

# WRF EVALUATION EXERCISE USING OPEN SEA IN SITU MEASUREMENTS AND LAND COASTAL DATA

*Alessandra Balzarini*

*Guido Pirovano*

*Giuseppe Maurizio Riva*

*Anna Toppetti*

**RSE S.p.A., Milan, Italy**

*Roberto Bozzano*

*Sara Pensieri*

**CNR-ISSIA, Genoa, Italy**

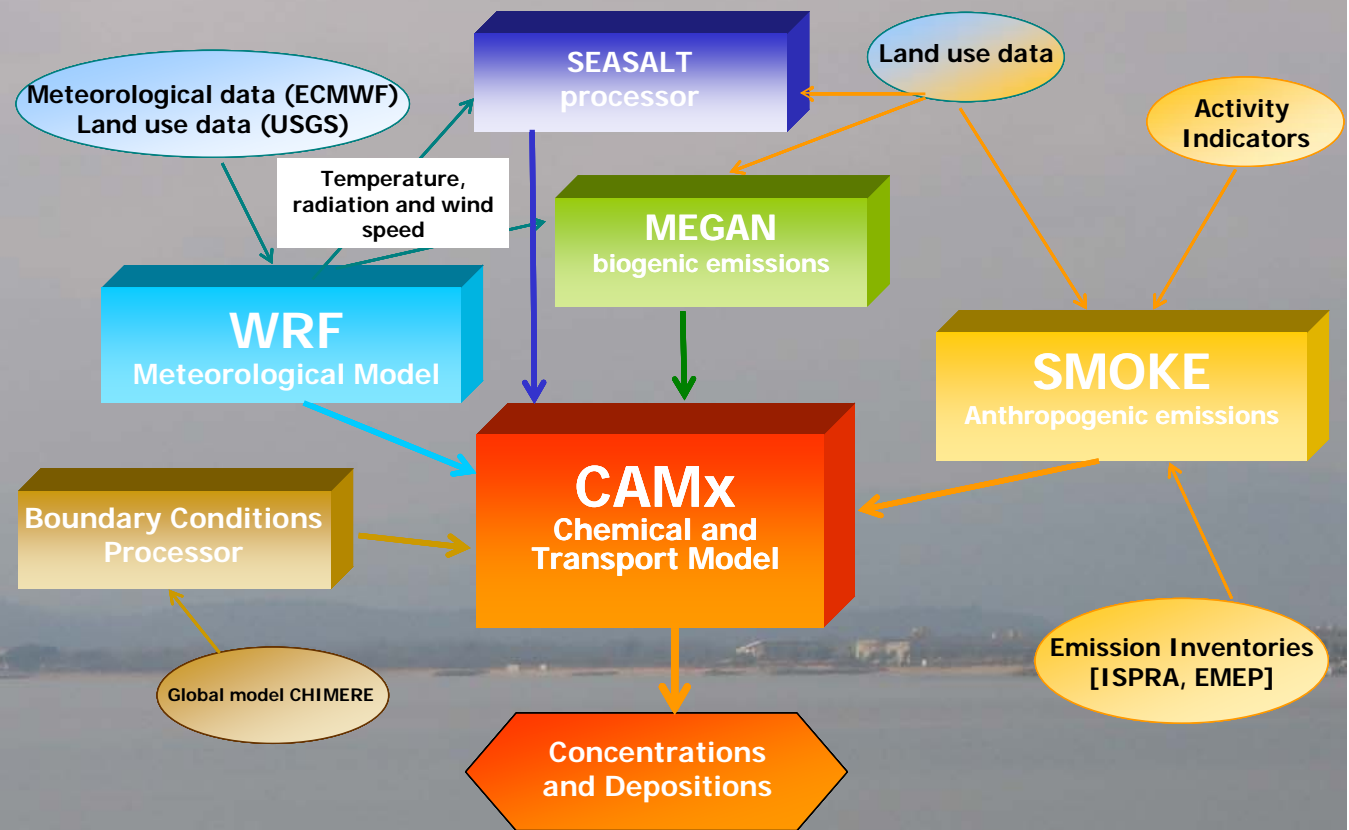
*Elisa Canepa*

*Elisabetta Schiano*

**CNR-ISMAR, Genoa, Italy**



The RSE S.p.A. implemented the system WRF-SMOKE-CAMx to simulate dispersion of pollutants in Italy



Within this system **aerosol emissions from the sea**, an important factor to correctly predict air pollutant levels, are simulated by the **SEASALT** processor (Gong *et al.*, 2002; Smith and Harrison, 1998).

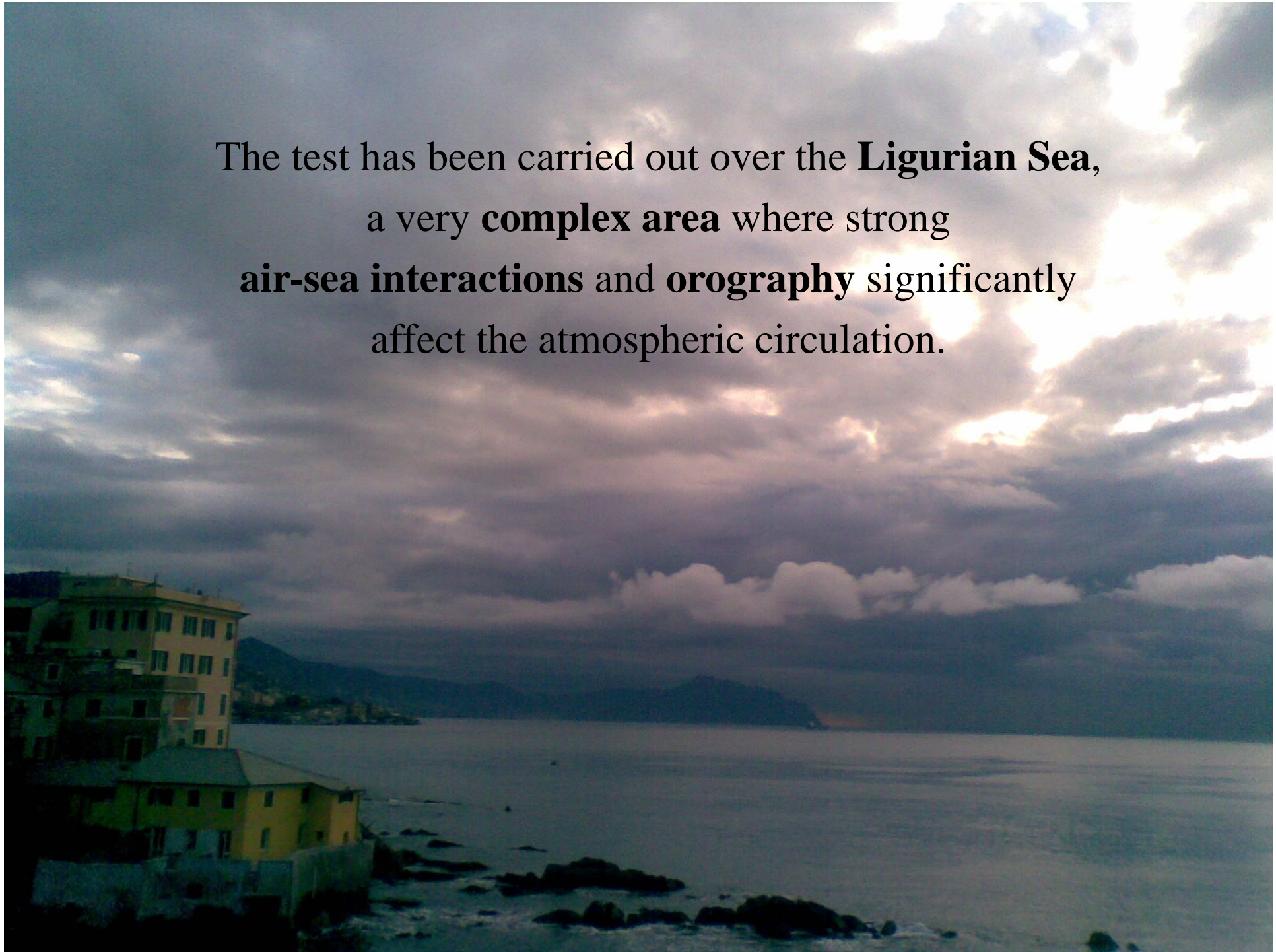
A scenic view of a coastline with a blue sky, ocean, and rocky shore. The sky is a mix of light blue and white clouds. The ocean is a deep blue with some whitecaps. In the foreground, there are dark, jagged rocks in the water. The overall scene is calm and serene.

## **SEASALT meteorological input are:**

- temperature
- mixing ratio
- pressure
- wind speed

**This exercise is finalised to understand  
the skill of the WRF model to drive SEASALT**

The test has been carried out over the **Ligurian Sea**,  
a very **complex area** where strong  
**air-sea interactions** and **orography** significantly  
affect the atmospheric circulation.



*Data for evaluation were collected:*

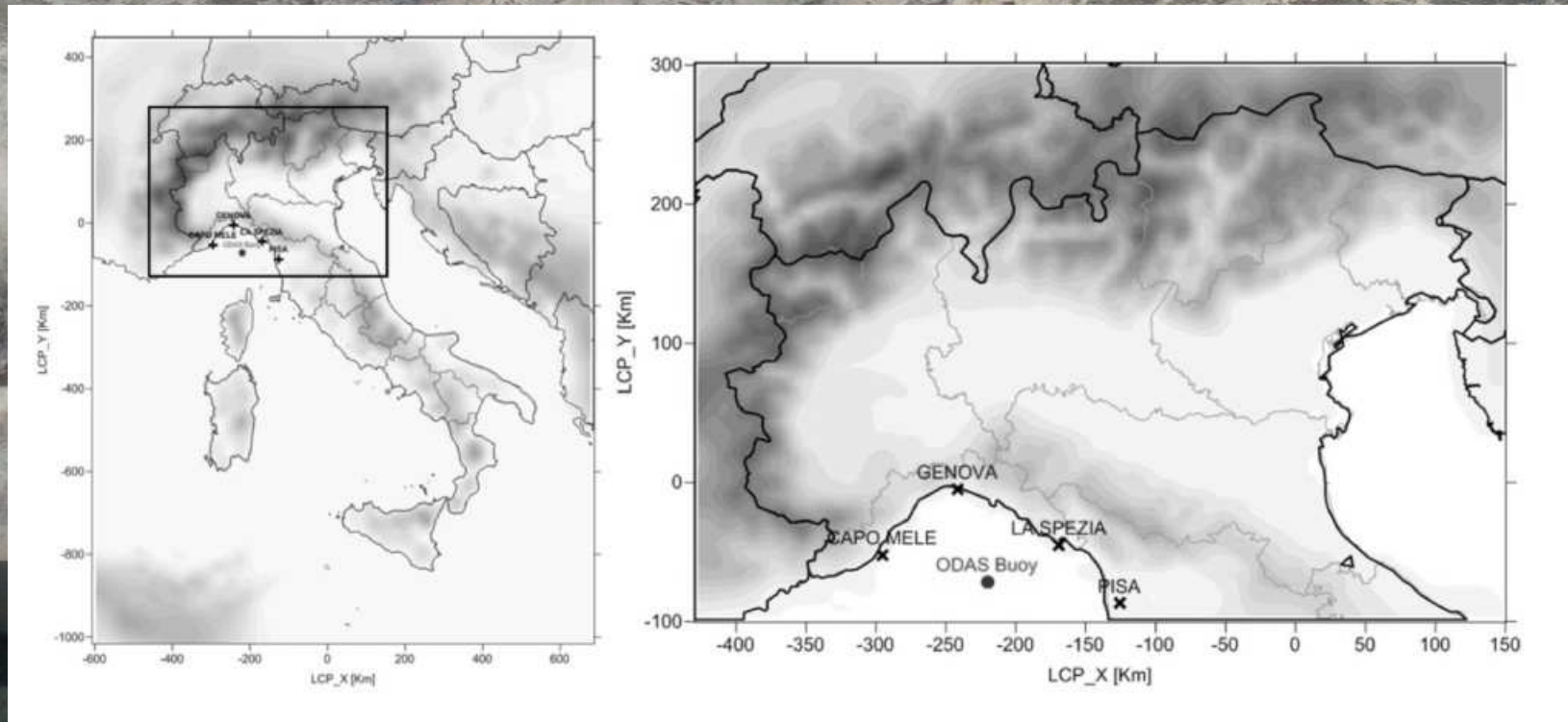
- **over land** at four WMO meteorological coastal/inland stations

<i>name</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>height a.s.l. (m)</i>
Genova/Sestri	coastal	3
La Spezia - La Castellana	coastal	521
Capo Mele	coastal	221
Pisa/S. Giusto	inland	6

