modulated by longer term climate signals.  
4   Ecosystem-based management also normally has time scales from seasonal to decadal.  
5   Therefor it is essential to understand marine ecosystem change on climate scales in order to  
6   make good prognostic models. Climate change and direct anthropogenic activities are two  
7   major classes of pressures changing the state of the marine ecosystem. The research in this  
8   area has been carried out in EU project MEECE. Recent progress has been reviewed by  
9   Barange et al. (2014). For the European Seas, the climate change impacts on marine  
10   ecosystems were reviewed by EU FP6 project CLAMER (ESF Marine Board, 2011). Future  
11   research priorities have also been identified. However, for the OE, what we are interested is  
12   the research that can directly improve the predictive capability on marine ecosystems.

- 13
- 14 | - Impacts of long-term change of water temperature, salinity, mixing features, upwelling, coastal circulation, riverine inputs, ice conditions, inter-basin exchange and their impacts on basin and coastal ecosystems; investigate potential relations between climate change pressures and ecosystem long-term change such as regime shift.
- 15 | - Investigate if increasing atmospheric supply of nutrients could potentially offset the reduced oceanic vertical supply.
- 16 | - Couple regional climate change scenarios with river basin, nutrient transfer and coastal ecosystem models, to test the interacting effects of global climate change with scenarios of regional socio-economic change; better understanding of the possible responses of coastal ecosystems to changing riverine nutrient loads, flooding and warming.
- 17 | - Improving the understanding and prediction of ocean acidification by combining in-situ and satellite observations.
- 18 | - Impacts of sea level rise and land vertical movement on change of shorelines, loss of habitat and coastal ecosystems.
- 19 | - Understanding predictability of the biogeochemistry and marine ecosystems at basin scale or regional scale: identifying major forcing-dependent predictability signals in marine ecosystems; improved understanding of impacts of long-term change of inter-basin, inter-sub basin and riverine inputs on basin and coastal ecosystems.

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### 1    5.3 Operational Ecology European Experiment - OEEE

2    Operational ecology is a new and emerging research area. For the moment, provision of a  
3    quality assured ecological service on seasonal forecasting, annual assessment, decadal  
4    reanalysis and scenario projections of marine ecosystems on an operational basis are non-  
5    existent. Major knowledge gaps exist in:

- 6    |    - processes in understanding and modelling biogeochemical cycle in the regional seas, interaction between low trophic level and high trophic level and benthic ecosystems,
- 7    |    - data assimilation techniques for biogeochemical parameters that focus on improving long-term forecasts and statistics,
- 8    |    - forecasting technology on seasonal and longer time scales,
- 9    |    - more accurate modelling and estimation of river nutrient loading, spreading and fate in the sea,
- 10 |    - high trophic level modelling and forecasting technology,
- 11 |    - end-to-end modelling for operational scenario projections.

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15    The gaps in the knowledge base, monitoring networks and product quality are inter-  
16 dependent. Among them, the availability of the observations is the basis for advancing the  
17 process understanding, filling the knowledge gaps and quantifying and improving the product  
18 quality. On the one hand, operational monitoring systems provide information on the state of  
19 the system which allows us to assess model performance in predicting the state of the system  
20 and hence improve skill through data assimilation and parameter tweaking etc. On the other  
21 hand, filling knowledge gaps requires dedicated process studies, which can be used to develop  
22 terms missing and parameterise the processes in the models. This is an arguably pre-cursor  
23 R&D that underpins the more applied R&D required for OE. In OPEC, it was found that  
24 significant monitoring gaps exist in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea biogeochemical  
25 monitoring networks while relative smaller gaps (in terms of effective spatial coverage) are  
26 encountered in the Baltic and North Sea. However, the data availability is still not fit for the  
27 purpose of providing operational seasonal forecast and rapid environment assessment on an  
28 annual basis.

