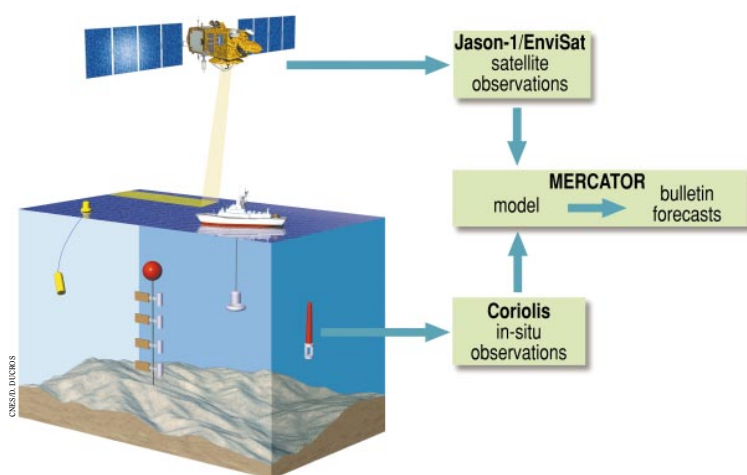


## Ocean conditions : forecasting and prevention

*The ability to describe and predict ocean conditions anytime, from the sea surface to the seafloor, is of great value to seafarers and scientists alike. The MERCATOR project has been performing just this task since 2001 for the North Atlantic. By 2003, it will be delivering weekly global ocean bulletins forecasting the ocean's moods for anyone at sea.*



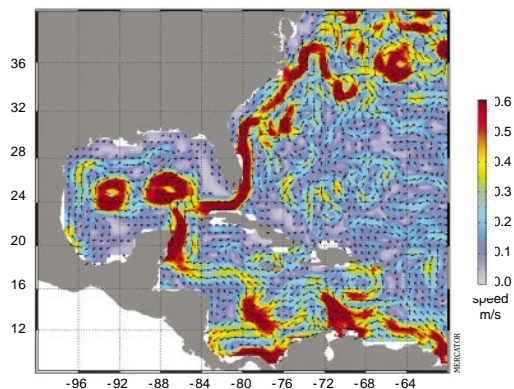
The MERCATOR ocean forecasting system is France's contribution to GODAE (Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment), the first international operational oceanography experiment of its kind. Six French organizations — CNES, CNRS, Ifremer, IRD, Météo France, and SHOM — have been working on this project since 1996.

### Ocean bulletins... just like the weather forecast

Weekly MERCATOR bulletins provide a two-week forecast of ocean currents, temperature and salinity from the sea surface to the seafloor, locally and around the globe.

#### Danger! Eddy >

This MERCATOR map, extracted from a bulletin issued on 4 July 2001 covering the Caribbean, forecasts the intensity and direction of currents for 11 July. Two strong eddies in the Gulf of Mexico could pose a danger to oil rig operations. Here, MERCATOR bulletins fulfill an early-warning function.



Find out more at [www.mercator.com.fr](http://www.mercator.com.fr)