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Discussions

Interactive comment on "Predictions for oil slicks detected from satellite images using MyOcean forecasting data" *by* G. Zodiatis et al.

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For a user, what is always preferred is the ease of use, installation and, mainly, a clear understanding of the processes involved in a quite advanced topic, as the progression and dissemination of an oil spill. Furthermore, the free availability of the software tool , is one point for consideration, since researchers all over the world, are not exactly known for their wealth. So, some obvious way in solving their problems are the well known packages of NOAA, ADIOS 2 (http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-spills/response-tools/downloading-installing-and-running-adios.html) and GNOME (http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-spills/resources/gnome-users-manual-and-tour.html). Both packages are well documented (extremely well in fact) and their results were tested successfully in

various circumstances. On the other hand, the learning cycle, required for effective adaptation of these models, in regions with special characteristics, like the Mediterranean or the Black Sea has proven to be lengthly. And that is the first price the researcher has to pay, in accomplishing a task of oil-and-chemical-spills prediction. The MEDSLIK oil spill model used in the work described in this ms was a surprise for me, not only because of the simplicity of its installation, usage and easily understood results,(if you don't believe me, please try it out yourselves. You would have a fully functional system in minutes and it is so self descriptive, that you don't even require to read manuals) but it also contains a huge advantage over the other "gigantic" opponents. And that is the hindcast and the use of satellite data option. To my knowledge, there is not a simple way in determining the source of the pollutant using ADIOS or GNOME. I don't think that it is necessary to point out the seriousness and the importance of this operation. Furthermore, when the only other available source is from a satellite image, which is a 'time-frozen' incident, the necessity of determination of the full evolution of the object against time, is mandatory. In my opinion, even if we forget all the other capabilities of MEDSLIK, this is a tremendous advantage that identifies this software as unique.

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