29    Without timely and sufficient observations, the OE product quality cannot be verified at  
30 basin scales, not to mention further optimisation of the modelling systems which needs  
31 observations for calibration and process studies. On the other hand, rational sampling schemes  
32 (sampling frequency and locations) are essential for making better forecasts. It was found that

1 optimal re-location of the existing North Sea buoys can increase the explained North Sea  
2 temperature variability by a factor of two (She et al., ODON final report). In OPEC, it was  
3 found that changing sampling frequency from weekly to daily of a ferrybox line in the  
4 Aegean Sea can increase the explained chl-a variability from 35% to 96.5%.

5 In order to build up a quality assured European capacity to deliver the OE service, an  
6 “Operational Ecology European Experiment - OEEE” is required. This would serve as part of  
7 the mid- to long-term research element of European OE. The goal of the OEEE is to integrate  
8 as many as possible existing observations and advanced modelling technologies to develop  
9 and demonstrate OE showcases in European regional seas. This can be reached through six  
10 research activities:

- 11 | - to establish a comprehensive database by integrating existing European marine monitoring  
12 components (as described in Sect. 2) for testbed studies,
- 13 | - to develop new knowledge and related new/improved parameterisations on key  
14 biogeochemical processes in the models, new field experiments should be designed to  
15 collect necessary observations for the dedicated OE research,
- 16 | - to make breakthrough in advancing ocean-ice-ecosystem full-scale models by transferring  
17 the new knowledge obtained to model processes,
- 18 | - to understand the ecosystem model behaviour in a probabilistic framework, aiming at  
19 generating unbiased ensembles (regarding to ecosystem reality) for the dedicated model  
20 system,
- 21 | - to improve the quality of the forcing data from atmosphere deposits, riverine inputs and  
22 physical ocean, as well as better description and parameterisation of the forcing terms,
- 23 | - to generate OE products to assimilate as much as possible observations into the improved  
24 model system in an ensemble framework; The products will cover different temporal  
25 scales. For historical reanalysis and rapid ecosystem mapping, the physical-  
26 biogeochemical-ecosystem model (both lower and high trophic level) will be used; for the  
27 future outlook and scenario projections, end-to-end models will be used as necessary  
28 through coupling with the physical-biogeochemical-ecosystem models. The products will  
29 serve ecosystem-based management at European scale to serve dedicated stakeholders  
30 such as EEA, ICES, Regional Conventions and Member State environmental agencies for  
31 the implementation of WFD, MSFD and CFP etc.

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- 1 The research priorities in OEEE are as follows:
- 2 - development of modelling and forecasting techniques for GES assessment and operational  
 3 fishery management:
- 4 a. developing fully coupled atmosphere-ocean-ice-biogeochemical-IBM (Individual  
Based Model) -food web models for ecosystem outlook at seasonal to decadal scales  
 5 in a probabilistic framework, optimising the computational performance and  
 6 resolution to resolve all important pressures and processes,
- 7 b. improving understanding of nutrient cycles and key parameterizations in forecast  
 8 models,
- 9 c. improving understanding of ecosystem predictability from synoptic to seasonal scales;
- 10 d. improving data assimilation for operational forecasts of marine ecological hazards and  
 11 seasonal to decadal outlooks,
- 12 e. further development of flexible end-to-end models/tools for scenario-based services;  
 13 improving coupling between end-to-end models and operational models,
- 14 - improving the understanding of impacts of atmospheric deposit, riverine inputs,  
 15 discharges from vessels and bottom resuspension on the ecosystem states; better  
 16 description of the forcing terms and improved forcing data quality for ecological models,
- 17 - integrating existing marine observation components (as mentioned in Sect. 2) for  
 18 operational ecology through data assimilation, model calibration and validation;
- 19 - designing and recommending new monitoring activities in order to reduce major  
 20 uncertainties in operational ecology products,
- 21 - providing a preoperational demonstration (multi-model ensemble approach) of Rapid  
 22 Environmental Assessment with comprehensive data assimilation, seasonal to decadal  
 23 forecasting/projections for ecosystem components with high predictability and fisheries  
 24 service.

