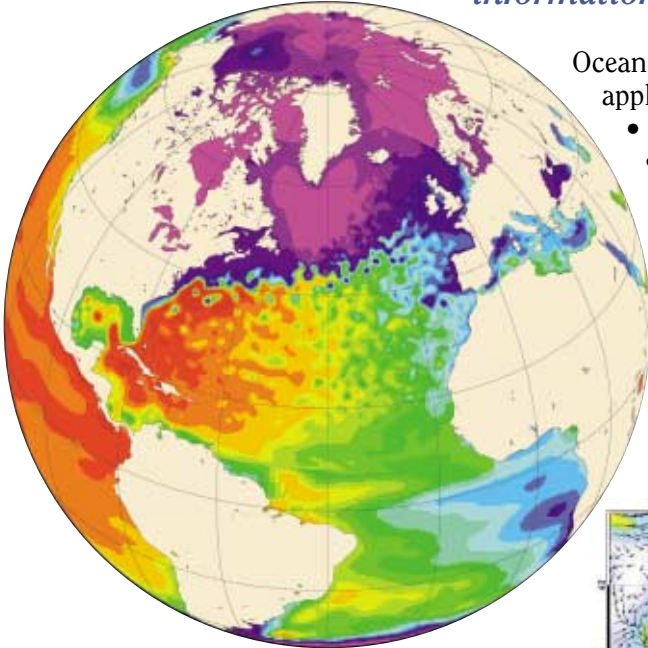


Mercator, Ocean Forecast for All

Mercator Ocean delivers near real-time ocean forecast bulletins on a weekly basis. These bulletins describe ocean currents, temperature and salinity in three dimensions, and provide short-term forecasts of their evolution. Uses range from seafaring and environmental protection, to science, public information and policymaking.



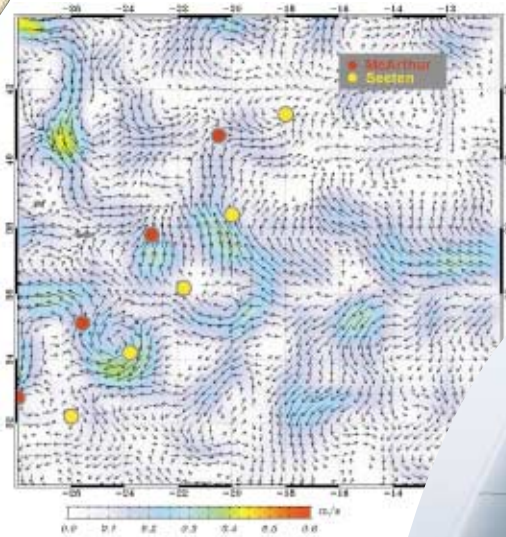
Mercator Ocean applications now include, among others, oil spill drift forecasting models, yacht race routing, fisheries support, coastal studies, and harmful algae bloom forecasting models. Climate seasonal forecasts are beginning with the global coverage.

Close international cooperation is being pursued to ensure that in the future no one sets sail without first consulting their ocean bulletin, and that the benefits of reliable climate prediction are available to all.

Ocean forecasts are beneficial in a wide range of applications:

- Sustainable management of ocean resources
- Safety at sea
- Protection of the environment
- Tourism

Moreover, climate forecast information can also be of interest in the areas of agriculture, energy production planning, transportation, etc. Mercator is contributing to better understanding and better monitoring of the ocean, and thus to its protection.



Skipper Joë Seeten, who finished third in the monohulls category, used the Mercator tailor-made forecasts during the 2002 Route du Rhum

