

Intercomparison of operational wave forecasting systems against  
in-situ observations: data from BoM, DMI, DWD, ECCO,  
ECMWF, JMA, LOPS, METEOAM, METFR, METNO, NCEP,  
NZMS, PRTOS, SHNSM, UKMO.

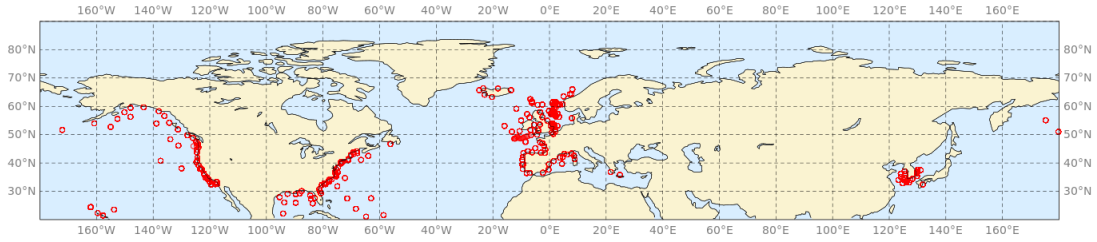
00 and 12 UTC runs

WMO Lead Centre for Wave Forecast Verification LC-WFV,  
European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts ECMWF

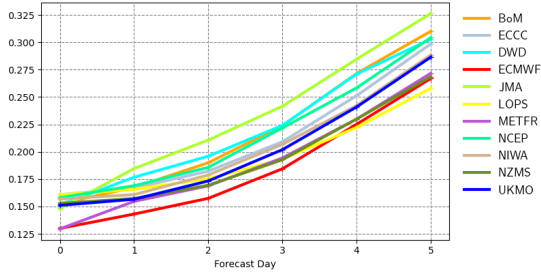
April 23, 2024

**PART I: significant wave height (SWH)**

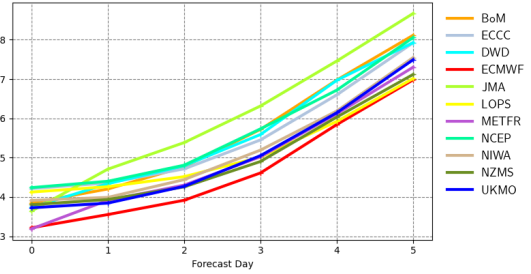
Buoys observations - from 20231201 to 20240229 - (swh)



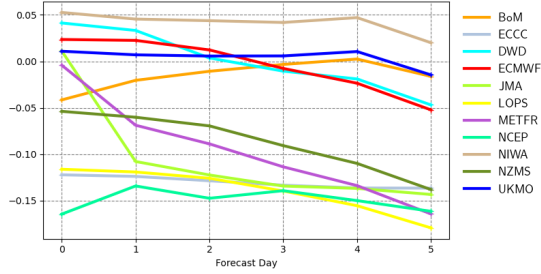
Scatter index | significant wave height | NHem Extratropics  
20231201 00z to 20240229 12z | waveapi lw wave prod mean\_fair



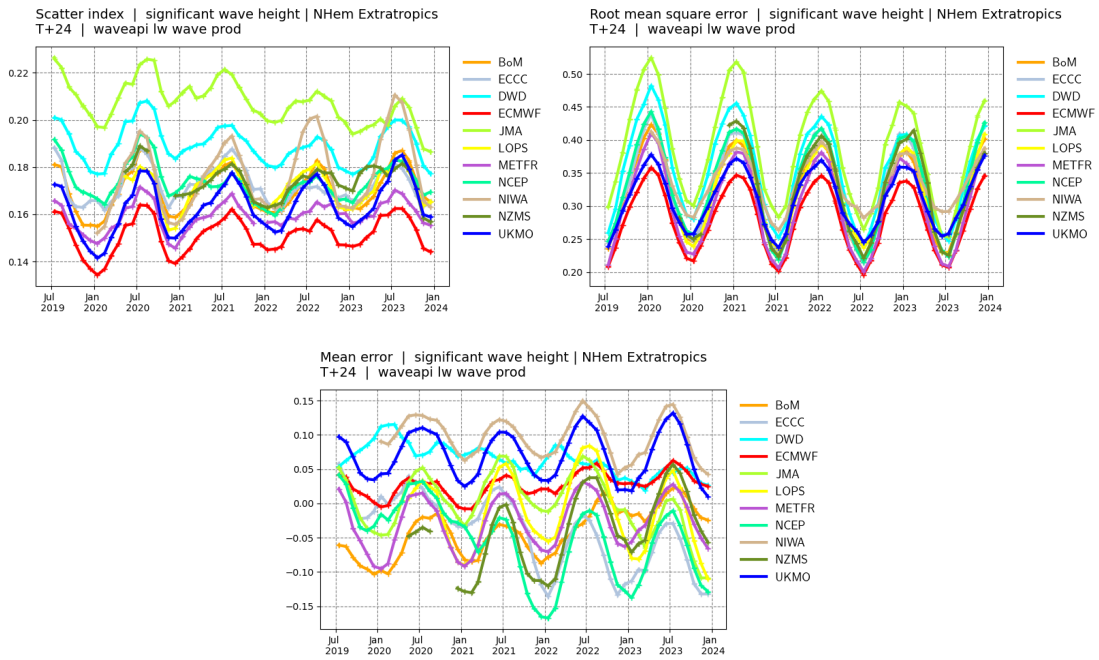
Root mean square error | significant wave height | NHem Extratropics  
20231201 00z to 20240229 12z | waveapi lw wave prod mean\_fair



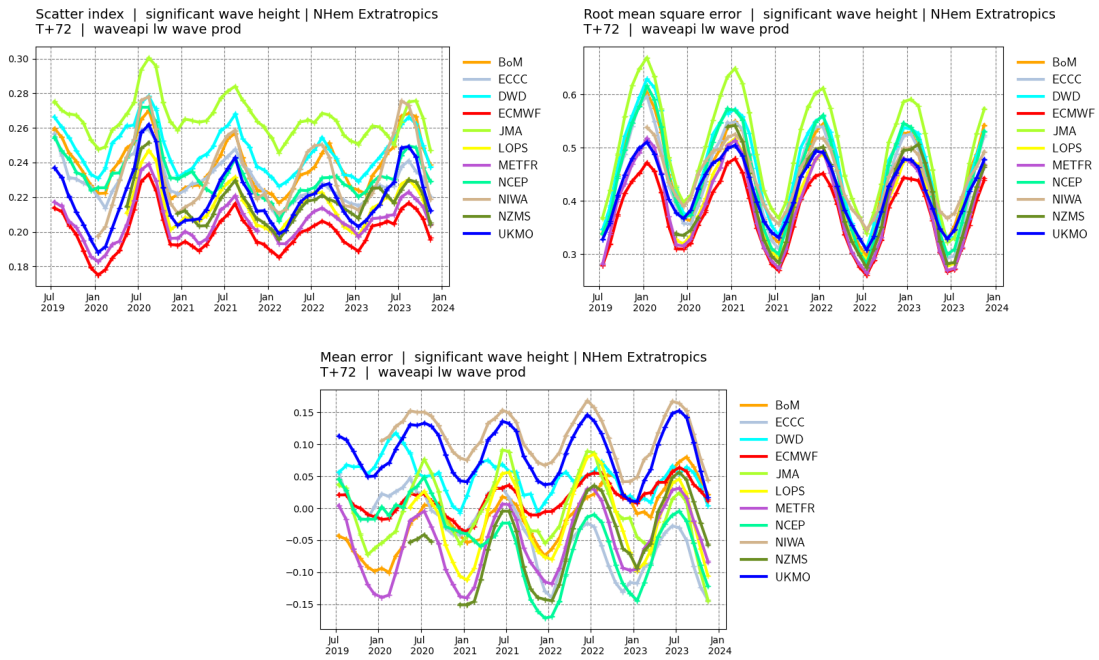
Mean error | significant wave height | NHem Extratropics  
20231201 00z to 20240229 12z | waveapi lw wave prod mean\_fair



**Northern Hemisphere.** Top panel: observation distribution. Middle left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Middle right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

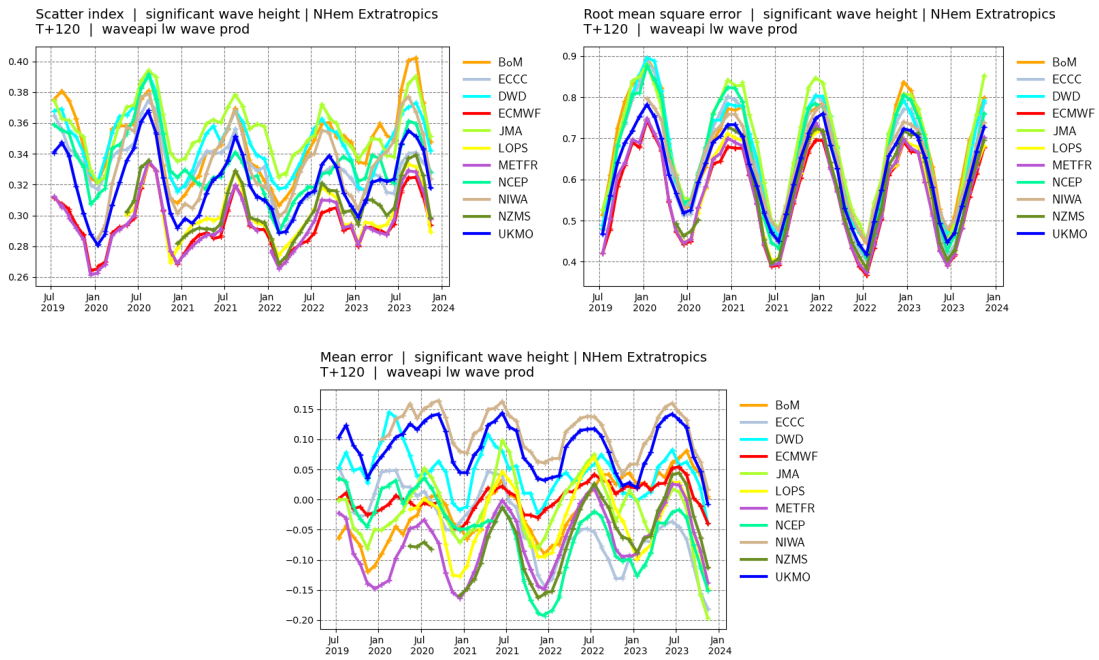


**Northern Hemisphere.** Scores time-series at **day 1**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



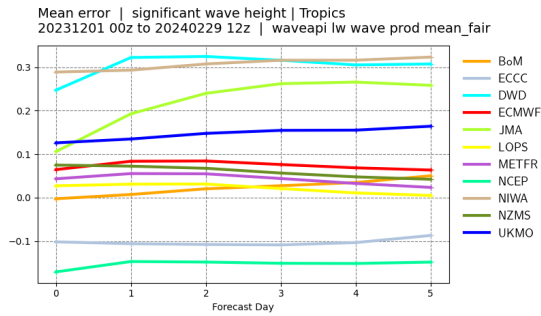
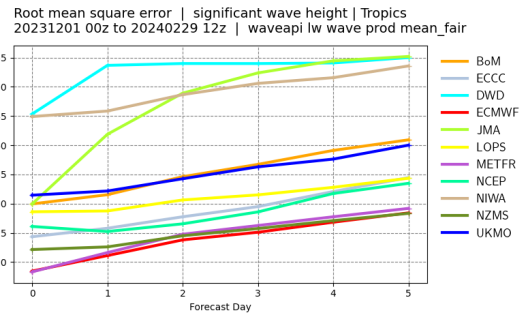
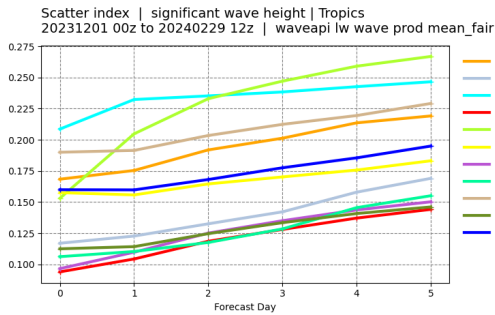
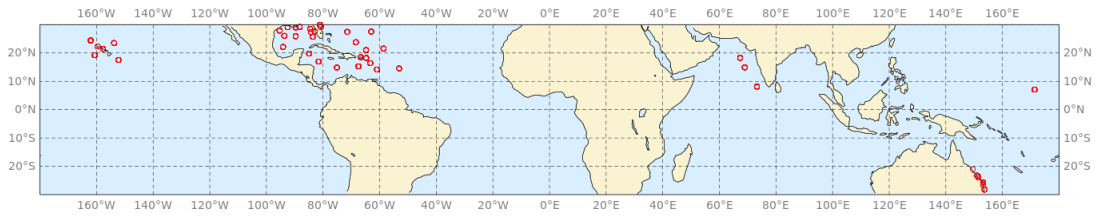
**Northern Hemisphere.** Scores time-series at **day 3**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