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## 26 **6 Summary and discussion**

27 In this paper, major research challenges on European operational oceanography are identified  
 28 for the four knowledge areas as (i) European ocean observations: improving the cost-  
 29 effectiveness of the marine observation systems; integration of European marine observations,  
 30 developing innovative monitoring technology and optimal design of sampling schemes and  
 31 harmonised use of the observational infrastructure; (ii) Modelling and Forecasting  
 32 Technology: development of Unified Ocean system Models, data assimilation and

1 forecasting technology for seamless modelling and prediction; (iii) Coastal Operational  
2 Oceanography: development of operational coastal oceanography to resolve sub-mesoscale  
3 features and shallow coastal waters; integrating science, observations and models for new  
4 knowledge generation and operational system development and (iv) Operational ecology:  
5 development of operational ecology to resolve entire marine ecosystems from physical ocean  
6 to high trophic level food-web at relevant scales. The first two areas “European ocean  
7 observations” and “Modelling and Forecasting Technology” are the basic instruments for  
8 European operational oceanography. The last two “Coastal Operational Oceanography” and  
9 “Operational Ecology” aim at developing corresponding operational approaches.

10 For European ocean observation research, further advancement of the existing operational  
11 observation infrastructure remains to be the primary focus, especially on biogeochemical  
12 variable, extreme events and sub-mesoscale features. On-going use and new development of  
13 observation capacities, such as Sentinels, FCI, Cryosat2, SWOT, ITP, bio-Argo etc., will  
14 make it possible to generate new and/or better scientific understanding, operational  
15 applications, products and services.

16 For Modelling and Forecasting Technology, recent efforts on advancing the ocean system  
17 models for next generation super-computing architectures, coupled modelling, innovative data  
18 assimilation approaches and probabilistic forecasting will provide essential elements for  
19 building up the UOMs. The operational ocean system models will be calibrated to meet the  
20 energy and mass conservation conditions so that they can be used for climate predictions and  
21 projections.

22 Operational oceanography is a major developer and provider of marine services for  
23 supporting Blue Growth, and also an important instrument to integrate and sustain European  
24 marine science. Through integrating and standardising the fragmented knowledge, monitoring  
25 and modelling activities into an operational framework with a common value chain, the  
26 operational approach will provide a sustained development and service platform and  
27 significantly improve efficiency, quality and delivery time of the current services. Two new  
28 areas are identified for developing operational approaches for the implementation of  
29 integrated coastal zone management and ecosystem-based management, based on the  
30 scientific state-of-the-art and user needs. Three specific pillars are used when developing the  
31 operational framework for a relative new area: integration of existing capacities into an  
32 operational framework, identification and filling key knowledge gaps and transferring the new

1 knowledge into operational instruments. Furthermore, it is essential for the operational  
2 oceanography community to work together with the private sector, stakeholders and the non-  
3 operational research community when developing the operational frameworks in the targeted  
4 areas.

5 For Coastal Operational Oceanography, new knowledge is needed to understand the  
6 interactions between the atmosphere, ocean, wave, ice, sediment, optics and ecosystem, and  
7 between river, land and coast waters, as well as between sub-mesoscale and other scales. By  
8 integrating the new knowledge, new observations and coastal marine system models into an  
9 operational framework, an operational modelling and forecasting capacity will be established  
10 for the shallow coastal waters.

11 For the development of an operational approach for marine ecology, new knowledge is  
12 needed in understanding ecosystem functions such as nutrient cycle, benthic-pelagic  
13 interaction, lower-high trophic coupling, the response of the marine ecosystem to external  
14 pressures caused by climate change and human activities, and the transport of chemicals and  
15 pollutants exported from the atmosphere, rivers and vessels.

16 European research on operational oceanography will be sustained by national activities for  
17 improving the national marine products and services, regional networking activities such as  
18 ROOSes, regional-EU joint research activities such as BONUS-163 [\(The joint Baltic Sea](#)  
19 [research and development programme\)](#), European program Horizon 2020 especially themes  
20 “Bio-economy, marine and maritime” and “Climate, environment and sustainable  
21 development”, and CMEMS.