- **over the sea by the ODAS Italia 1 buoy**

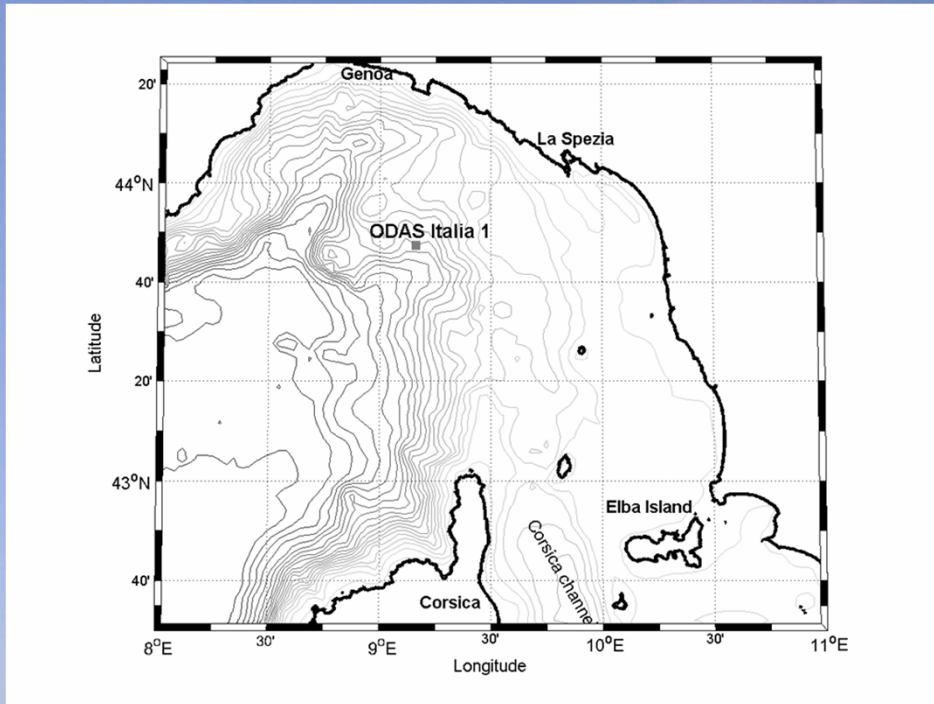
**The 15 km resolution  
WRF domain**

**Detail of the Northern Italy  
area where meteorological  
stations are located**



# ODAS Italia 1: the only spar buoy in the Mediterranean sea

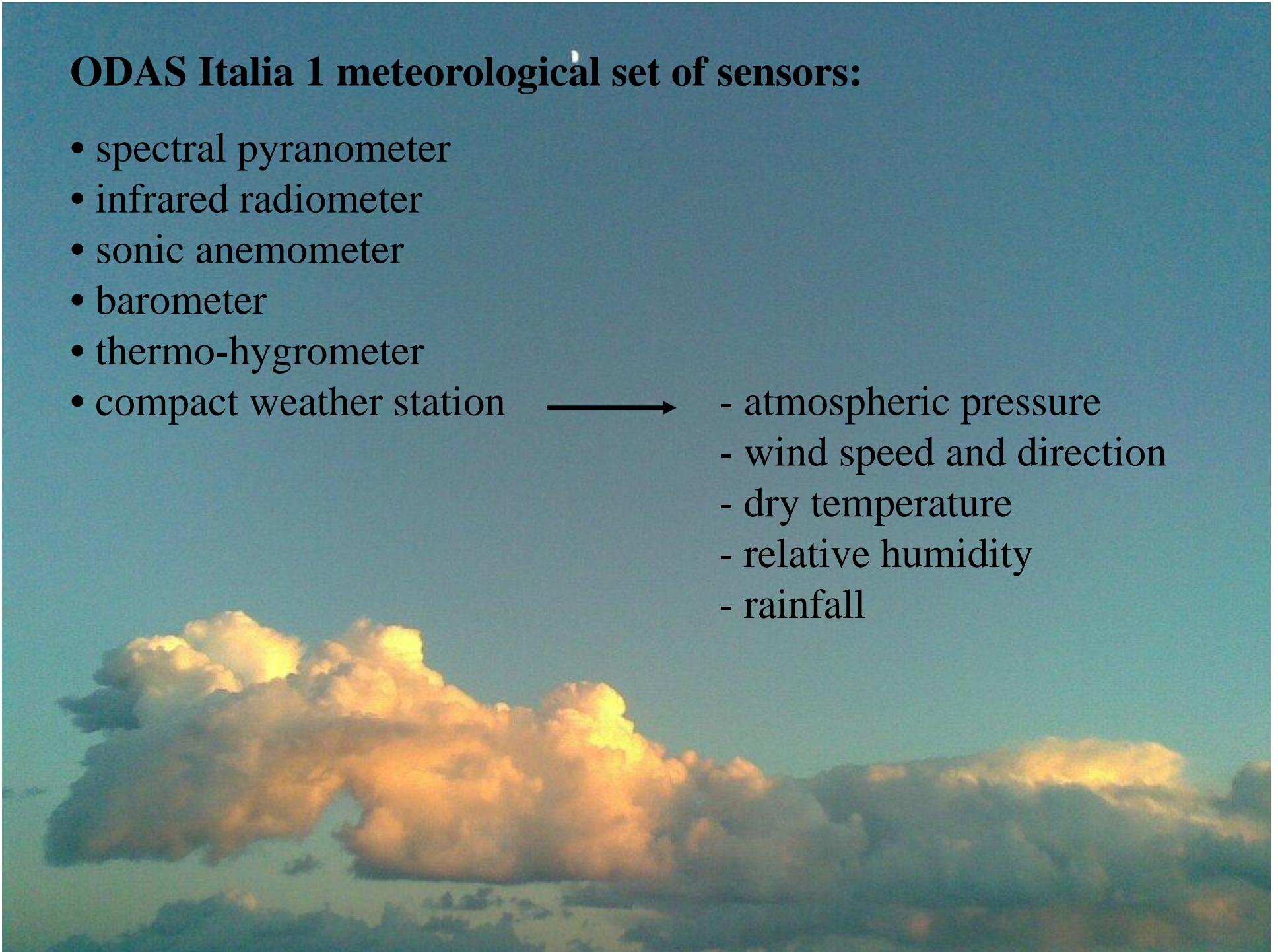
<http://www.odas.ge.issia.cnr.it>



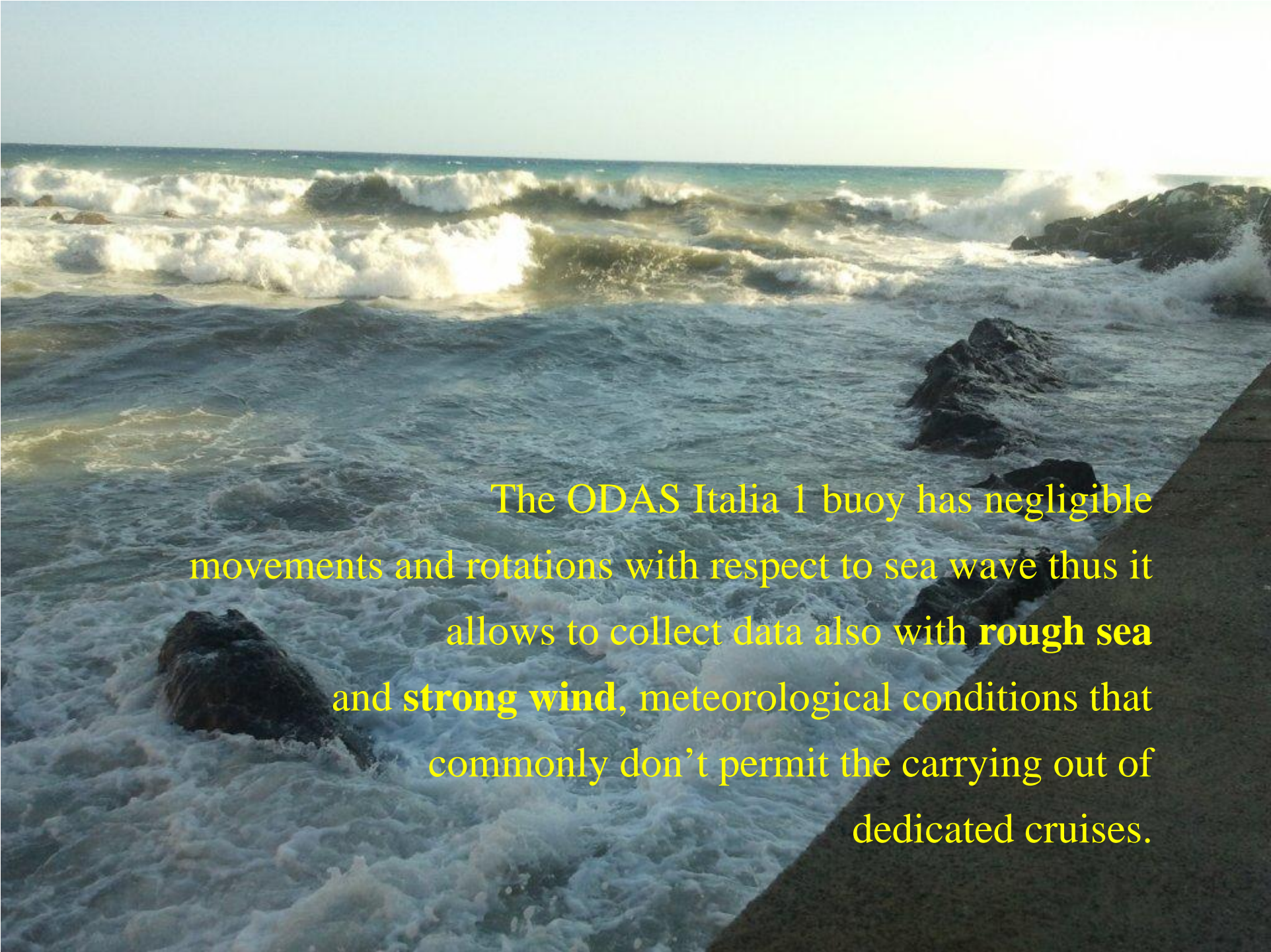
It is moored in the Ligurian Sea on a seabed of **1270 m** at about **75 km** far from the coast.

## ODAS Italia 1 meteorological set of sensors:

- spectral pyranometer
- infrared radiometer
- sonic anemometer
- barometer
- thermo-hygrometer
- compact weather station →
  - atmospheric pressure
  - wind speed and direction
  - dry temperature
  - relative humidity
  - rainfall





A photograph of a rocky coastline with waves crashing against the shore under a clear sky. The water is a deep blue-green, and the waves are white with foam. The sky is a pale, clear blue. The foreground shows a concrete or stone ledge on the right side, and several dark rocks protrude from the water. The overall scene is dynamic and captures the power of the sea.

The ODAS Italia 1 buoy has negligible movements and rotations with respect to sea wave thus it allows to collect data also with **rough sea** and **strong wind**, meteorological conditions that commonly don't permit the carrying out of dedicated cruises.



ODAS Italia 1 is capable of monitoring the ecosystem  
for **long term period in open ocean** in  
continuous and unmanned way

It could be very suitable for studies about air-sea fluxes:  
in particular for  
the **CO<sub>2</sub> cycle** and the **sea spray aerosols**

The background of the slide is a photograph of a vast body of water under a heavy, dark, and stormy sky. The clouds are dark and textured, with some lighter patches where light breaks through. The horizon line is visible in the distance, with a small, dark object that could be a ship or a structure. The overall mood is dramatic and atmospheric.