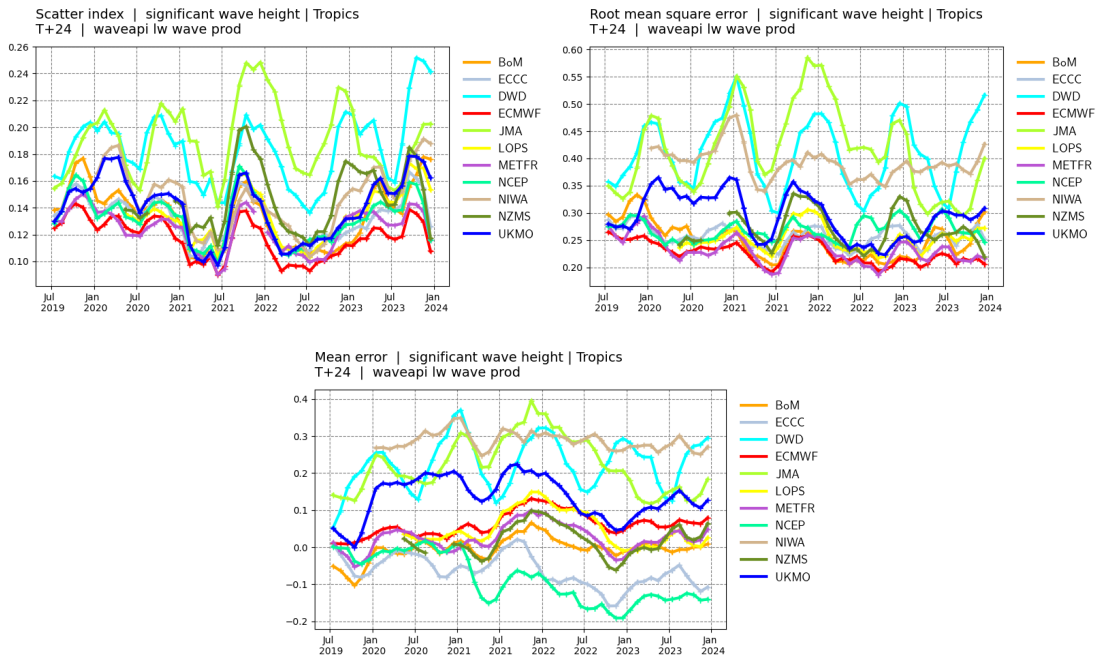


**Northern Hemisphere.** Scores time-series at **day 5**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

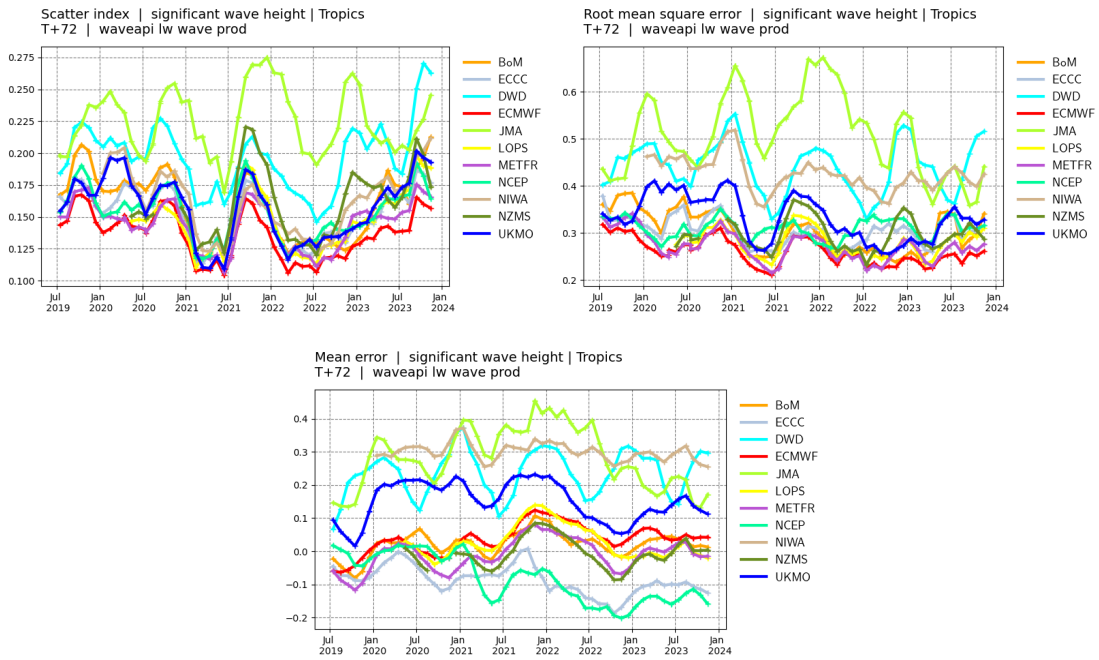
Buoys observations - from 20231201 to 20240229 - (swh)



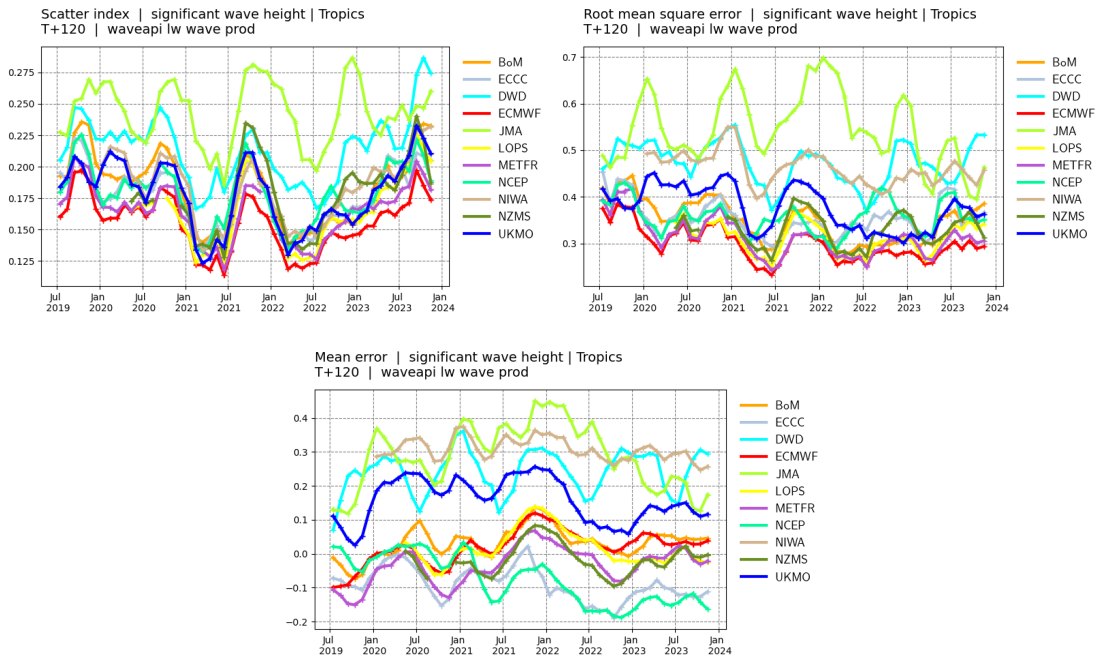
**Tropics.** Top panel: observation distribution. Middle left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Middle right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



**Tropics.** Scores time-series at **day 1**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

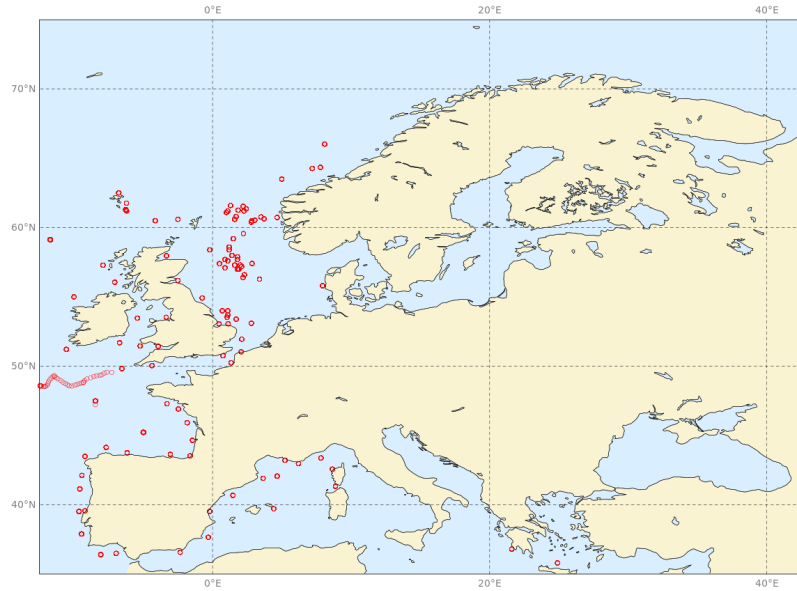


**Tropics.** Scores time-series at **day 3**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

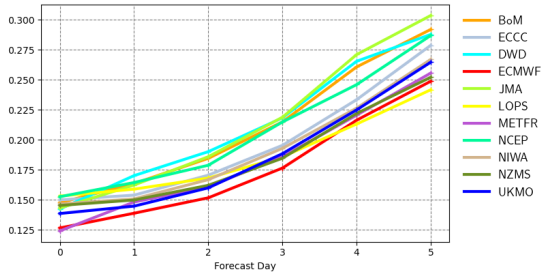


**Tropics.** Scores time-series at **day 5**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

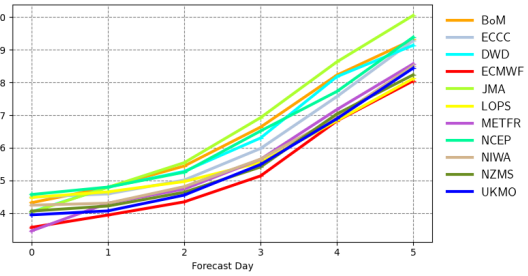
Buoys observations - from 20231201 to 20240229 - (swh)



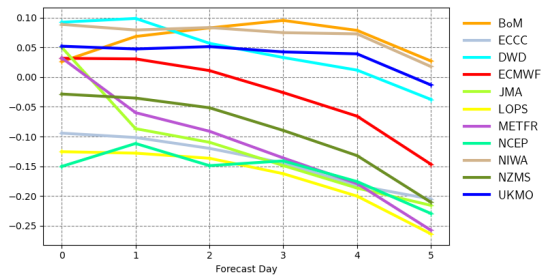
Scatter index | significant wave height | Europe  
20231201 00z to 20240229 12z | waveapi lw wave prod mean\_fair