22 The research and development in EuroGOOS is coherent with the vision of IOC  
23 [\(Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission\)](#): “Strong scientific understanding and  
24 systematic observations of the changing world ocean climate and ecosystems shall underpin  
25 sustainable development and global governance for a healthy ocean, and global, regional and  
26 national management of risks and opportunities from the ocean (IOC, 2014).” It significantly  
27 contributes to the four IOC high level objectives in the IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2014-  
28 2021 document, i.e. (i) Healthy ocean ecosystems and sustained ecosystem services; (ii)  
29 Effective early warning systems and preparedness for ocean-related hazards; (iii) Increased  
30 resilience to climate change and variability and enhanced safety, efficiency and effectiveness  
31 of all ocean-based activities through scientifically-founded services, adaptation and mitigation  
32 strategies and (iv) Enhanced knowledge of emerging ocean science issues.

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1 Furthermore European operational oceanography research will actively contribute to the  
2 relevant international organisations and programs such as WMO, JCOMM, GEO, GOOS,  
3 GCOS, GODAE-Oceanview and YOPP etc. Their scientific strategies and implementation  
4 plans provide multiple focus issues and also references for European operational  
5 oceanography research and services. Due to the limit of space, the detailed relation between  
6 European operational oceanography research and the international programmes is not  
7 analysed in this paper.

8 It should be mentioned that the knowledge areas and research priorities identified are not  
9 exhaustive. Some important scientific areas, such as monitoring and forecasting at global  
10 scale and ice infested waters and satellite operational oceanography, are not addressed  
11 sufficiently in this paper. These issues can be found in scientific strategy documents in  
12 programmes contributing to the operational oceanography development such as CMEMS,  
13 YOPP and PEX (Pan Euro-Asia Experiment) etc. and review papers e.g. by Le Traon et al.  
14 (2015).

15 It is anticipated that more and more service areas for the Blue Growth, climate change  
16 adaptation and ecosystem-based management will adopt an “Operational Approach” which  
17 shares a similar operational service value chain. In many cases integration of marine and  
18 sectorial information products is needed for such an approach, which requires that operational  
19 oceanography community to work together with the sectorial marine service providers,  
20 facilitators, stakeholders and end users. The European operational oceanography community  
21 will be dedicated to identify, develop and cultivate the Operational Approaches for marine  
22 services in the corresponding socio-economic areas through address new research challenges  
23 in the emerging service areas.

24 **Table A1. Appendix A: List of acronyms**

25 3-D/4-DVAR Three/Four Dimensional VARiational method

26 ADCP Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler

27 AtlantOS Optimizing and Enhancing the Integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing System

28 BFM Biogeochemical Flux Model

29 BG Blue Growth

30 **BONUS The joint Baltic Sea research and development programme**

1	C3S	Copernicus Climate Change Service
2	<u>CDOM</u>	<u>Colored Dissolved Organic Matter</u>
3	CFP	Common <u>F</u> ishery Policy
4	CLAMER	Climate change and European Marine Ecosystem Research project
5	CMEMS	Copernicus Marine Service
6	COSYNA	Coastal Observing System for Northern and Arctic Seas project
7	CPU	Central Processing Unit
8	CSW	Costal Shallow Waters
9	<u>DG-MARE</u>	<u>The Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries</u>
10	EDIOS	European Directory of the Ocean-Observing System project
11	ECMWF	European Centre Medium-range Weather Forecast
12	ECO3M	Mechanistic Modular Ecological Model
13	ECOOP	European COastal-shelf sea OPerational observing and forecasting system
14	project	
15	ECOSMO	ECOSystem MOdel
16	EEA	European Environment Agency
17	EGO	Everyone's Glider Observatories
18	EMODnet	European Marine Observation and Data Network
19	EnKF	Ensemble Kalman Filter
20	EnVAR	Ensemble-Variational method
21	EO	Earth Observation
22	EOOS	Sustained European Ocean Observing System
23	<u>ERIC</u>	<u>European Research Infrastructure Consortium</u>
24	ERGOM	Ecological ReGional Ocean Model
25	ERSEM	European Regional Seas Ecosystem Model
26	ESF	European Science Foundation