# Model testing results

*Model versions:*

**WRF-ARW 3.0 (NCAR/NCEP, 2008)**

**WRF-ARW 3.2.1 (NCAR/NCEP, 2010)**

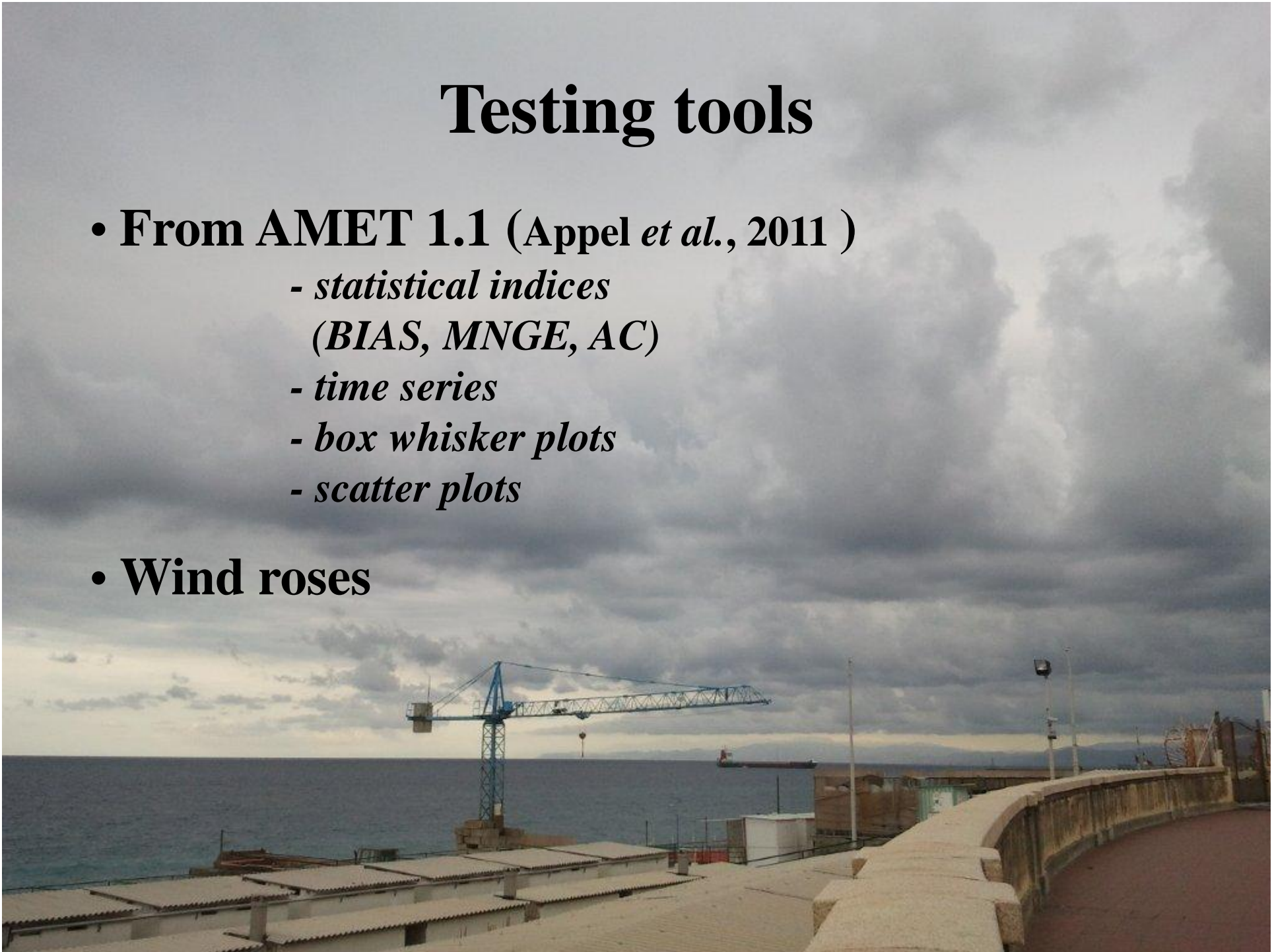
*Testing period:*

**August-December 2005**

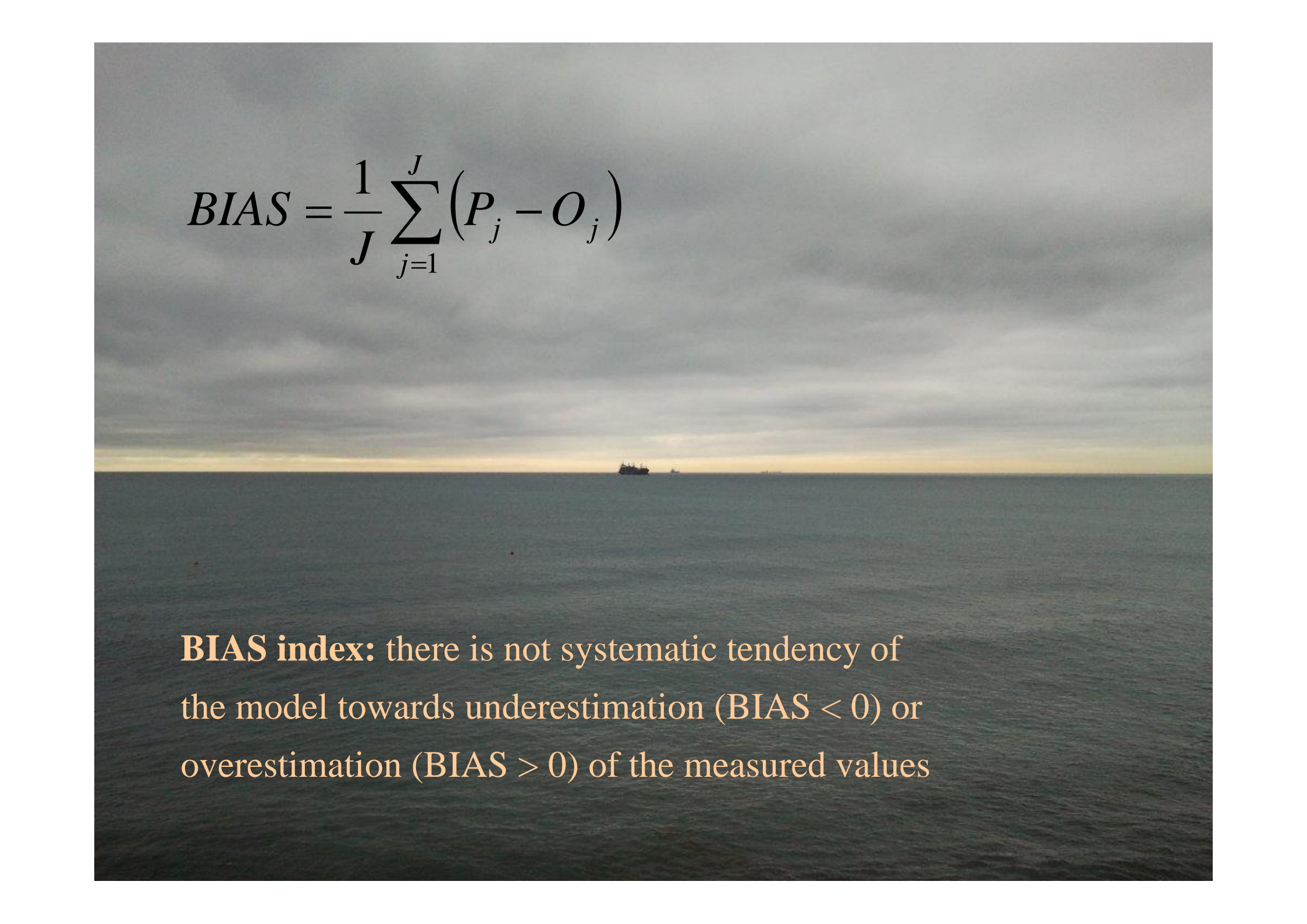
**(about 1100 three hourly data)**

# Testing tools

- **From AMET 1.1 (Appel *et al.*, 2011 )**
  - *statistical indices*  
(*BIAS, MNGE, AC*)
  - *time series*
  - *box whisker plots*
  - *scatter plots*
- **Wind roses**



Measurement site	ODAS-buoy		Genova/Sestri 16120		La Spezia/LaCast. 16129		Capo Mele 16153		Pisa/S. Giusto 16158	
WRF Release	3.0	3.2.1	3.0	3.2.1	3.0	3.2.1	3.0	3.2.1	3.0	3.2.1
<b>2 m Temperature</b>										
Mean measured (K)	290.9		289.7		289.0		289.5		288.5	
BIAS	0.81	0.69	-0.13	-0.22	2.34	2.16	0.60	0.47	2.12	1.55
MNGE (%)	0.36	0.30	0.45	0.39	1.05	0.93	0.47	0.36	0.99	0.73
AC	0.96	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.88	0.91	0.97	0.98	0.90	0.95
<b>2 m Mixing Ratio</b>										
Mean measured (gkg <sup>-1</sup> )	10.36		8.39		10.53		9.00		8.59	
BIAS	-0.02	-0.54	1.29	0.97	-0.49	-0.93	0.17	0.27	0.73	0.67
MNGE (%)	10.60	10.49	22.33	18.38	21.88	20.21	29.13	29.44	20.55	19.77
AC	0.95	0.93	0.88	0.91	0.93	0.90	0.92	0.92	0.90	0.91
<b>10 m Wind Speed</b>										
Mean measured (ms <sup>-1</sup> )	4.21		4.64		3.13		4.96		2.68	
BIAS	0.84	0.11	0.89	-0.83	0.88	-0.17	0.26	-0.97	1.81	0.98
MNGE (%)	88.06	69.43	71.15	56.26	88.78	55.34	72.54	58.29	164.60	122.43
AC	0.64	0.70	0.48	0.43	0.46	0.59	0.61	0.59	0.42	0.49
<b>Sea Level Pressure</b>										
Mean measured (hPa)	1016.5		1016.4		n.a.		1016.0		1016.6	
BIAS	0.25	0.36	1.01	1.08	n.a.	n.a.	0.37	0.38	-0.17	-0.03
MNGE (%)	0.05	0.05	0.13	0.13	n.a.	n.a.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.06
AC	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.97	n.a.	n.a.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99

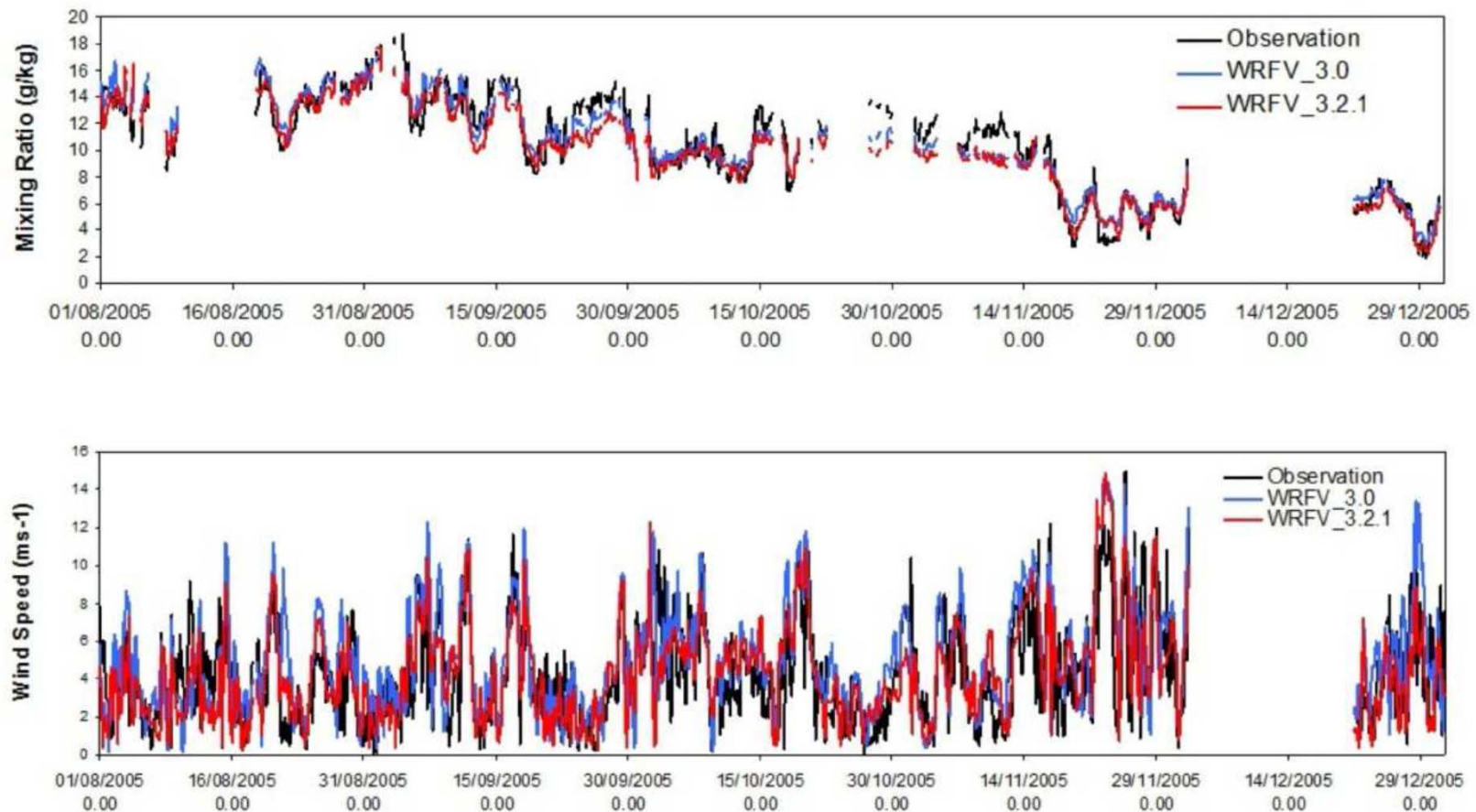

$$BIAS = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J (P_j - O_j)$$

**BIAS index:** there is not systematic tendency of the model towards underestimation ( $BIAS < 0$ ) or overestimation ( $BIAS > 0$ ) of the measured values

$$MNGE = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{|P_j - O_j|}{O_j} \%$$

$$AC = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^J (P_j - M_o)(O_j - M_o)}{\left[ \sum_{j=1}^J (P_j - M_o)^2 \sum_{j=1}^J (O_j - M_o)^2 \right]^{1/2}}$$

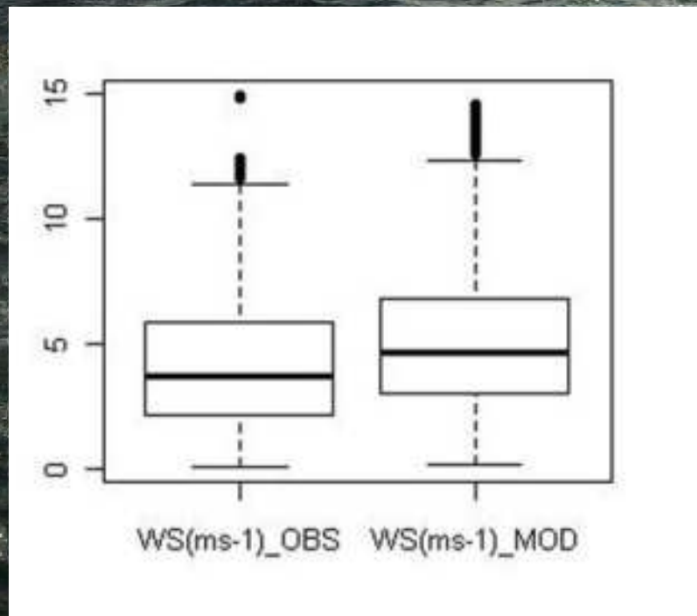
- **WRF-ARW 3.2.1** overall performs better than WRF-ARW 3.0
- $AC > 0.9$  for temperature, mixing ratio, pressure
- $MNGE < 1\%$  for temperature, pressure
- **wind speed** simulation is the most critical one