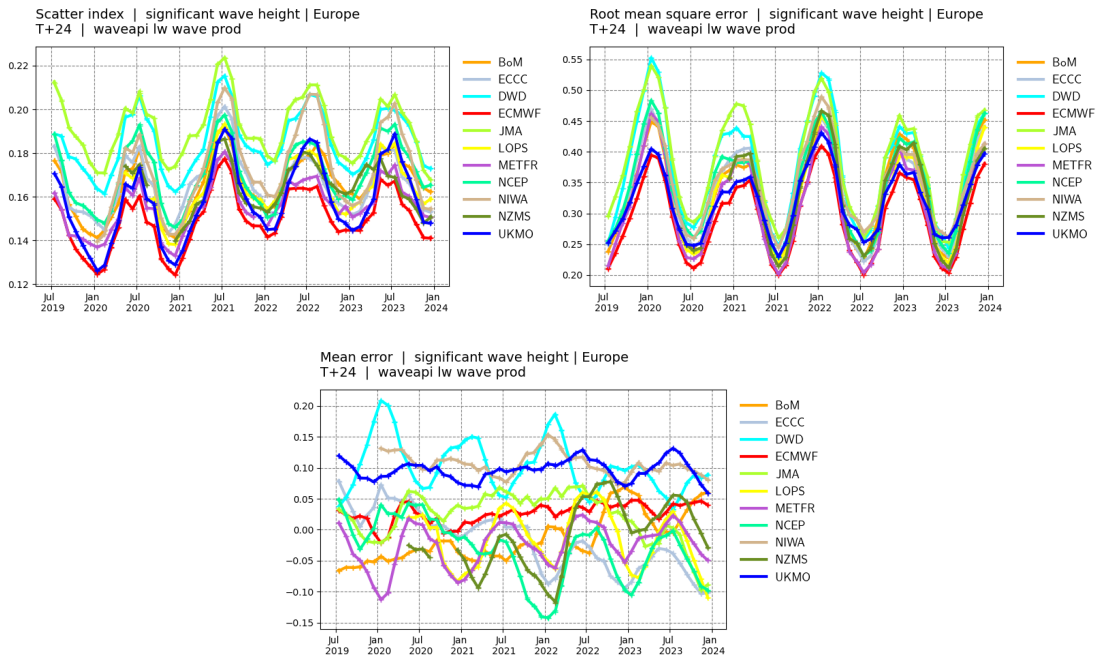
Root mean square error | significant wave height | Europe  
20231201 00z to 20240229 12z | waveapi lw wave prod mean\_fair



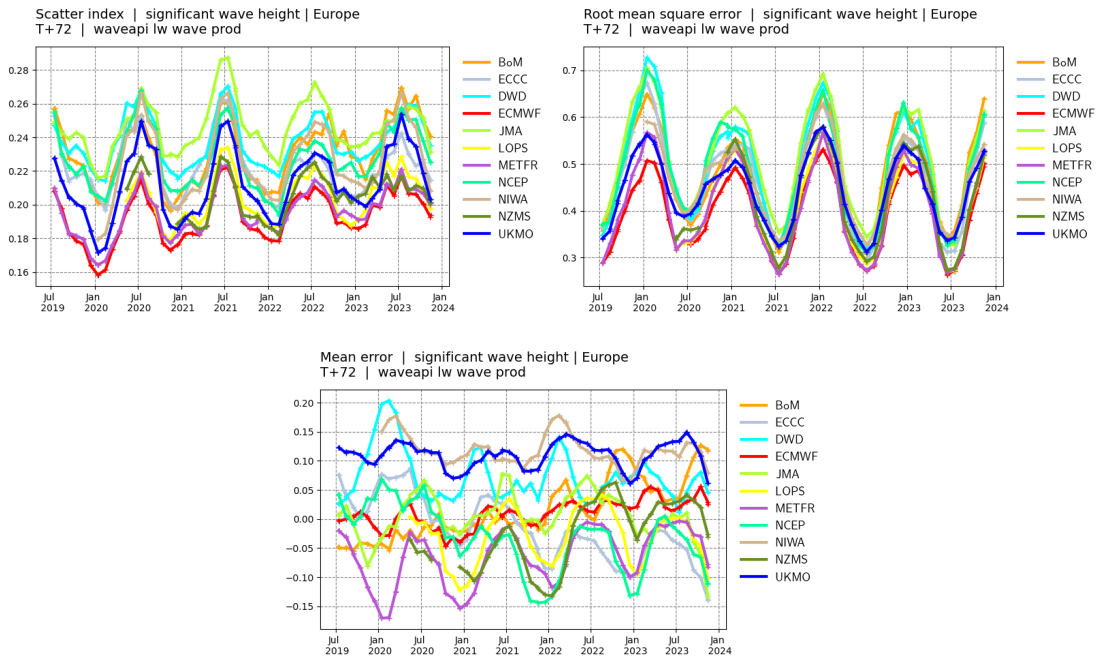
Mean error | significant wave height | Europe  
20231201 00z to 20240229 12z | waveapi lw wave prod mean\_fair



**Europe.** Top panel: observation distribution. Middle left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Middle right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

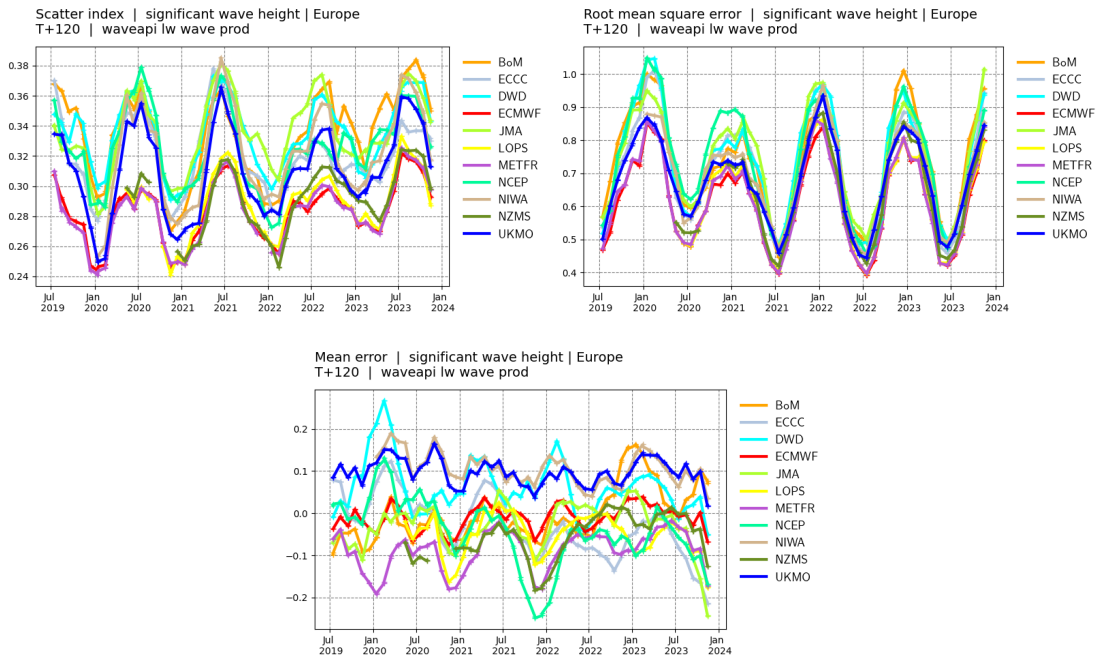


**Europe.** Scores time-series at **day 1**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



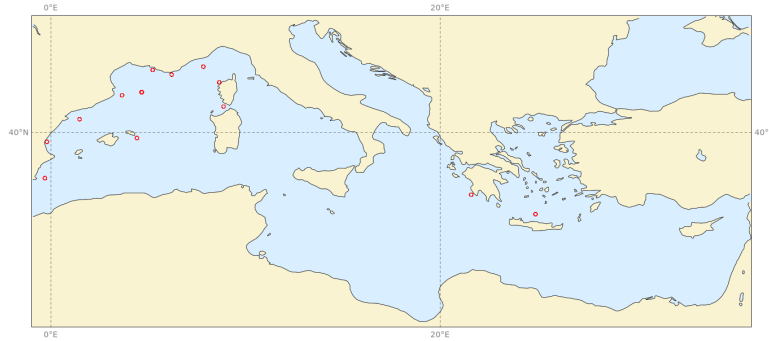
**Europe.** Scores time-series at **day 3**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



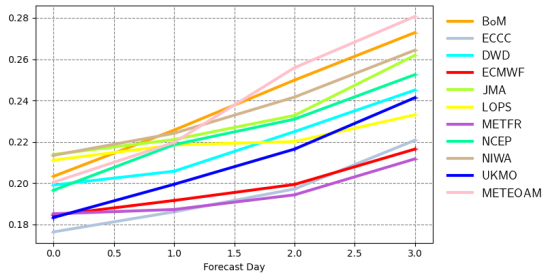


**Europe.** Scores time-series at **day 5**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

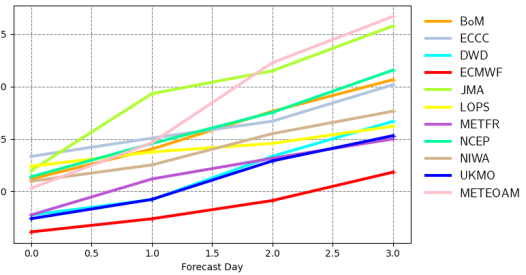
Buoys observations - from 20231201 to 20240229 - (swh)



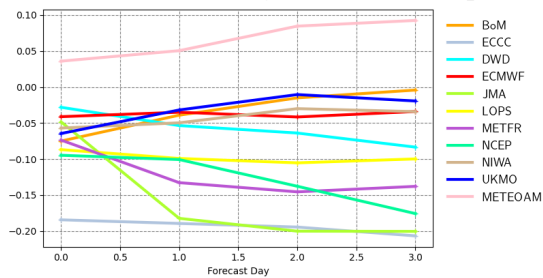
Scatter index | significant wave height | Mediterranean  
20231201 00z to 20240229 12z | waveapi lw wave prod mean\_fair



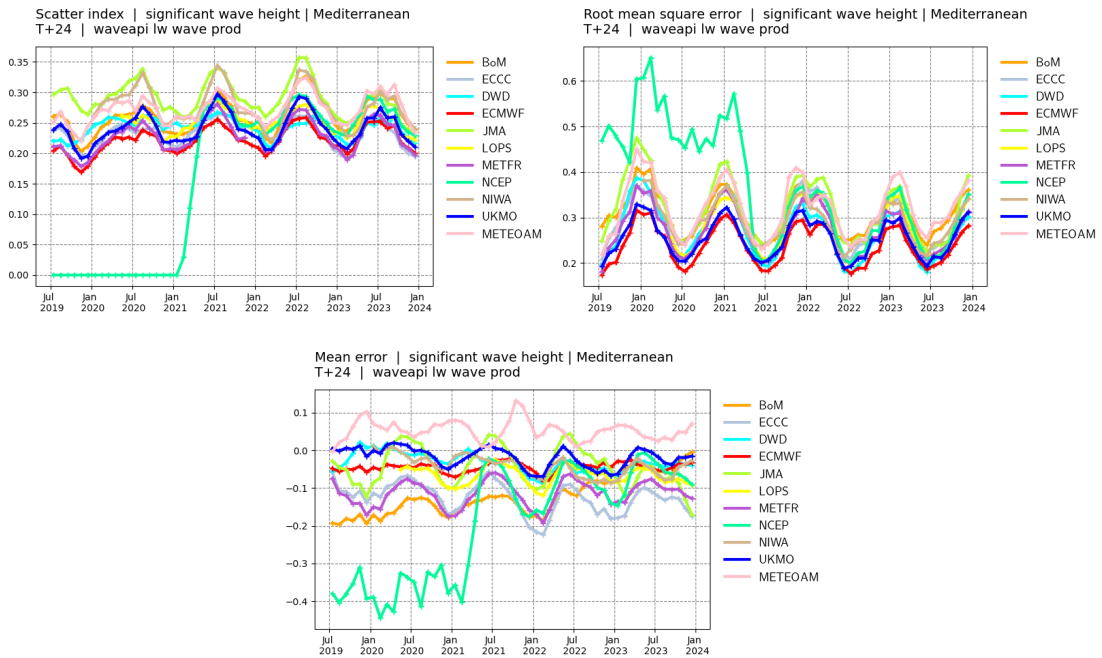
Root mean square error | significant wave height | Mediterranean  
20231201 00z to 20240229 12z | waveapi lw wave prod mean\_fair



