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New assimilation and forecasting scheme of the Mediterranean Forecasting System

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Since September 2004 the Mediterranean Forecasting System (MFS) uses a new oceanographic model set-up in a quasi-operational mode. The 1/16th degree and 71 vertical layers OPA model is combined with the SOFA optimal interpolation scheme. The system produces daily analysis of oceanographic parameters by assimilating sea surface temperature, sea level anomalies and vertical profiles of temperature and salinity from observations by XBT and ARGO floats. Once a week it produces 10 days forecasts. The presentation will describe the new MFS assimilation system and show its detailed validation by comparing analysis and forecasts with observations.