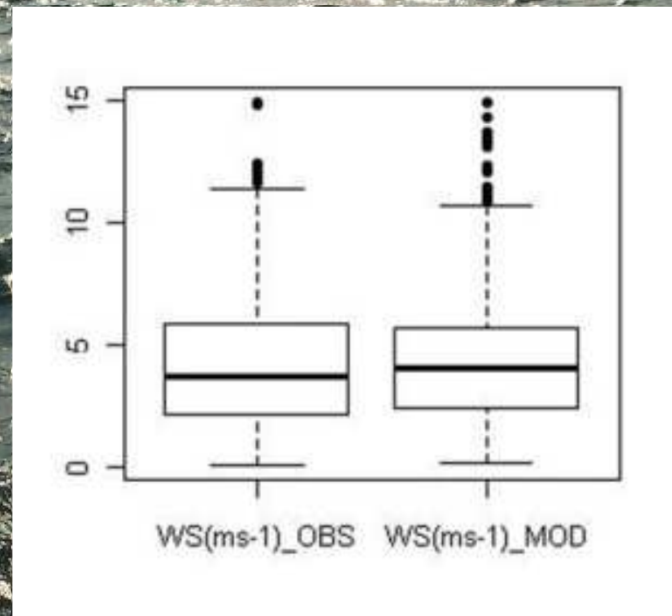
**ODAS Italia 1 buoy:  
2 m mixing ratio and 10 m wind speed time series**



# ODAS Italia 1 buoy: 10 m wind speed box whisker plots

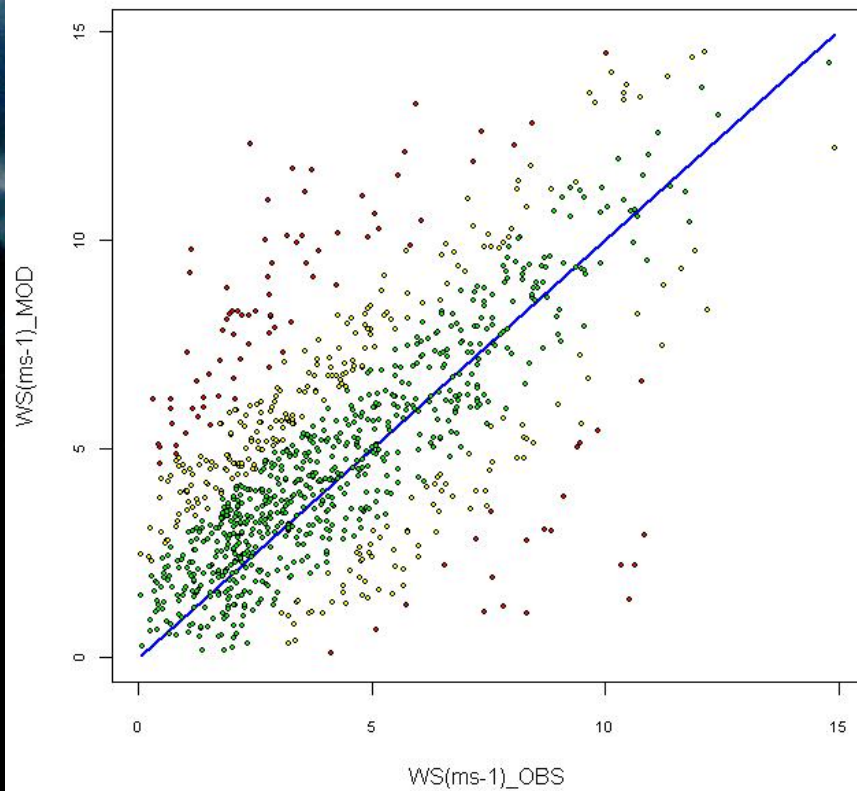


**WRF-ARW 3.0**

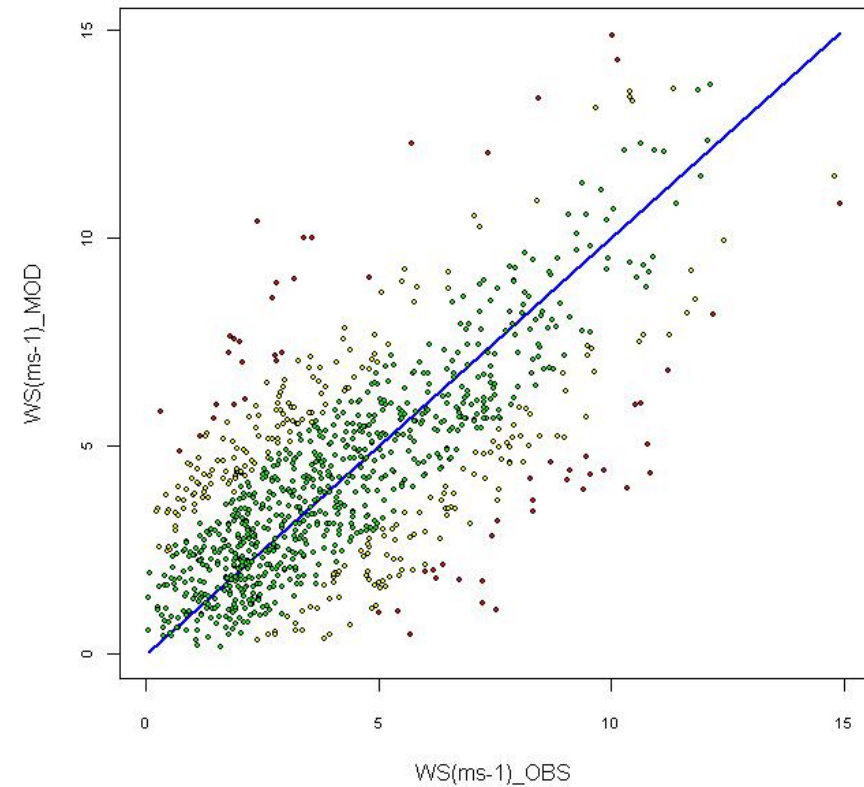


**WRF-ARW 3.2.1**

# ODAS Italia 1 buoy: scatter plots 10 m wind speed



**WRF-ARW 3.0**

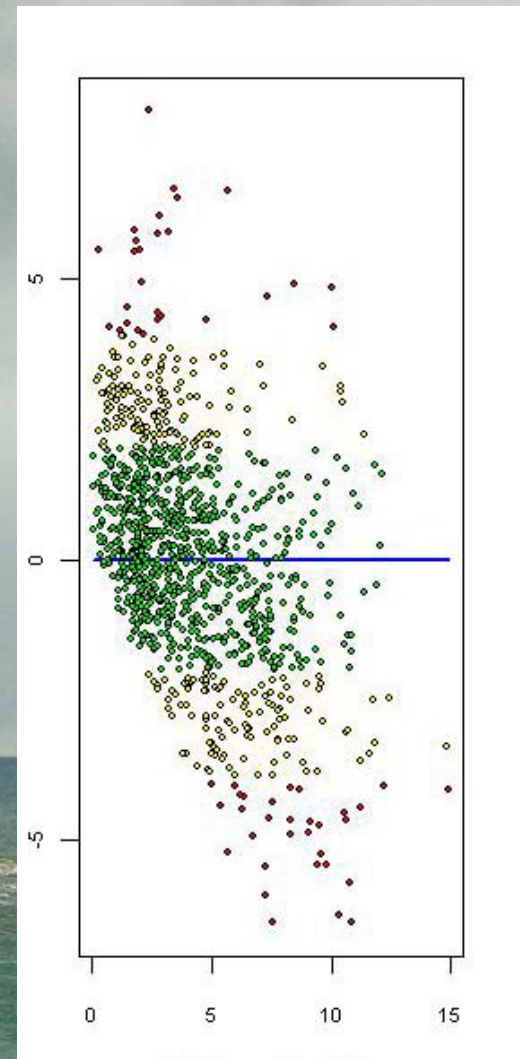


**WRF-ARW 3.2.1**

**ODAS Italia 1 buoy:**

**WRF-ARW 3.2.1**

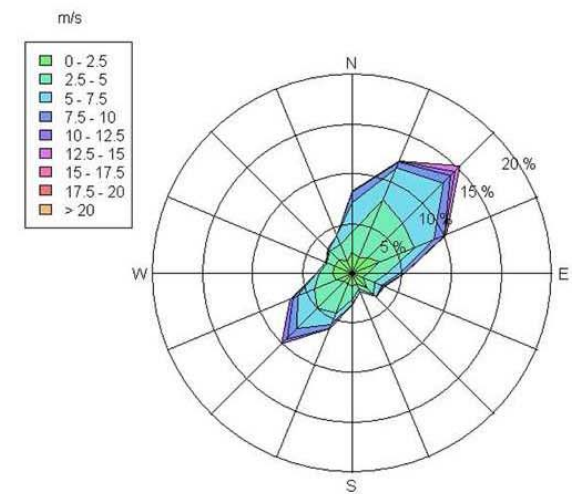
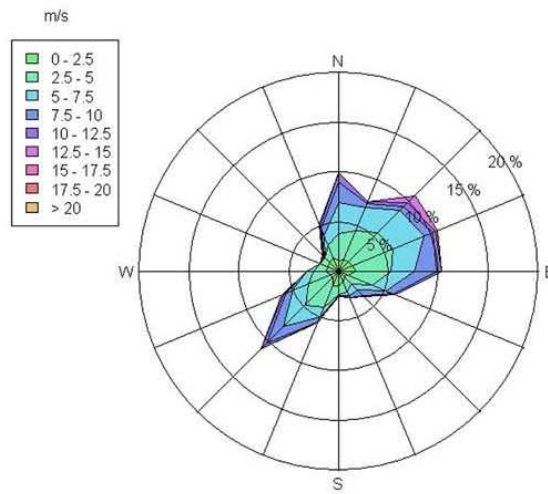
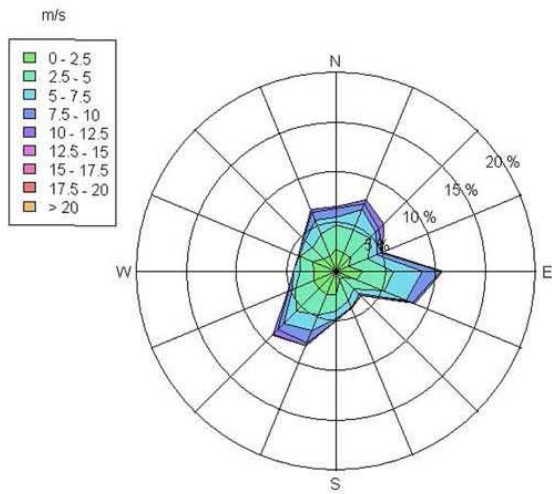
**10 m wind speed**