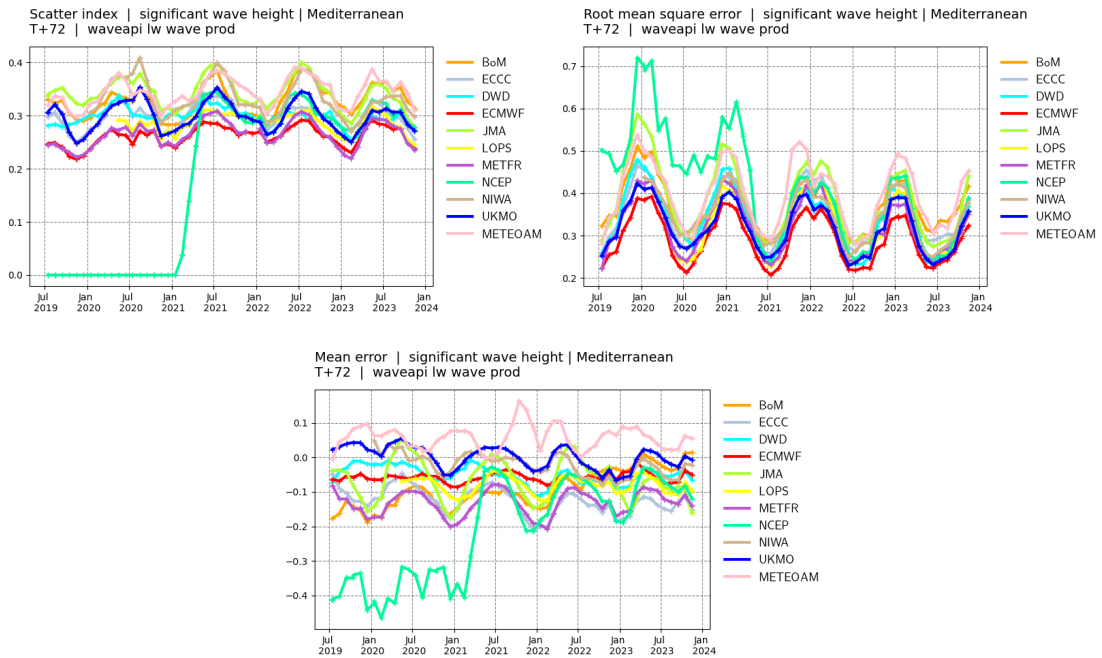
Mean error | significant wave height | Mediterranean  
20231201 00z to 20240229 12z | waveapi lw wave prod mean\_fair



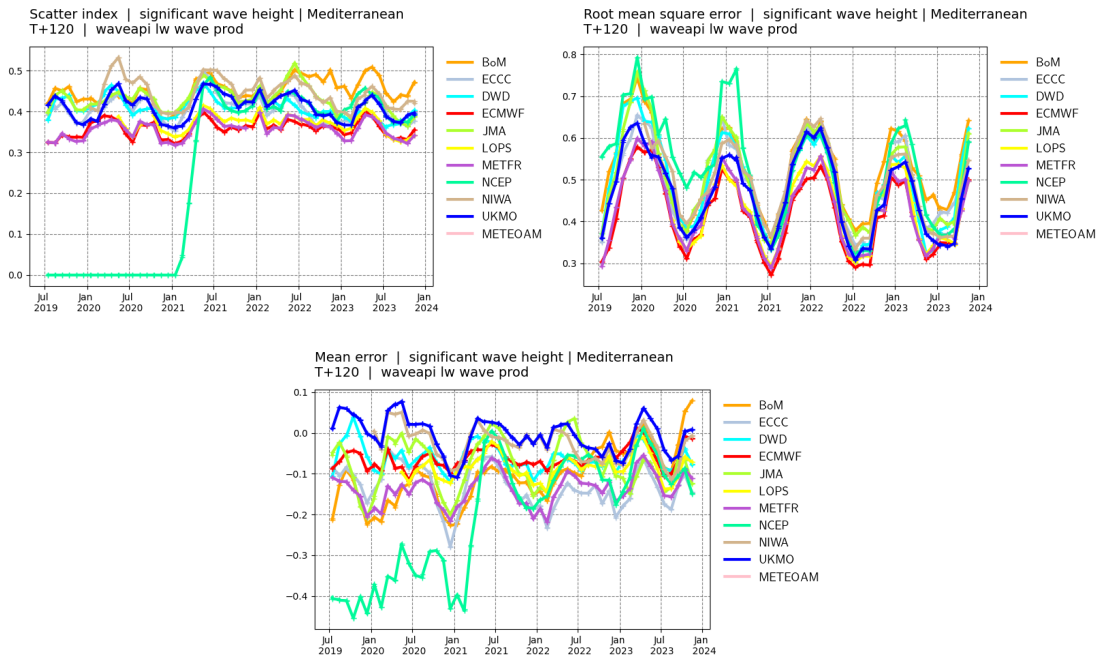
**Mediterranean Sea.** Top panel: observation distribution. Middle left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Middle right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



**Mediterranean Sea.** Scores time-series at **day 1**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

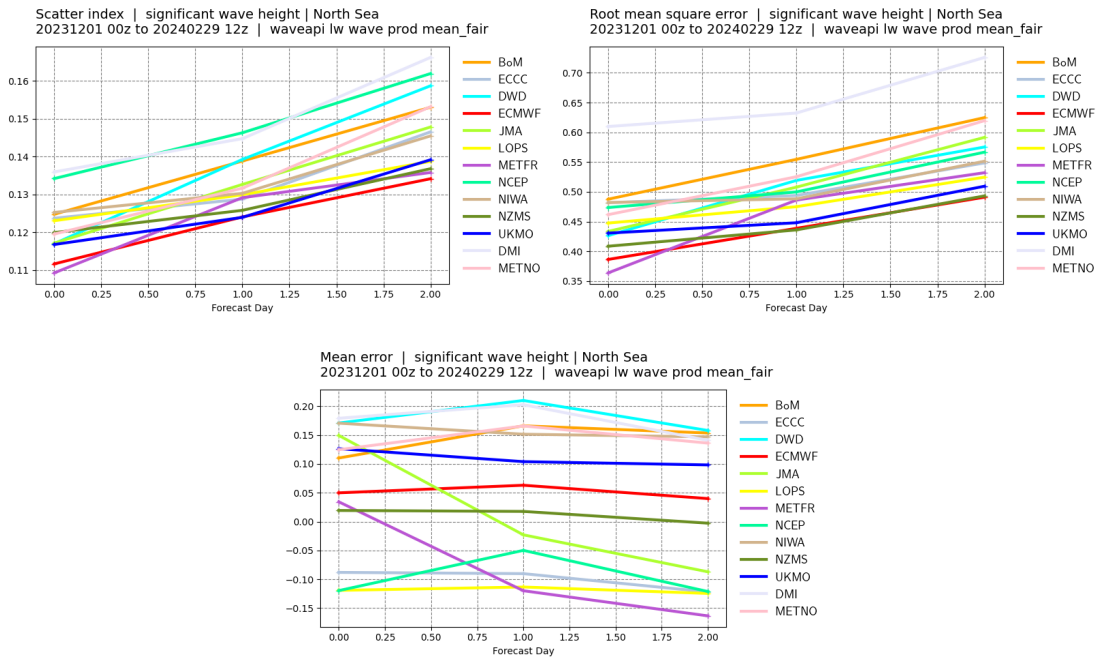
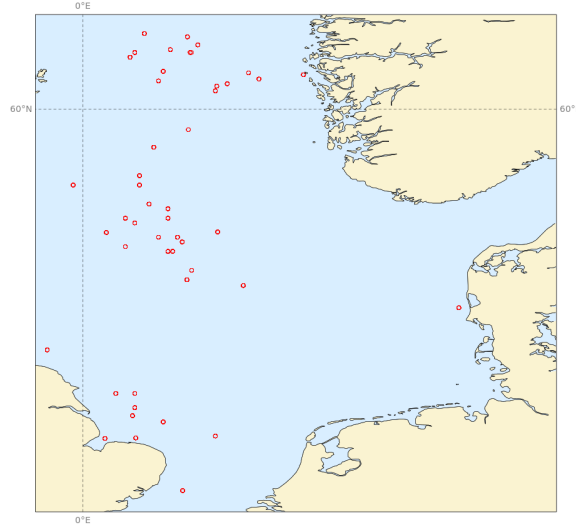