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1	EU	European Union
2	EuroGOOS	European Global Ocean Observing System
3	FCI	Flexible Combined Imager
4	FixO3	Fixed point Open Ocean Observatory network project
5	FP	EC Framework Program
6	GCOS	Global Climate Observing System
7	GDP	Gross Domestic Production
8	GEO	Group of Earth Observations
9	GES	Good Environmental Status
10	GIS	Geographic Information System
11	GMES	Global Monitoring for Environment and Security
12	<u>GODAE</u>	<u>Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment</u>
13	HAB	Harmful Algae Bloom
14	HBM	HIROMB-BOOS Model
15	HELCOM	The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission
16	HF	High Frequency
17	HPC	High Performance Computing
18	HYCOM	HYbrid Coordinate Ocean Model
19	<u>IBM</u>	<u>Individual Based Model</u>
20	ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
21	ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
22	<u>IOC</u>	<u>Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission</u>
23	<u>ISO</u>	<u>International Organization for Standardization</u>
24	ITP	Ice-Tethered Profiler

1	JCOMM	Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology
2	JERICO	Joint European Research Infrastructure network for COastal observatories <u>project</u>
4	<u>JPI-Oceans</u>	<u>The Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans</u>
5	MFC	Monitoring and Forecasting Centres
6	MITGCM	MIT General Circulation Model
7	MONALISA2	Securing the Chain by Intelligence at Sea project
8	MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
9	<u>NCAR</u>	<u>National Center for Atmospheric Research</u>
10	NEMO	Nucleus for European Modelling of the Ocean
11	NORWECOM	NORwegian ECOlogical Model system
12	ODON	Optimal Design of Observational Networks project
13	OE	Operational Ecology
14	OEEE	Operational Ecology European Experiment
15	OOPS	Object Oriented Programming System project
16	OPEC	OPerational Ecology project
17	OSE	Observing System Experiment
18	OSS2015	Ocean Strategic Services beyond 2015 project
19	OSSE	Observing System Simulation Experiment
20	OSPARCOM	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East
21	Atlantic	
22	PDAF	Parallel Data Assimilation Framework
23	PSyKAl	Parallel System, Kernel and Algorithm
24	RASM	Regional Arctic System Model
25	ROMS	Regional Ocean Modeling System
26	ROOS	Regional Operational Oceanography System
27	R&D	Research and Development

1	SANGOMA	Stochastic Assimilation for the Next Generation Ocean Model project
2	SeaDataNet	Pan-European infrastructure for ocean and marine data management project
3	SEEK	Singular Evolutive Extended Kalman filter
4	SIMD	Single Instruction Multiple Data
5	SMOS	Soil Moisture Ocean Salinity
6	SST	Sea Surface Temperature
7	SSS	Sea Surface Salinity
8	SWOT	Surface Water & Ocean Topography
9	TB	Tera Byte
10	T/S	Temperature/Salinity
11	UAM	Unified Atmospheric Model
12	UEM	Unified Earth system Model
13	UM	Unified Model
14	UOM	Unified Ocean system Model
15	YOPP	Year of Polar Prediction
16	WFD	Water Framework Directive
17	WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
18		