$WS(ms-1)_{OBS}$

$(MOD-OBS)_{WS(ms-1)}$

# ODAS Italia 1 buoy: 10 m wind roses



*Observed*

*WRF-ARW 3.0*

*WRF-ARW 3.2.1*



# All stations: 10 m wind roses

Capo Mele

Genova

ODAS

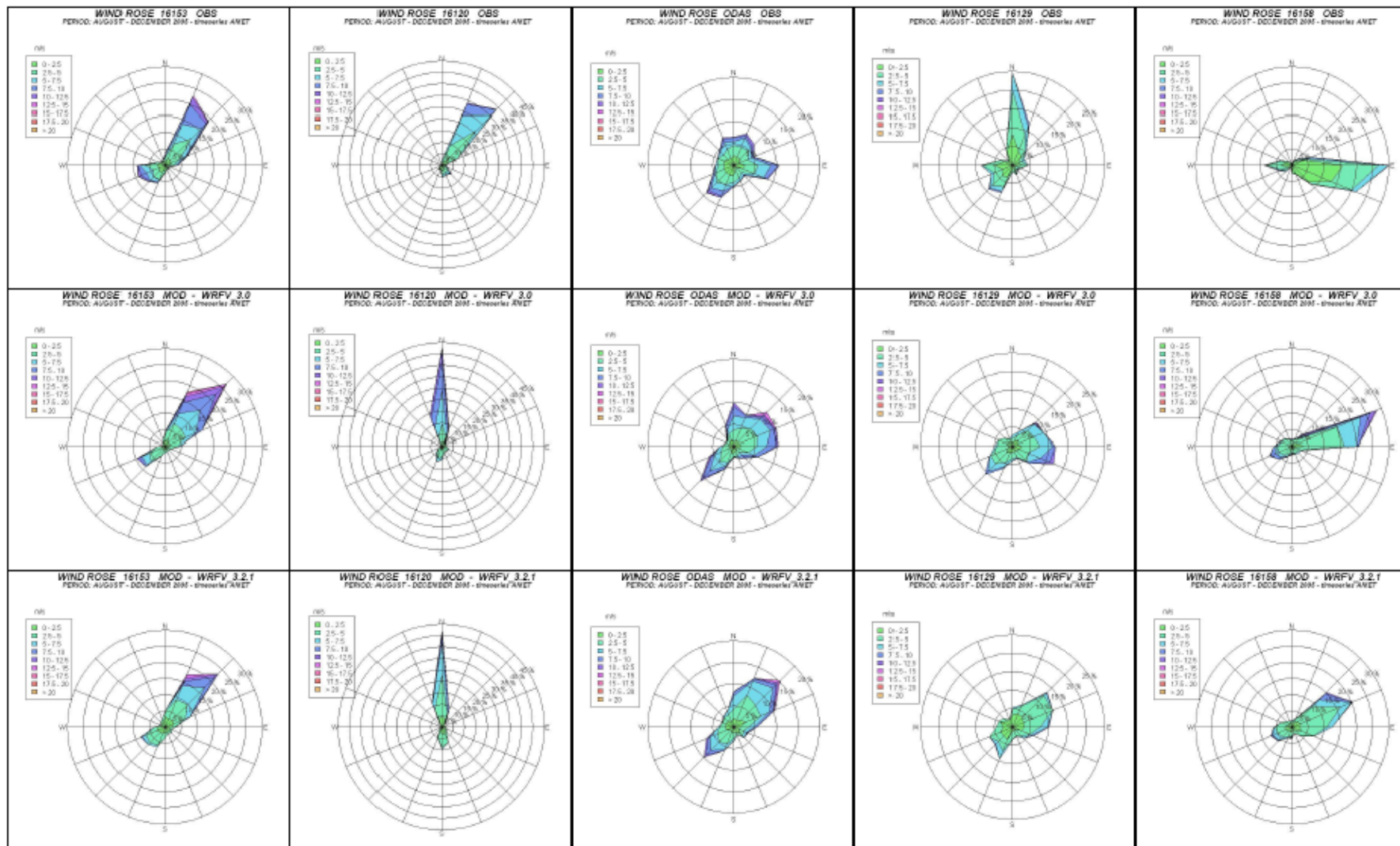
La Spezia

Pisa

OBS

3.0

3.2.1

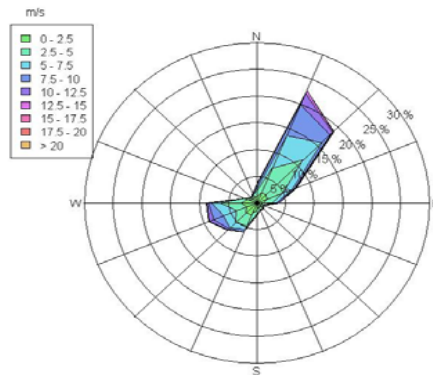


# WRF-ARW 3.2.1

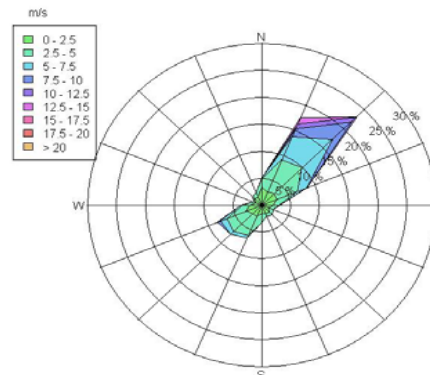
## 15 km vs. 5 km domain grid step: 10 m wind roses

Capo Mele

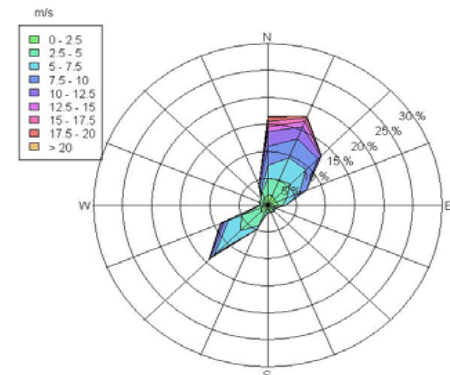
**WIND ROSE 16153 OBS**  
PERIOD: AUGUST - DECEMBER 2005 - timeseries AMET



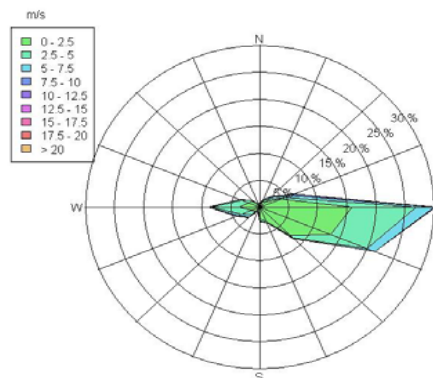
**WIND ROSE 16153 MOD - WRFV 3.2.1**  
PERIOD: AUGUST - DECEMBER 2005 - timeseries AMET



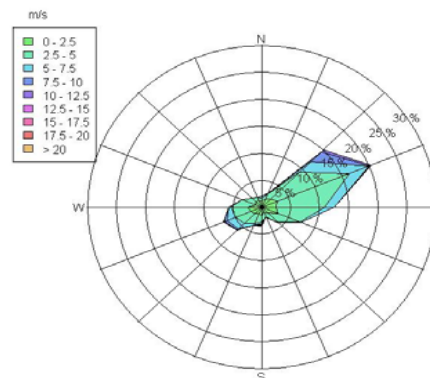
**WIND ROSE 16153 MOD - WRFV 3.2.1**  
PERIOD: AUGUST - DECEMBER 2005 - timeseries AMET  
spatial resolution 5 km



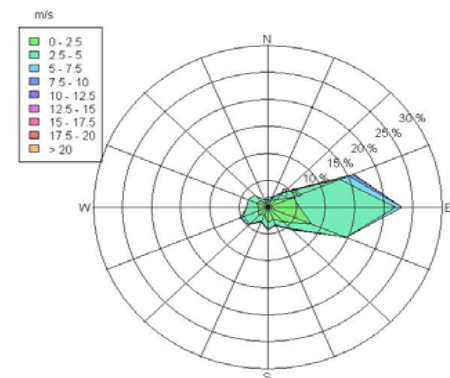
**WIND ROSE 16158 OBS**  
PERIOD: AUGUST - DECEMBER 2005 - timeseries AMET



**WIND ROSE 16158 MOD - WRFV 3.2.1**  
PERIOD: AUGUST - DECEMBER 2005 - timeseries AMET



**WIND ROSE 16158 MOD - WRFV 3.2.1**  
PERIOD: AUGUST - DECEMBER 2005 - timeseries AMET  
spatial resolution 5 km



Observed

15 km grid step

5 km grid step

Pisa

# Summary

**ODAS Italia 1 buoy is a suitable measurement platform to evaluate long term model performances above open sea**

**Even if some criticisms about wind field simulation are outlined, WRF-AWR 3.2.1 model is a useful meteorological pre-processor for marine aerosol emission modelling**

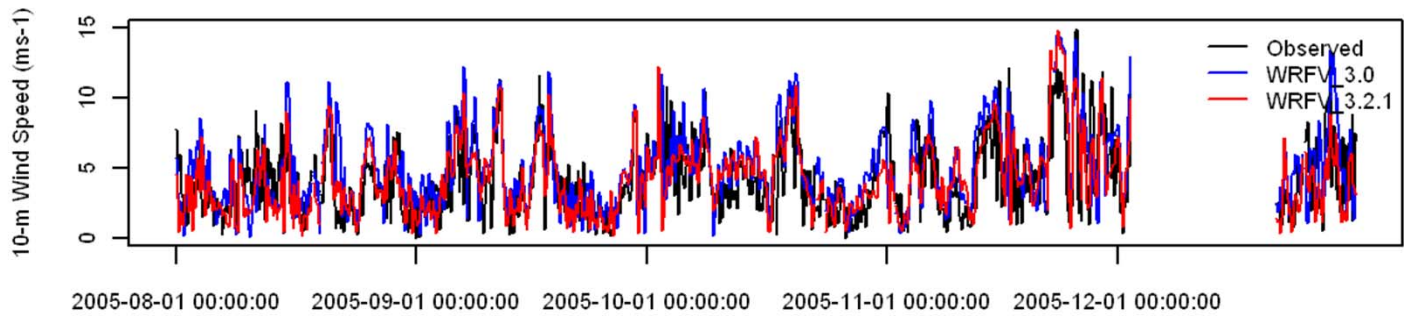
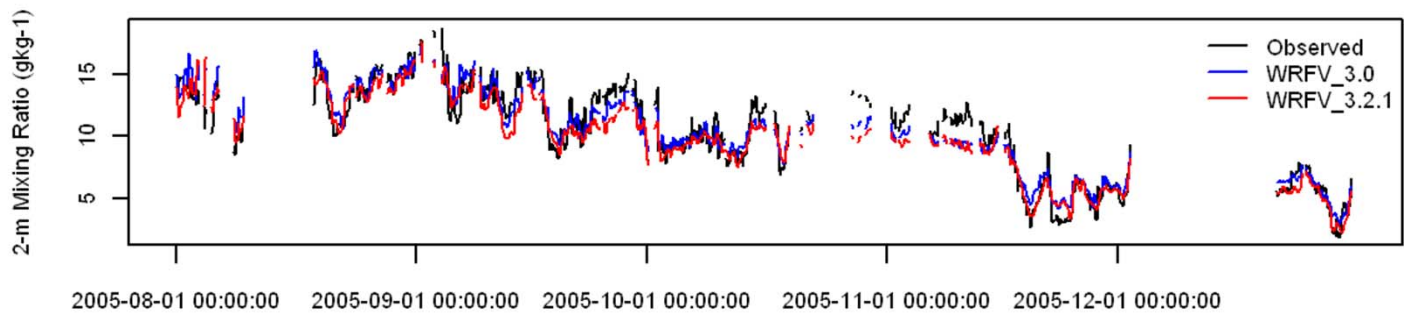
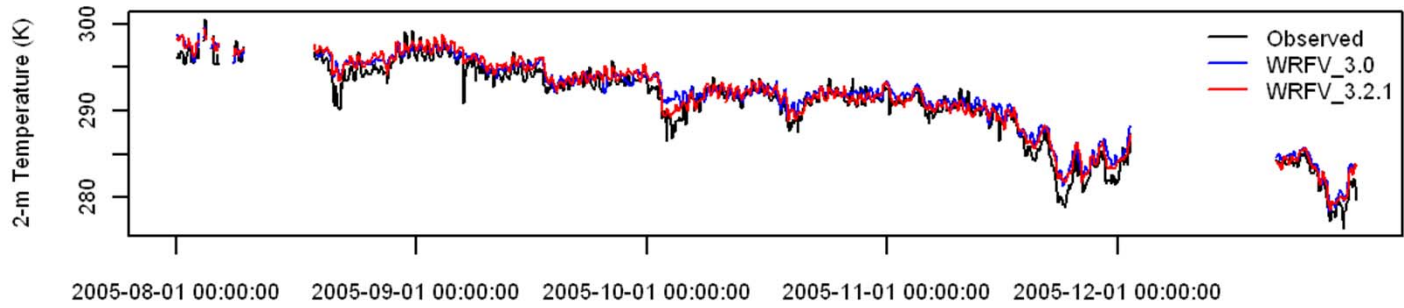