**Mediterranean Sea.** Scores time-series at **day 3**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

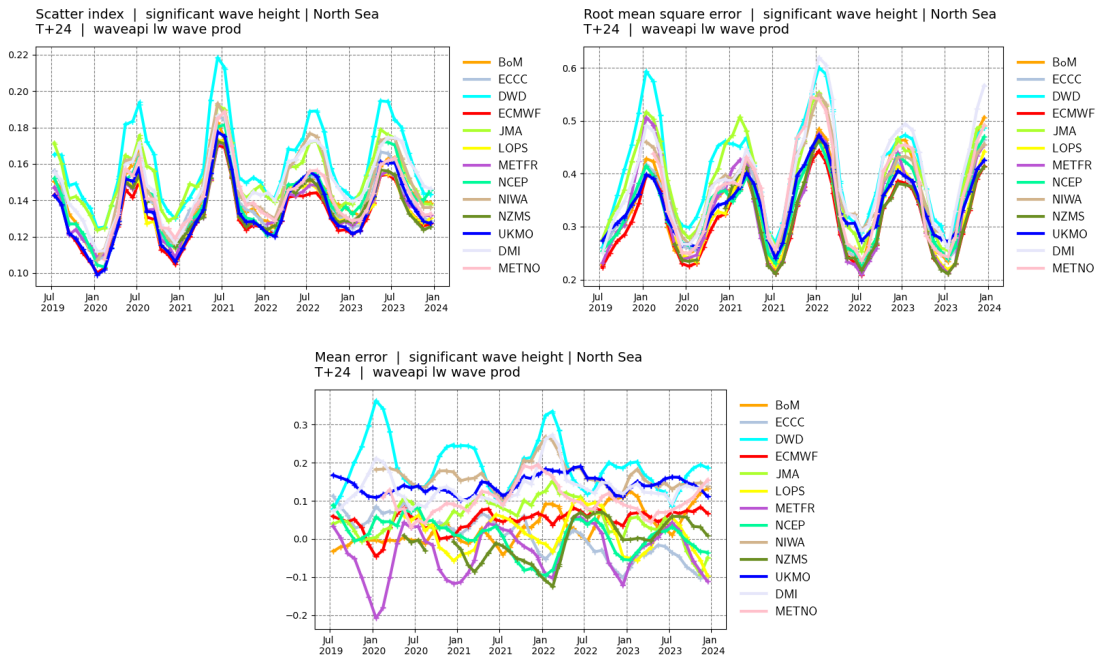


**Mediterranean Sea.** Scores time-series at **day 5**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

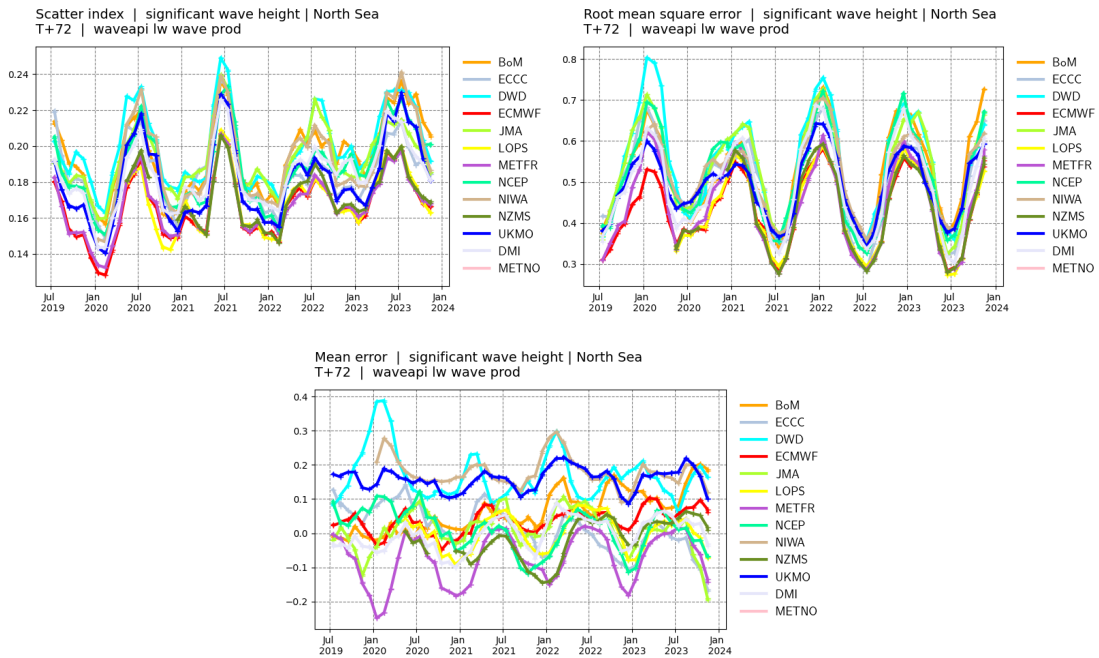
Buoys observations - from 20231201 to 20240229 - (swh)



**North Sea.** Top panel: observation distribution. Middle left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Middle right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

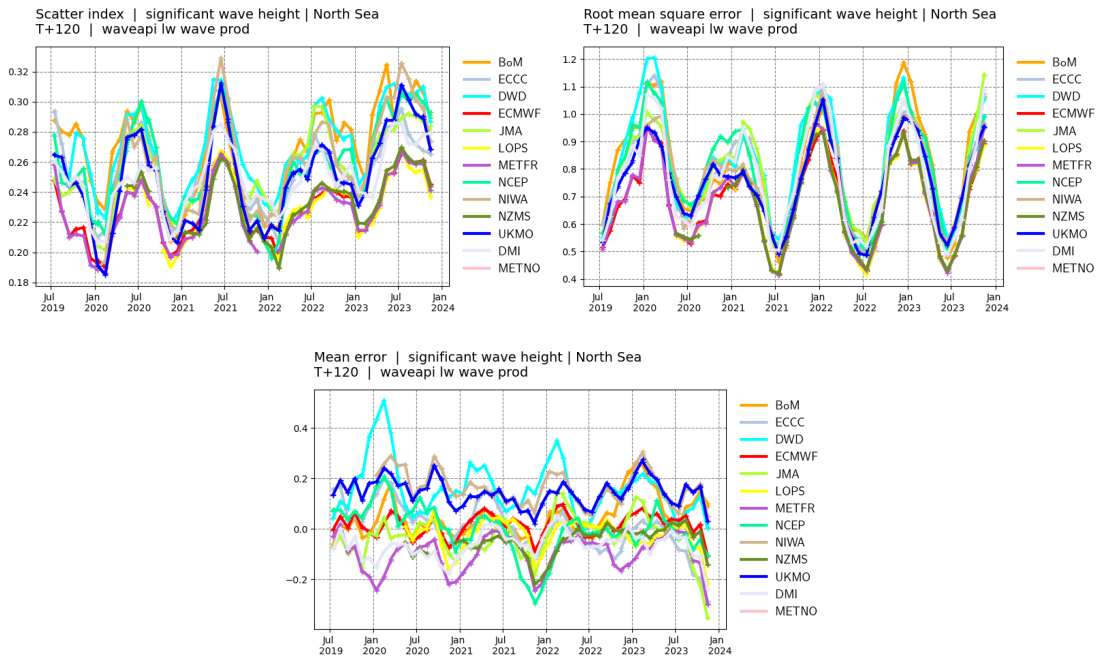


**North Sea.** Scores time-series at **day 1**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



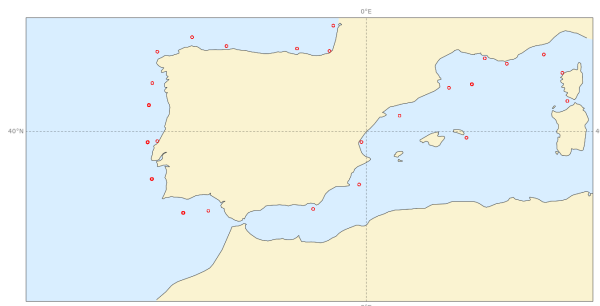
**North Sea.** Scores time-series at **day 3**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



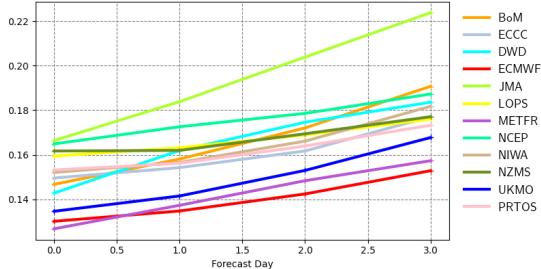


**North Sea.** Scores time-series at **day 5**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

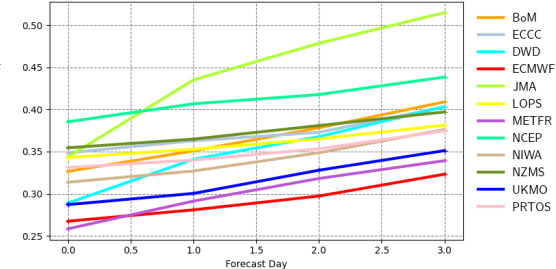
Buoys observations - from 20231201 to 20240229 - (swh)



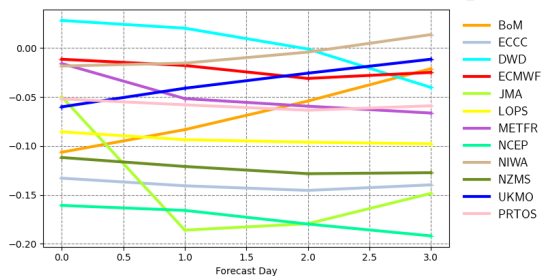
Scatter index | significant wave height | SW Europe  
20231201 00z to 20240229 12z | waveapi lw wave prod mean\_fair



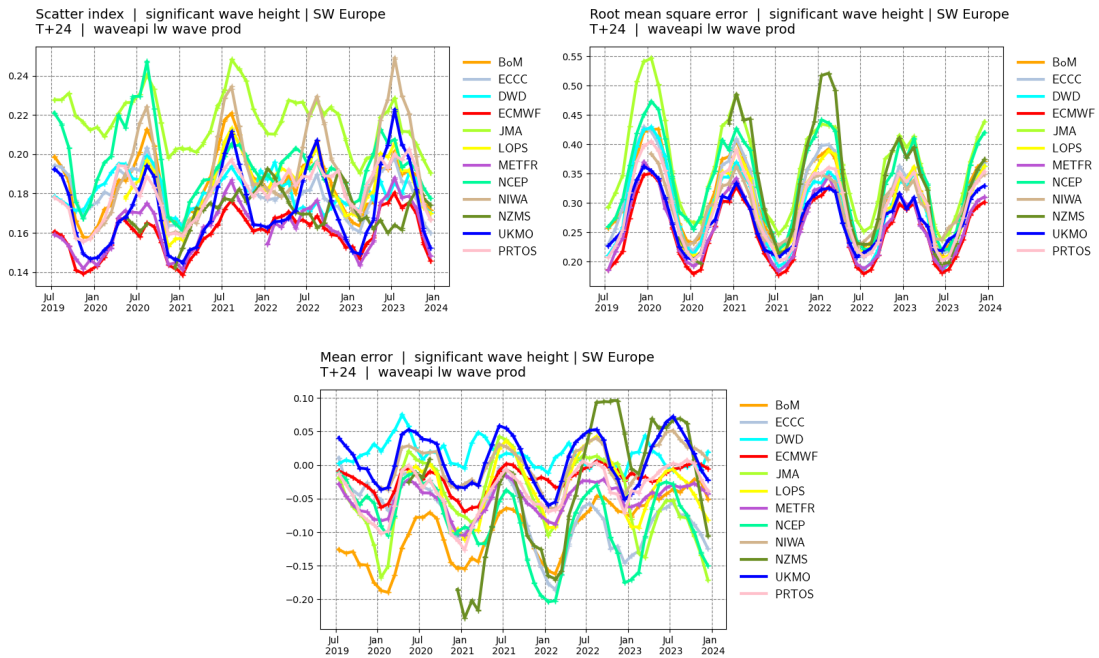
Root mean square error | significant wave height | SW Europe  
20231201 00z to 20240229 12z | waveapi lw wave prod mean\_fair



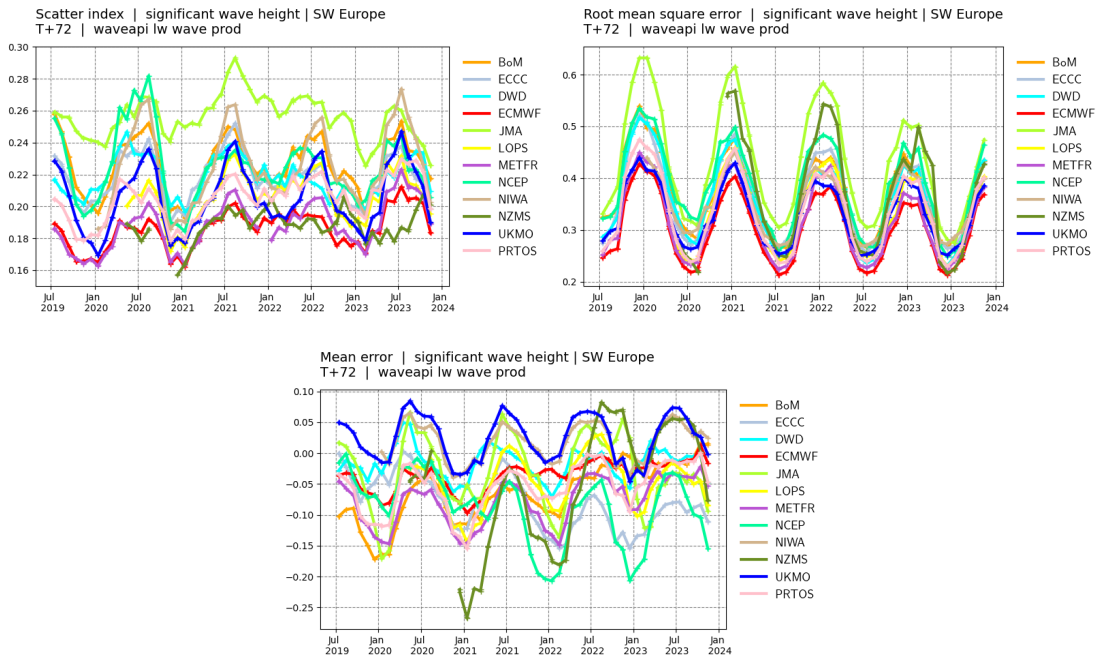
Mean error | significant wave height | SW Europe  
20231201 00z to 20240229 12z | waveapi lw wave prod mean\_fair