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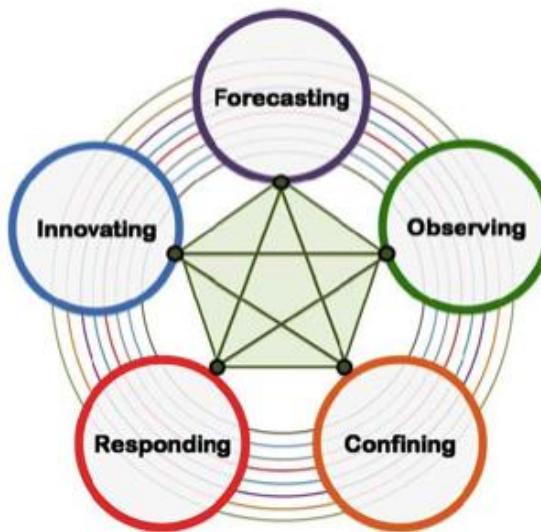
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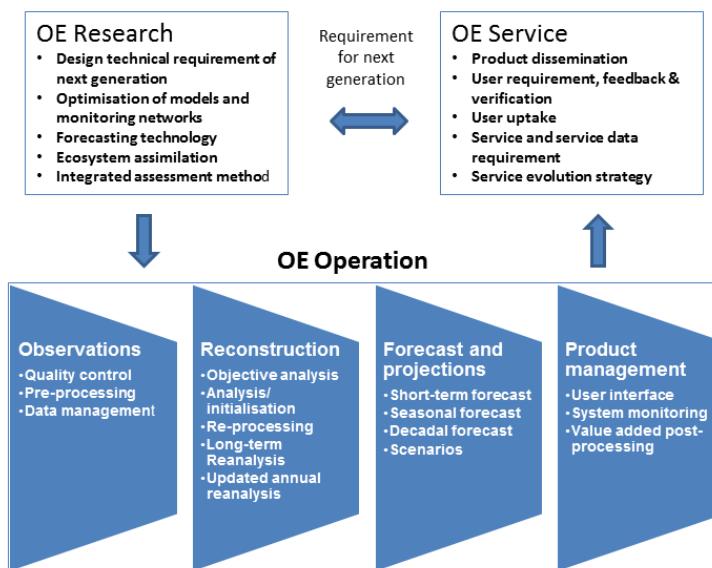
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3 Figure 1. Schematic of grand challenges from the 'Earth System Science for Global Sustainability'.

4 Source: ICSU (2010)



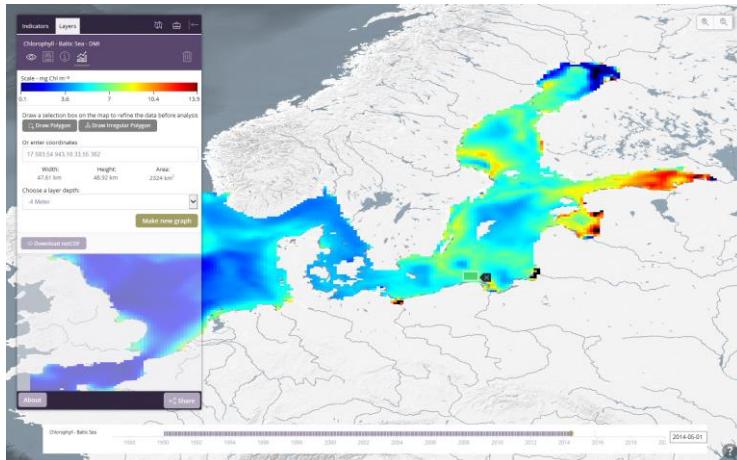
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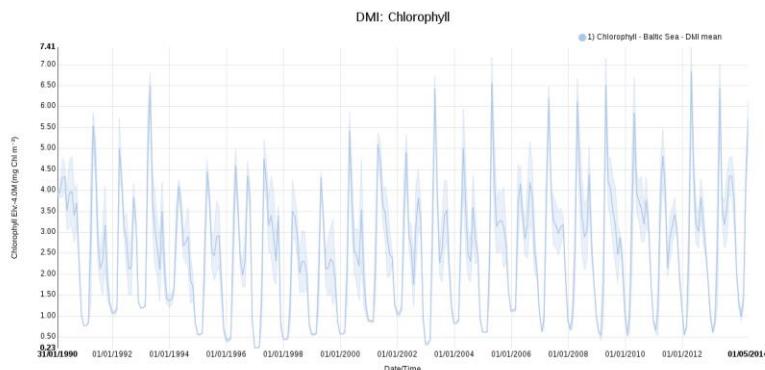
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2 Figure 2. Flowchart of the Operational Ecology

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7 Figure 3 OPEC Rapid Environment Assessment and multi-decadal biogeochemical  
 8 reanalysis: an example of Baltic Sea chl-a. Upper panel: OPEC data portal for extracting OE  
 9 products; lower panel: monthly mean chl-a time series during 1990.01-2014.05 at a selected  
 10 rectangular polygon shown in the upper panel. The shadow area shows the monthly standard  
 11 deviation.

12