**Thank you!**

**Photographs by Corrado F. Ratto**

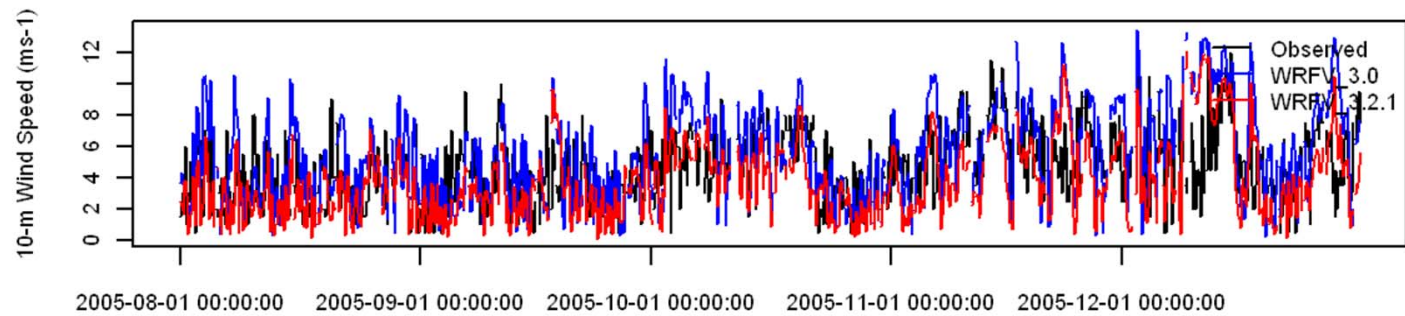
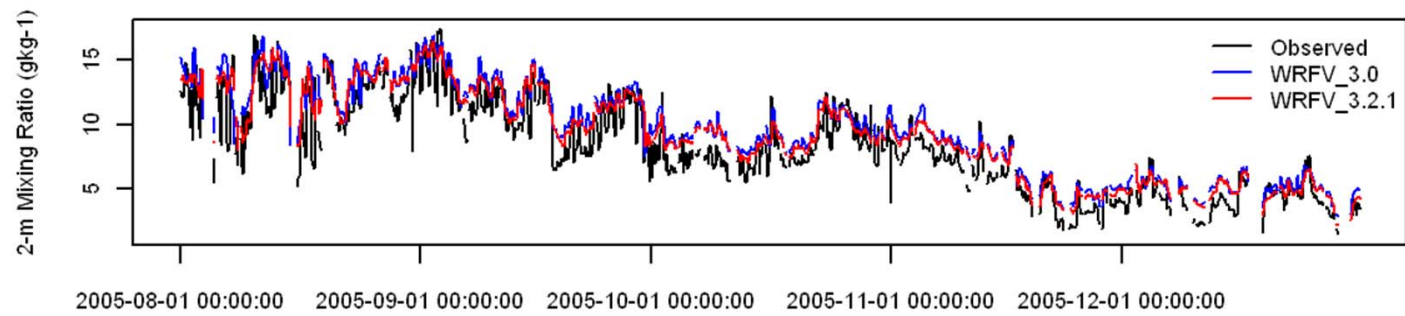
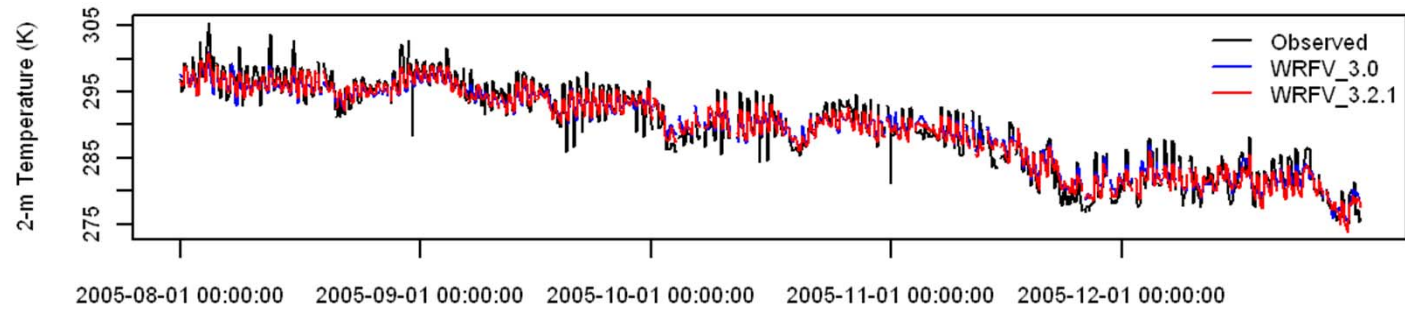


## Time Series Plot - ODAS



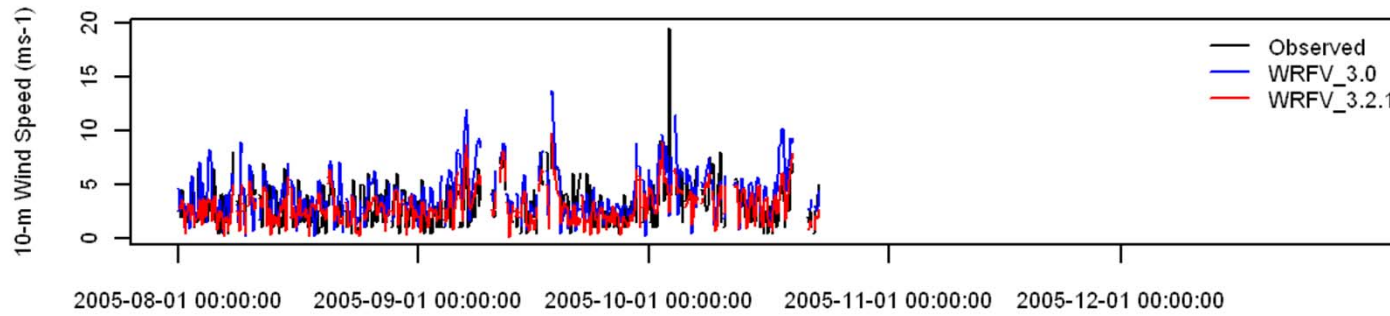
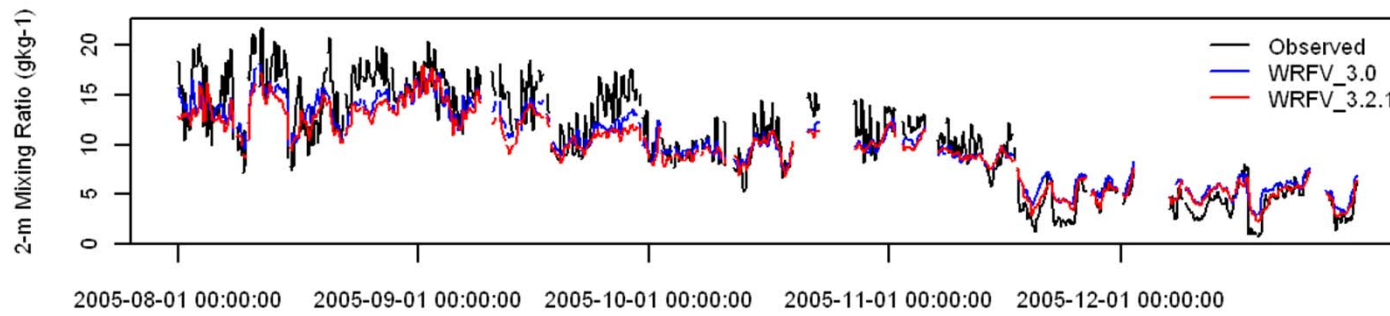
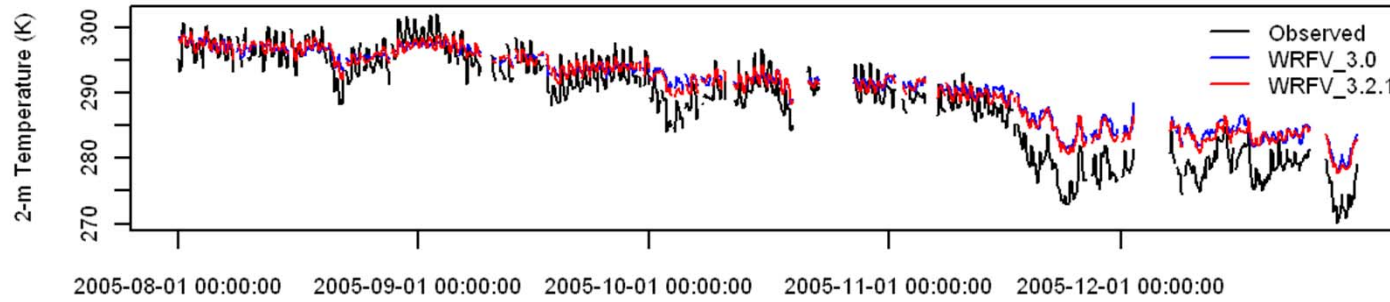
# Genova/Sestri WMO station

## Time Series Plot - 16120



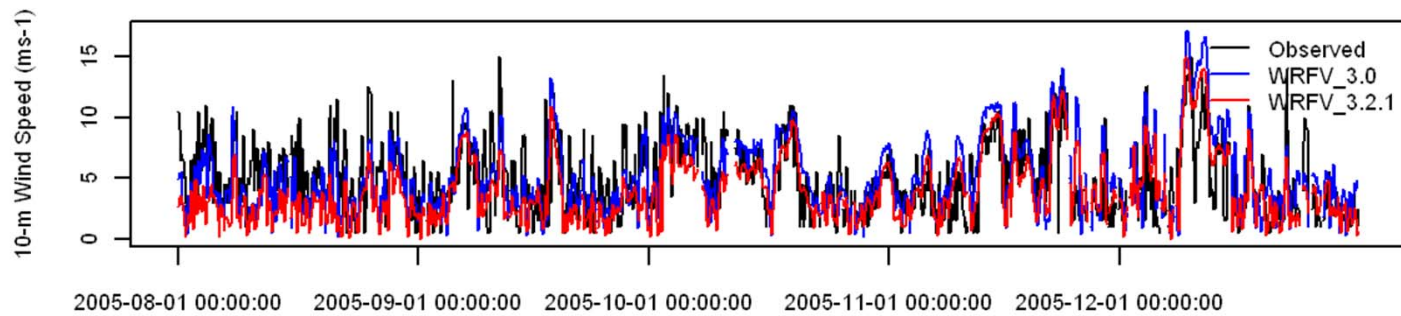
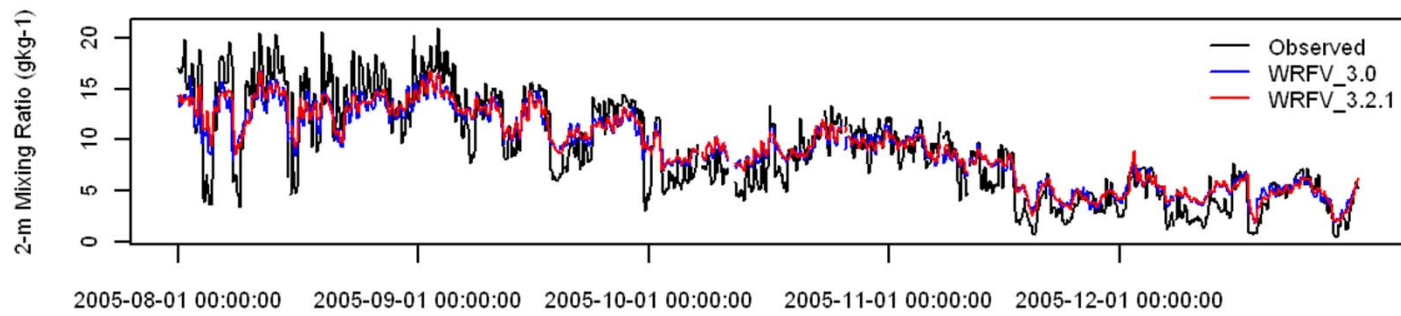
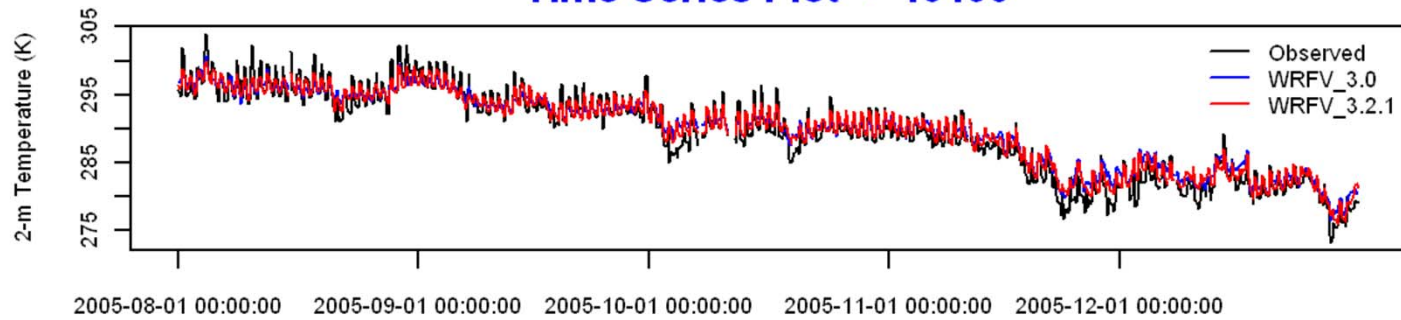
# La Spezia – La Castellana WMO station