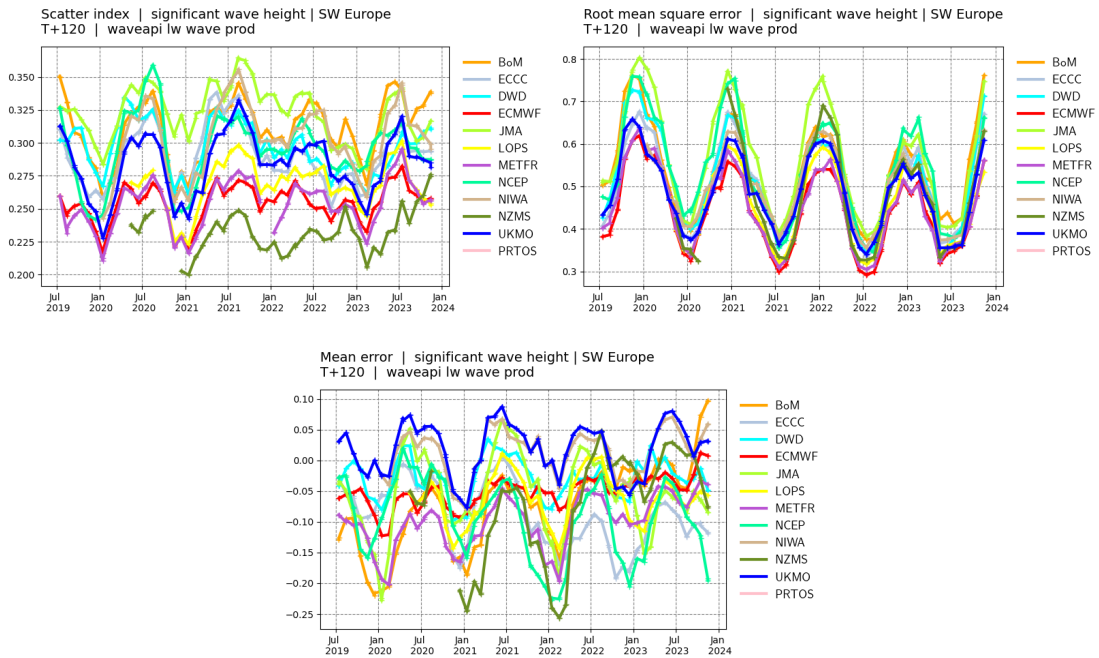
**South West Europe.** Top panel: observation distribution. Middle left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Middle right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



**South West Europe.** Scores time-series at **day 1**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

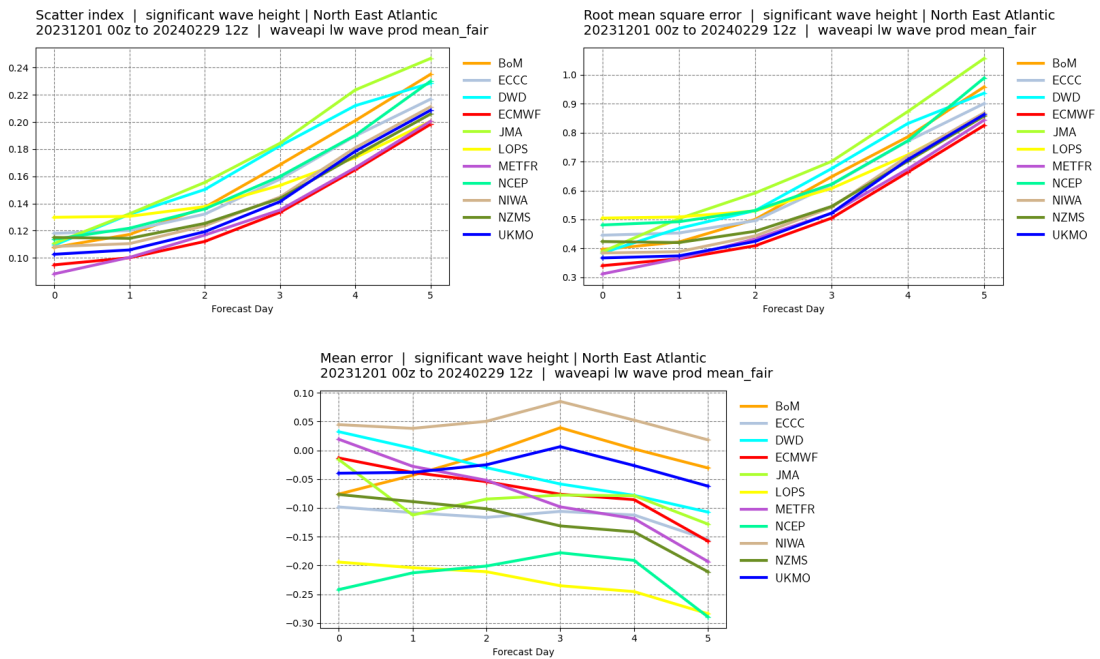
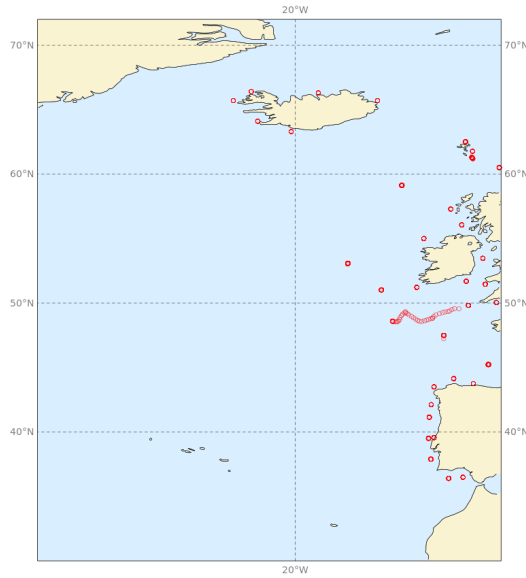


**South West Europe.** Scores time-series at **day 3**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

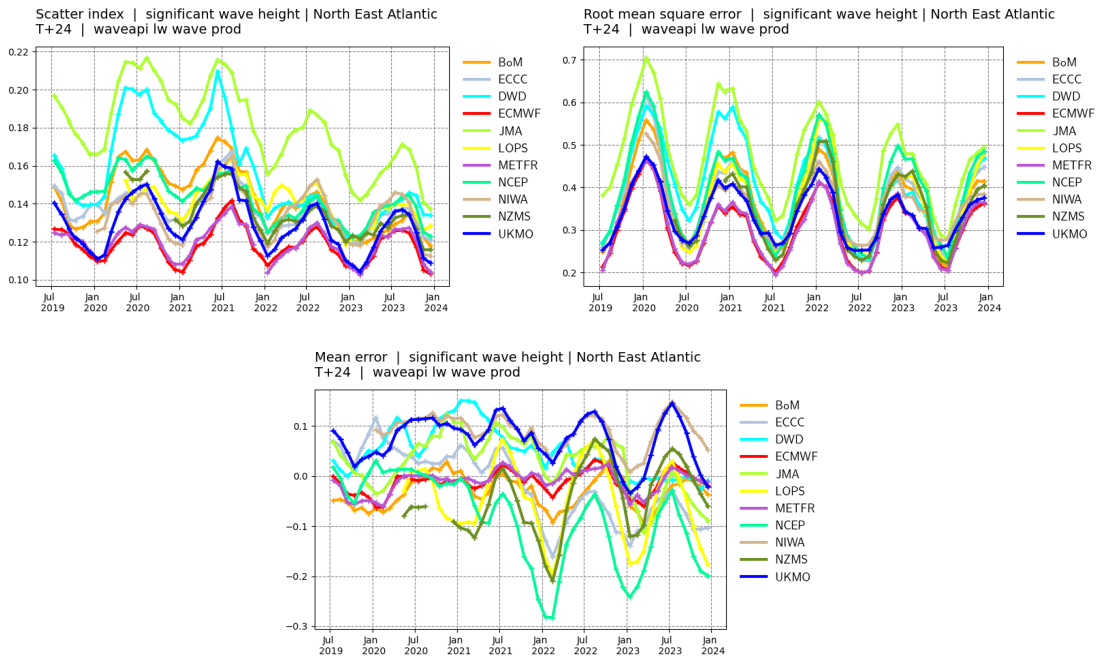


**South West Europe.** Scores time-series at **day 5**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

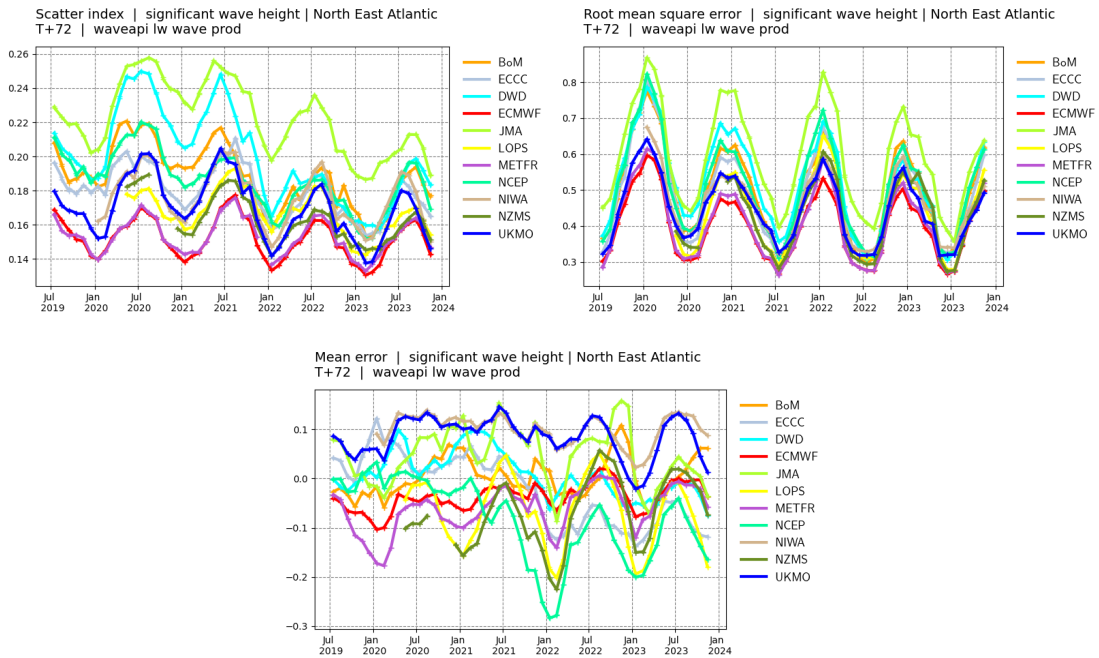
Buoys observations - from 20231201 to 20240229 - (swh)



**North East Atlantic.** Top panel: observation distribution. Middle left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Middle right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

