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Forecasting extreme winds in the Nordic Seas

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Forecasting extreme winds in the Nordic Seas is of utmost importance for safety and planning of various operations. In this study, a collection of extreme events is constructed from QuikSCAT data retrieved in the period 2000 – 2006. The dynamics of the events are analyzed and the performance of a NWP system is assessed by simulations with different resolutions and initial conditions. In general, the extreme winds are better reproduced as the horizontal resolution is increased, but even at high resolutions they are underestimated. Many of the events are well forecasted, several days ahead, but with some shift in time or space.