## Time Series Plot - 16129



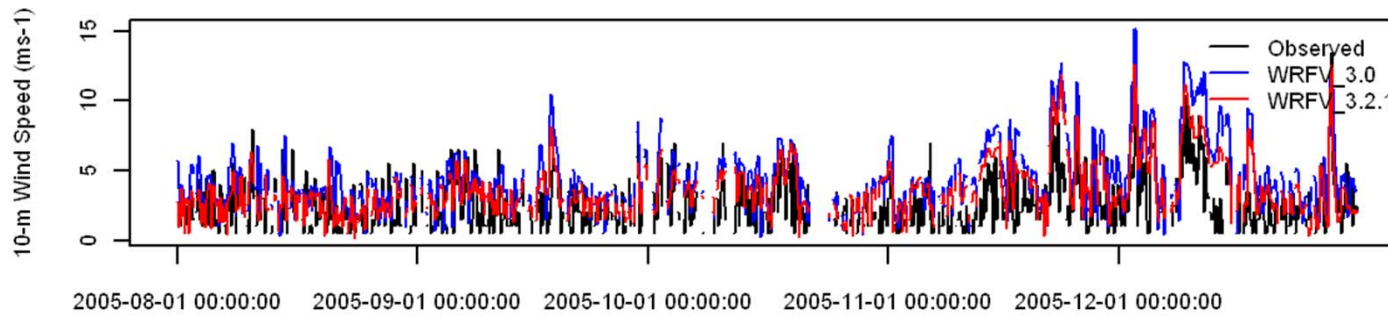
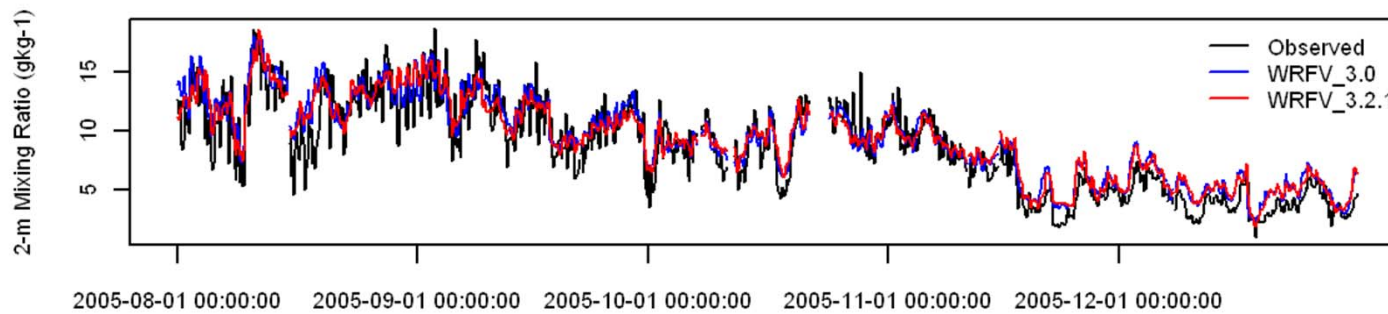
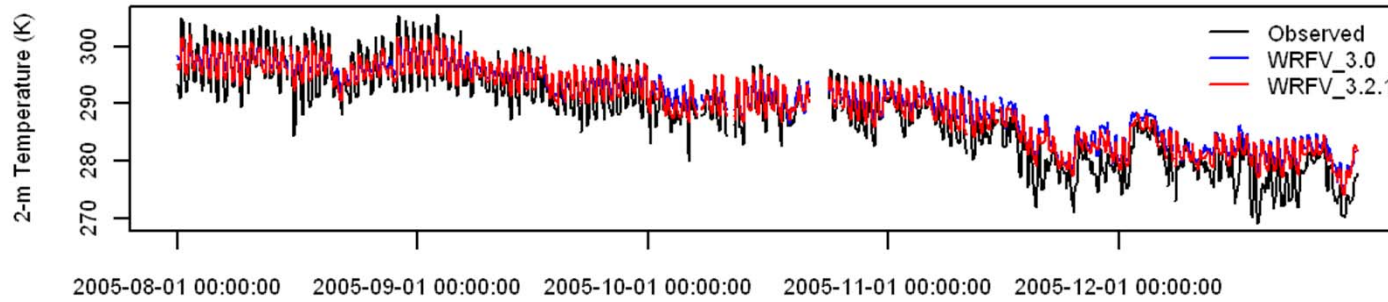
# Capo Mele WMO station

## Time Series Plot - 16153

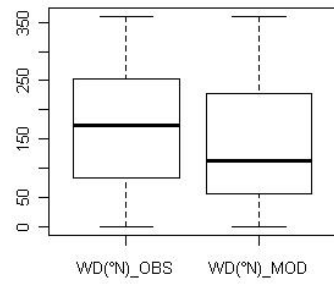
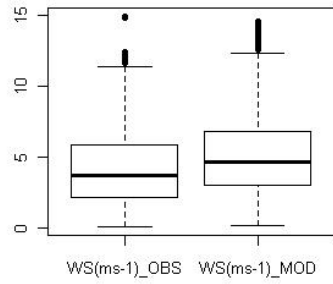
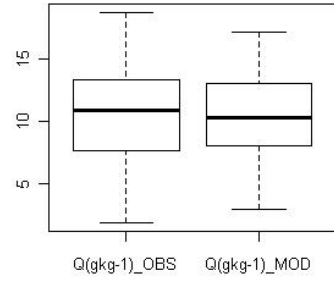
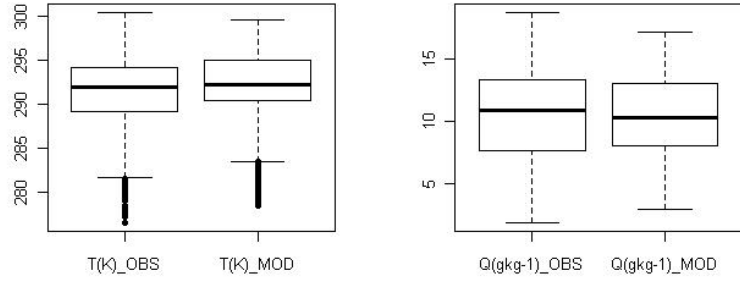


# Pisa/S. Giusto WMO station

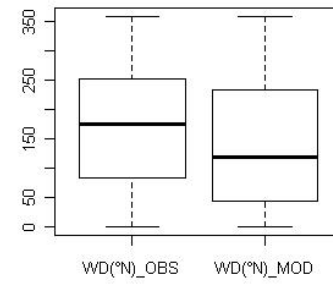
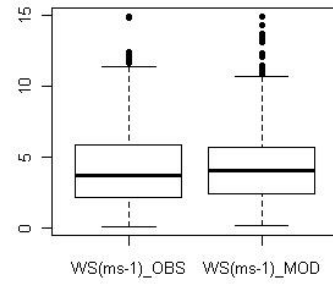
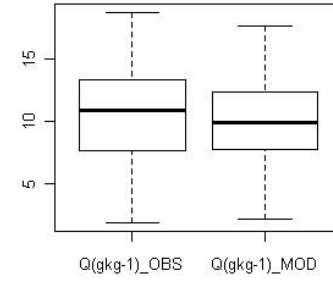
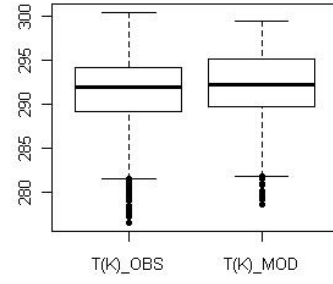
## Time Series Plot - 16158



Obs and Mod Box Plots - ODAS - WRFV\_3.0

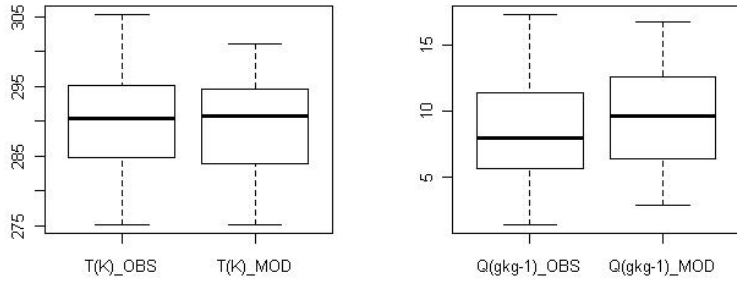


Obs and Mod Box Plots - ODAS - WRFV\_3.2.1

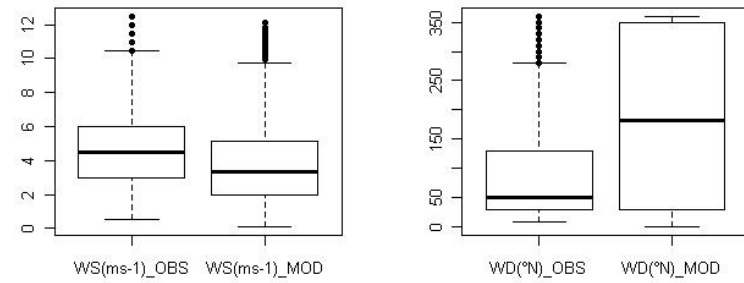
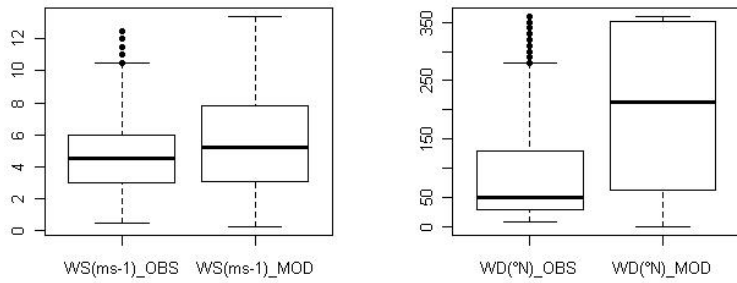
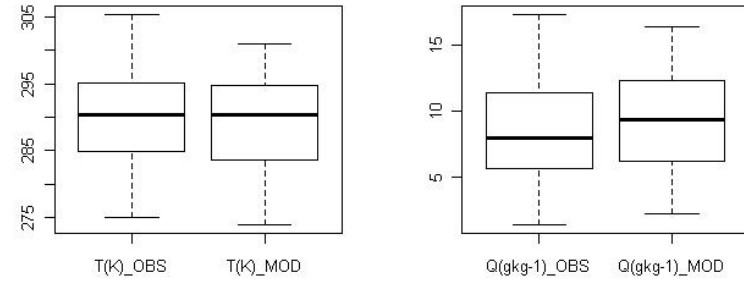


# Genova/Sestri WMO station

Obs and Mod Box Plots - 16120 - WRFV\_3.0

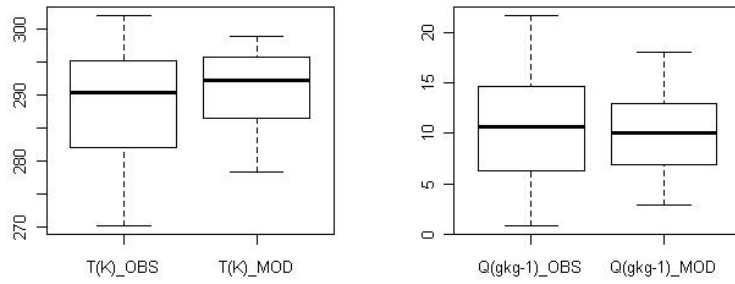


Obs and Mod Box Plots - 16120 - WRFV\_3.2.1

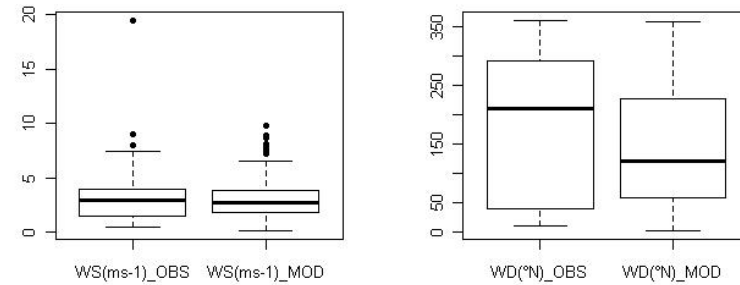
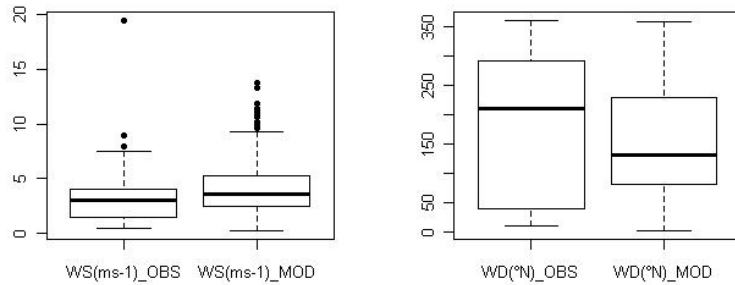
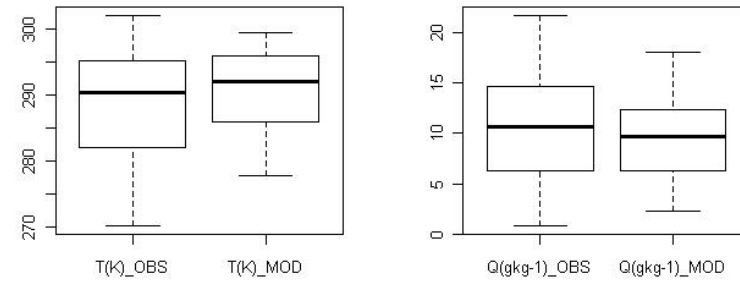


# La Spezia – La Castellana WMO station

Obs and Mod Box Plots - 16129 - WRFV\_3.0



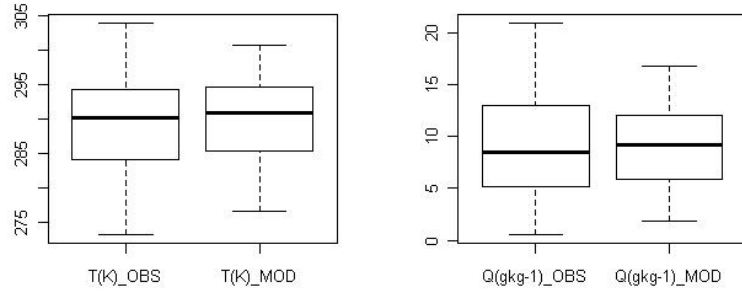
Obs and Mod Box Plots - 16129 - WRFV\_3.2.1