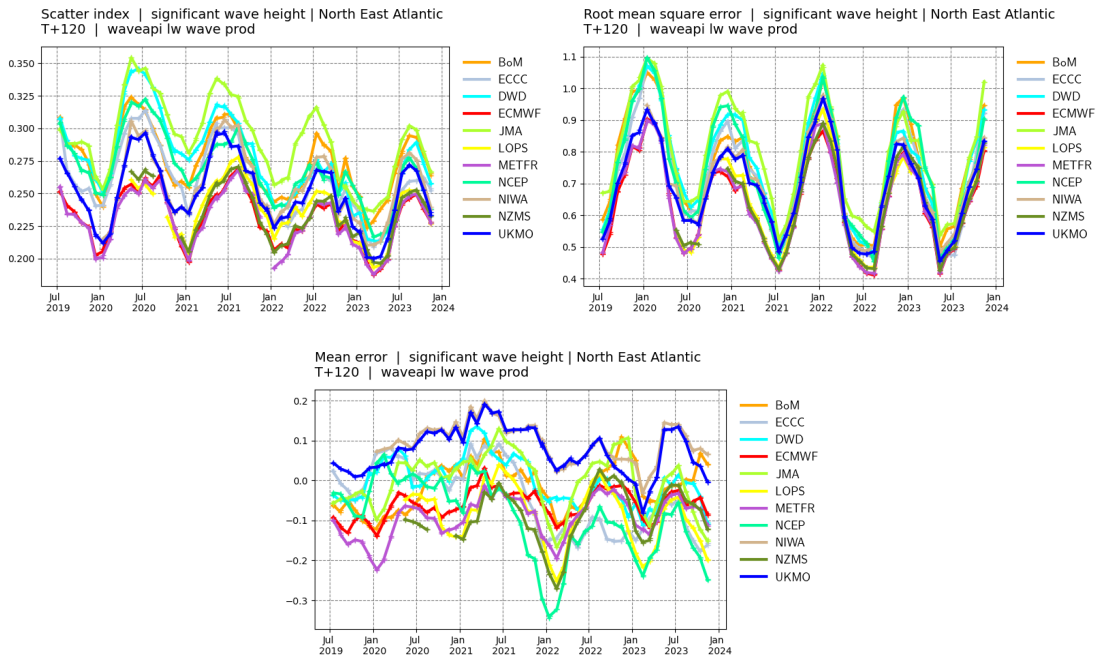


**North East Atlantic.** Scores time-series at **day 1**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



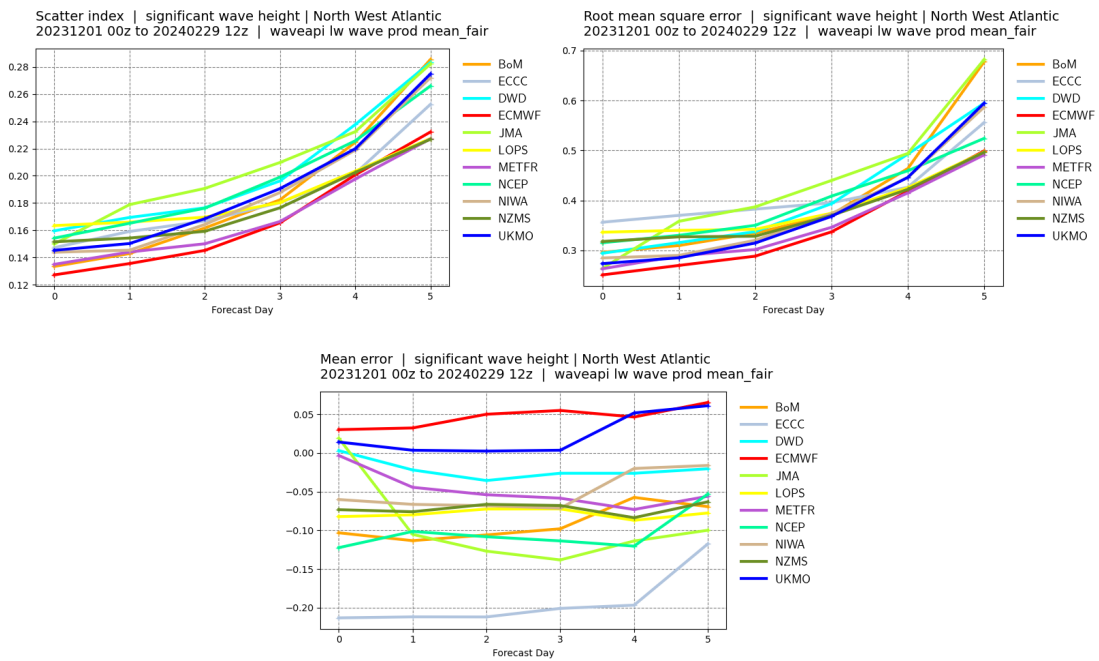
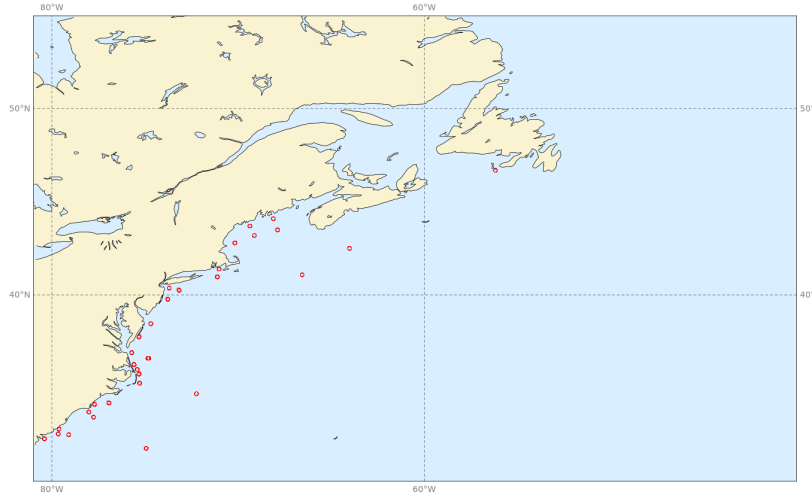
**North East Atlantic.** Scores time-series at **day 3**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



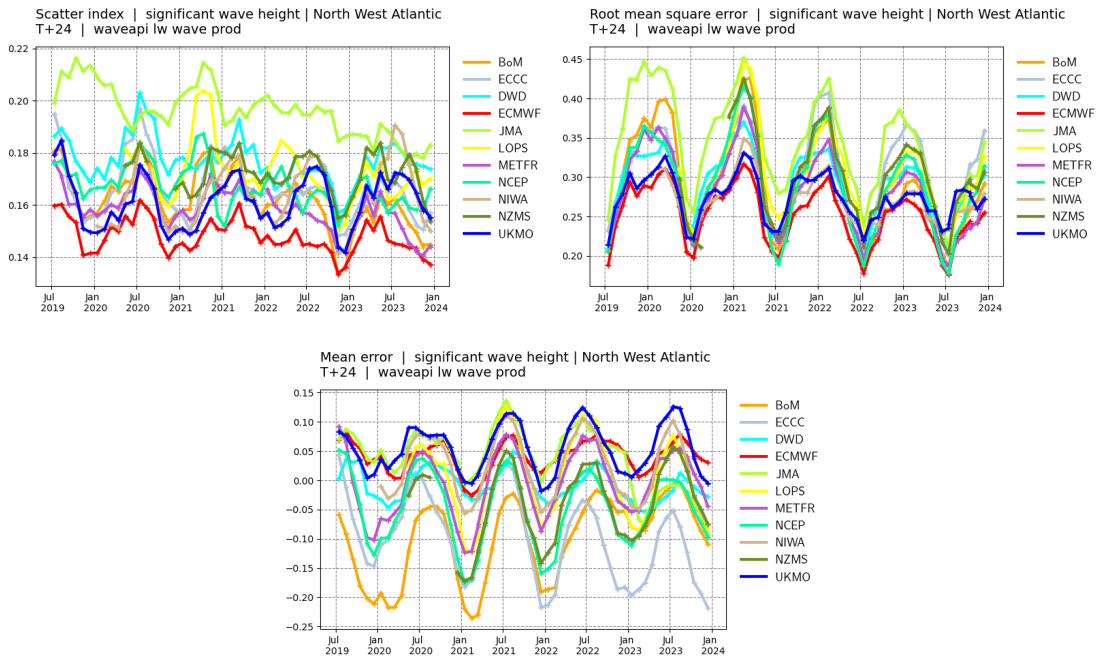


**North East Atlantic.** Scores time-series at **day 5**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

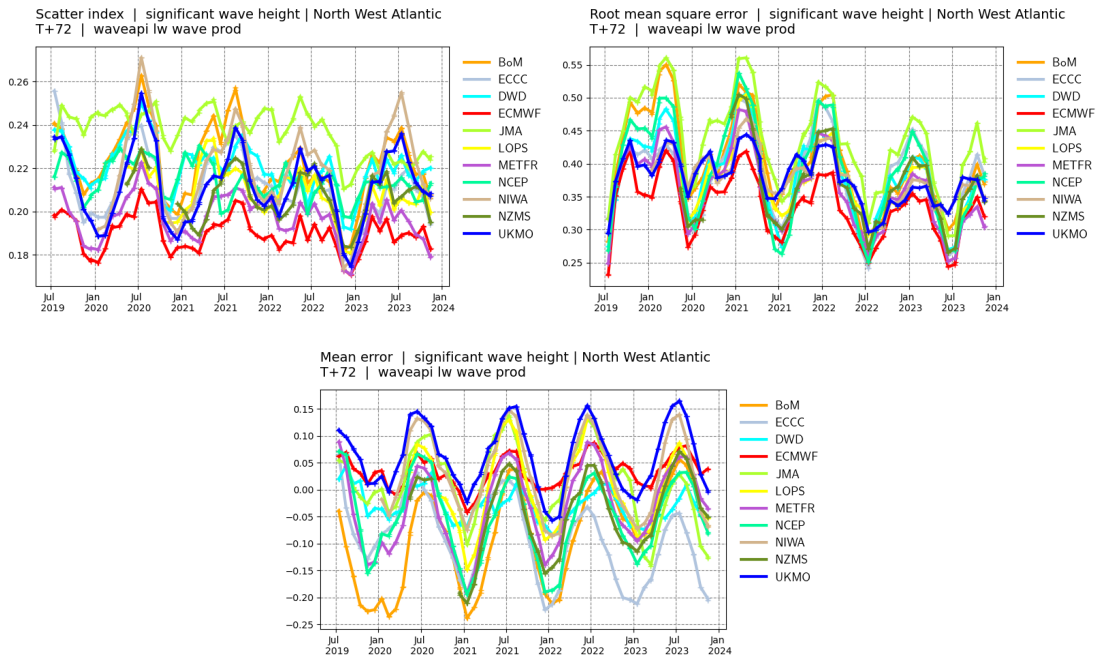
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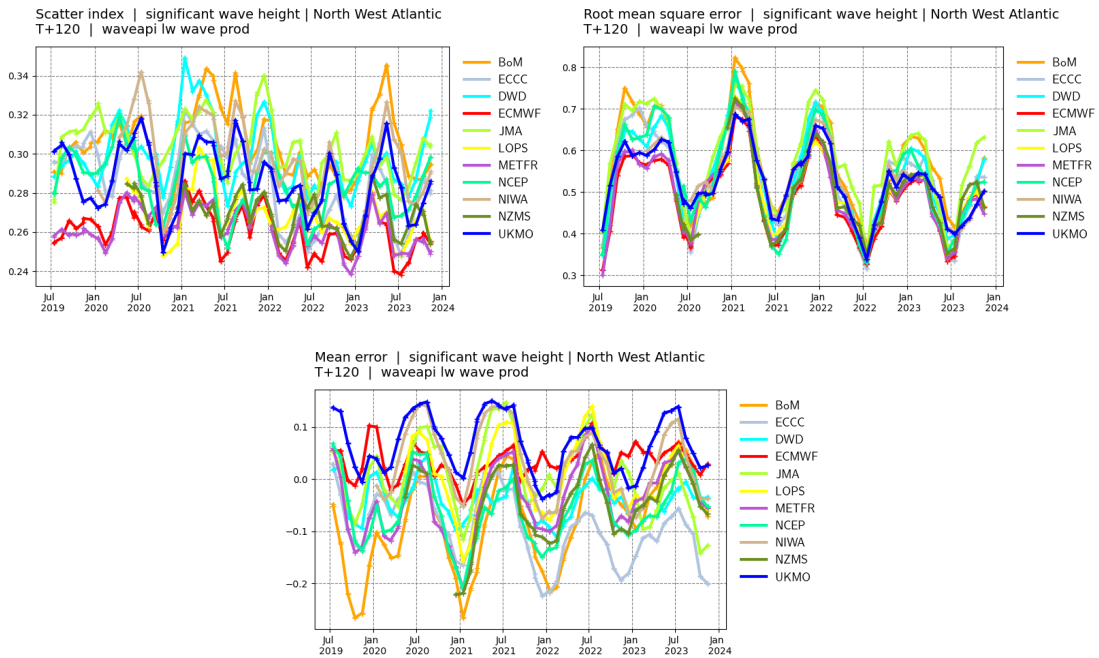
**North West Atlantic.** Top panel: observation distribution. Middle left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Middle right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