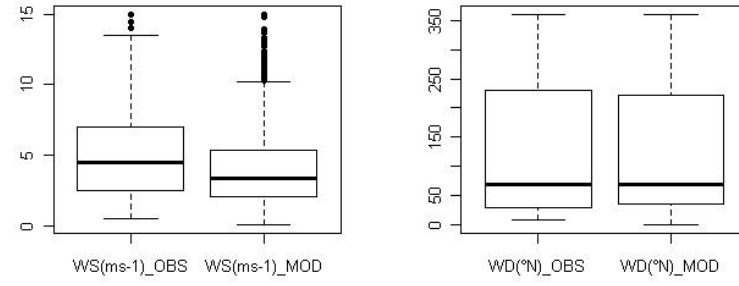
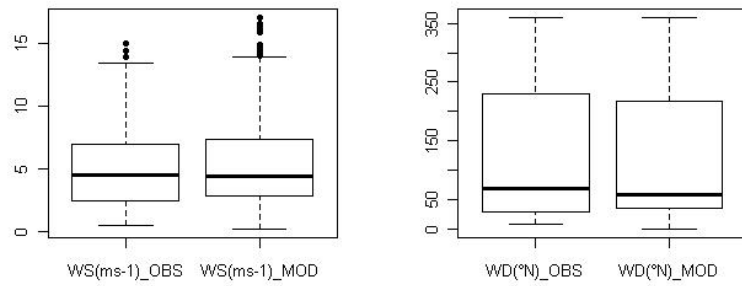
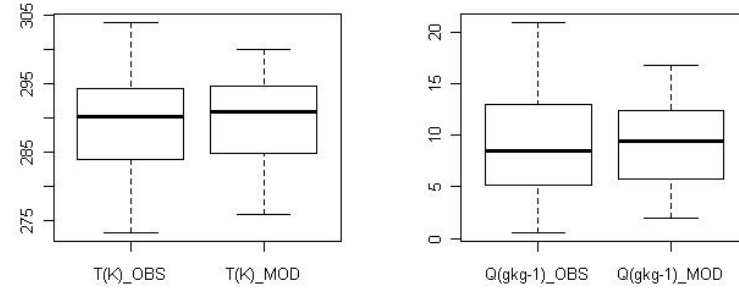


# Capo Mele WMO station

Obs and Mod Box Plots - 16153 - WRFV\_3.0

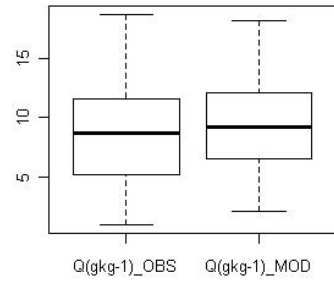
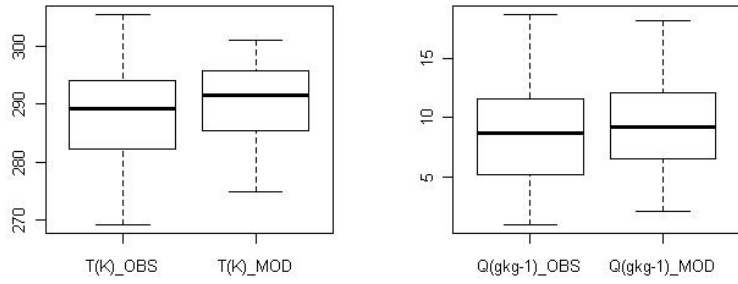


Obs and Mod Box Plots - 16153 - WRFV\_3.2.1

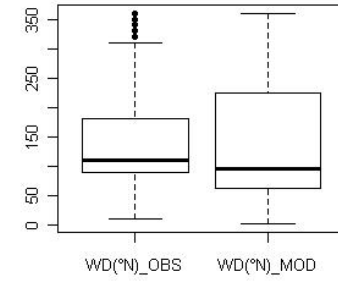
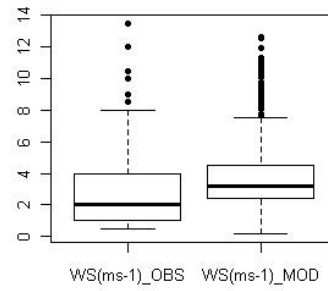
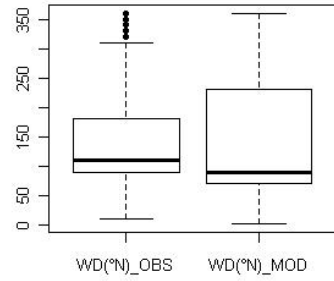
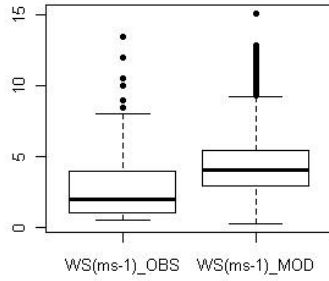
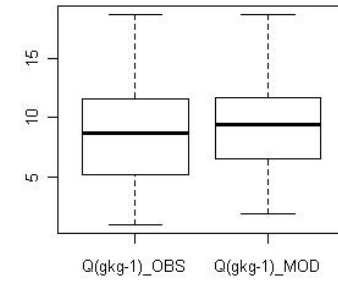
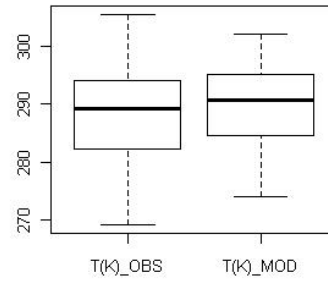


# Pisa/S. Giusto WMO station

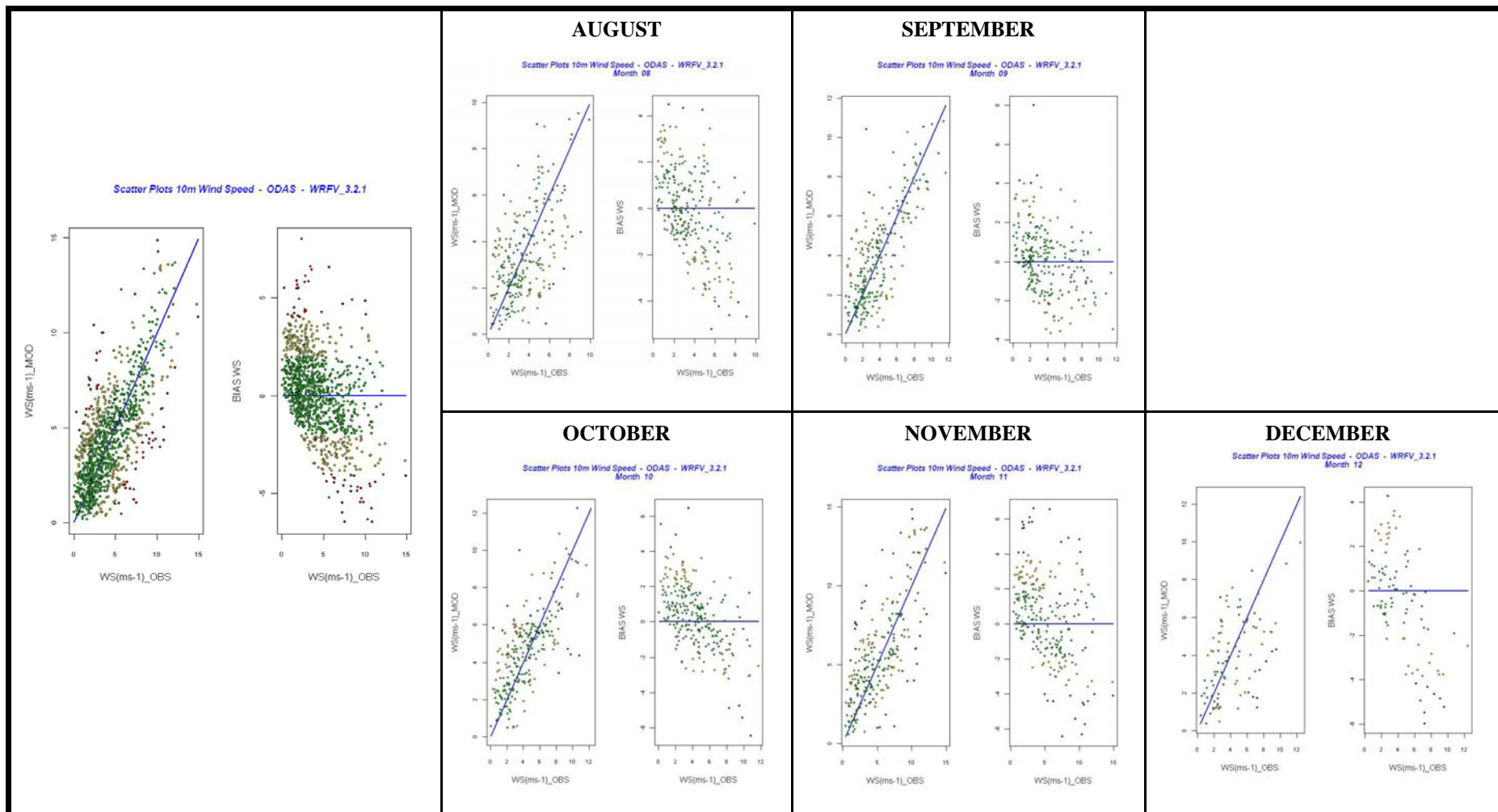
Obs and Mod Box Plots - 16158 - WRFV\_3.0



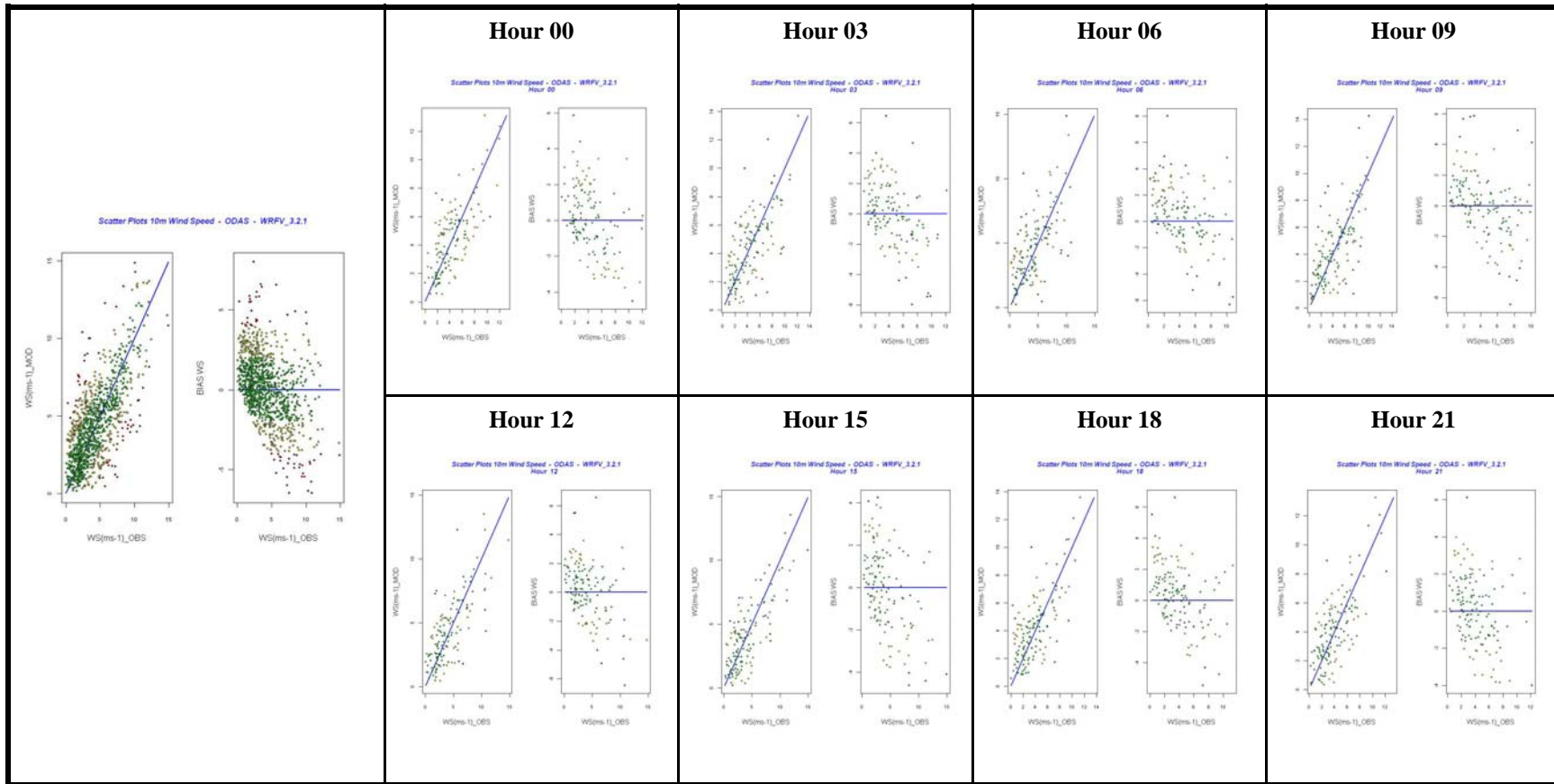
Obs and Mod Box Plots - 16158 - WRFV\_3.2.1



# Wind speed - ODAS – WRF V\_3.2.1



# Wind speed - ODAS – WRF V\_3.2.1



# WRF-ARW configuration

- **mp\_physics:** WMS5 (Hong et al., 2004, Hong and Lim, 2006)
- **bl\_pbl\_physics:** YSU (Hong et al., 2006)
- **sf\_surface\_physics:** Noah LSM (Chen and Dudhia, 2001)
- **sf\_sfclay\_physics:** MM5 – Monin Obukhov