**North West Atlantic.** Scores time-series at **day 1**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

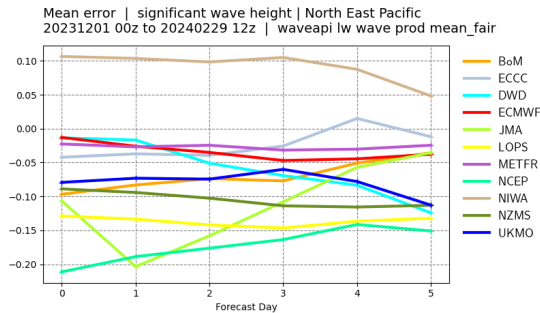
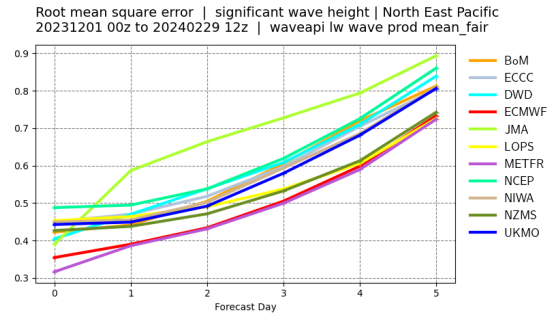
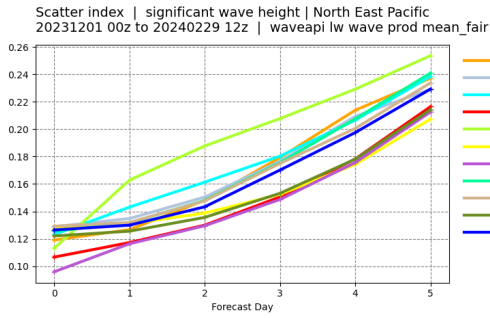
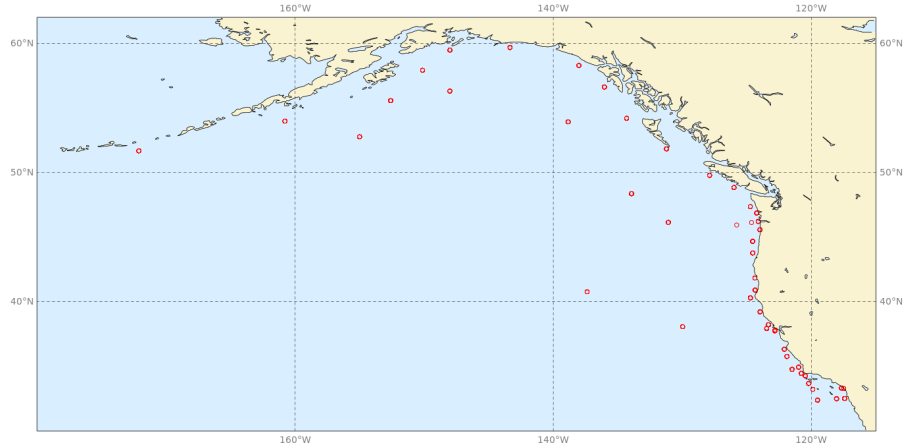


**North West Atlantic.** Scores time-series at **day 3**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

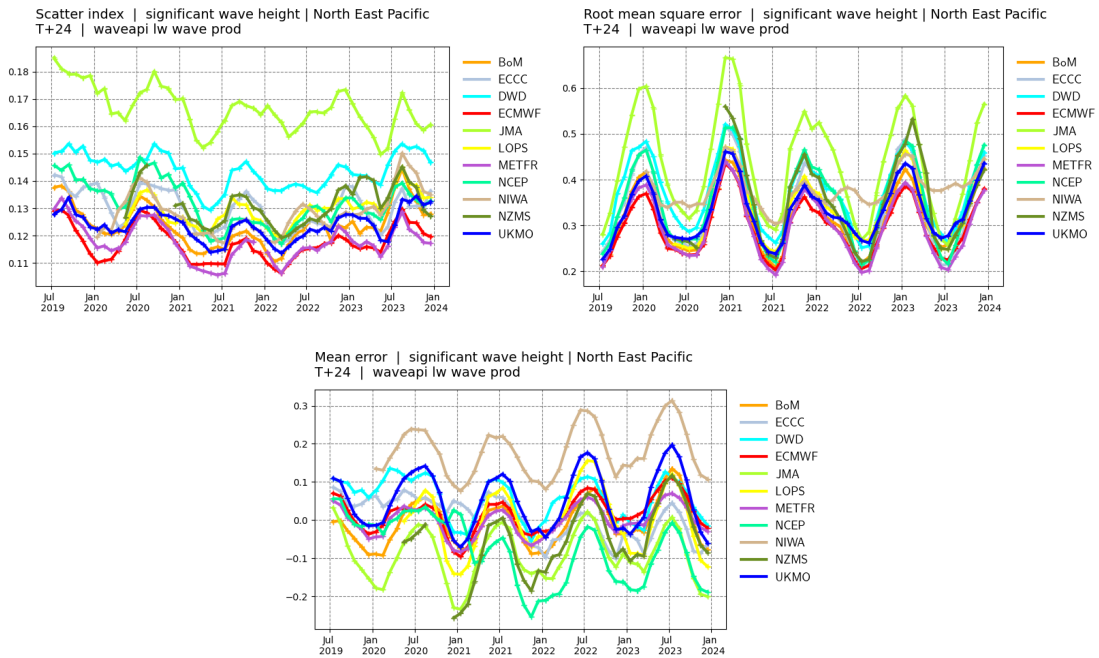


**North West Atlantic.** Scores time-series at **day 5**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

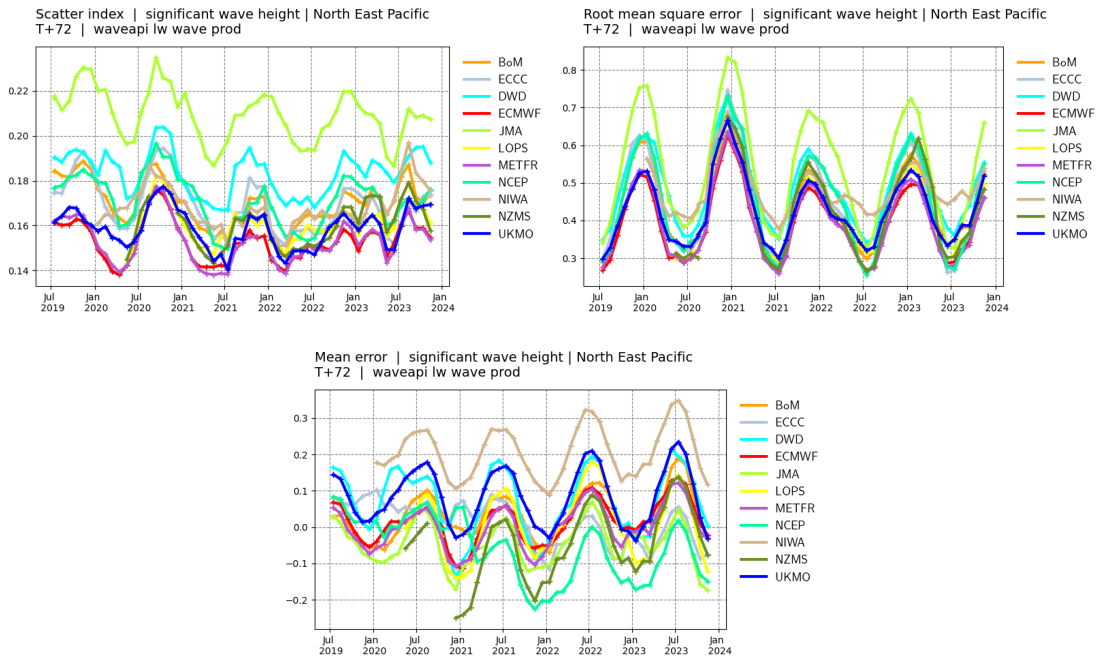
Buoys observations - from 20231201 to 20240229 - (swh)



**North East Pacific.** Top panel: observation distribution. Middle left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Middle right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

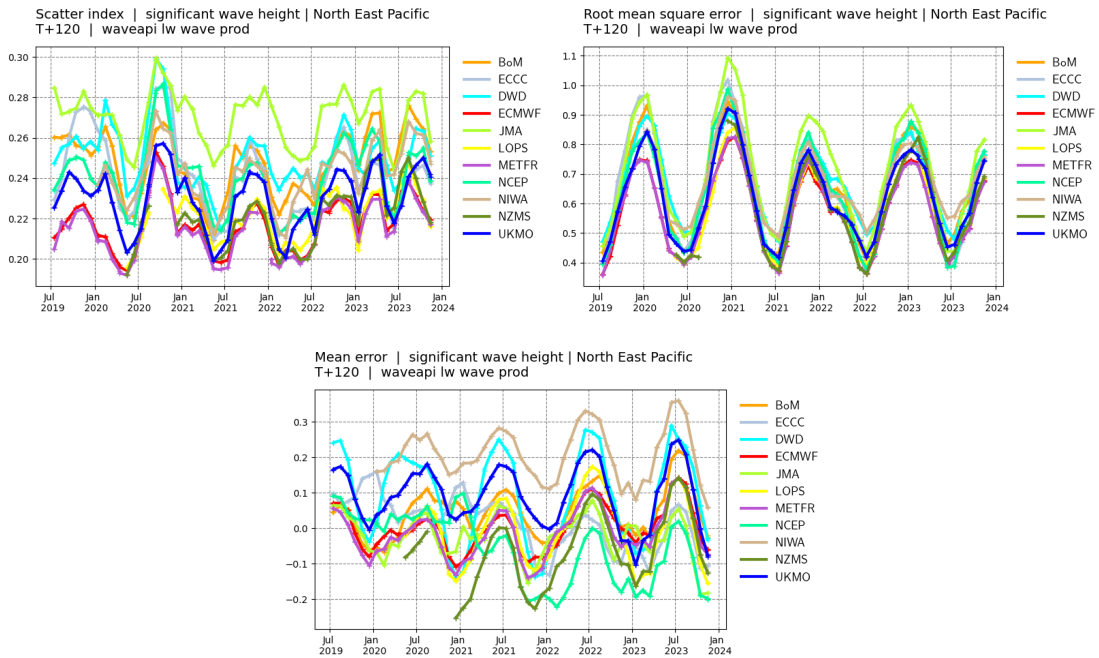


**North East Pacific.** Scores time-series at **day 1**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



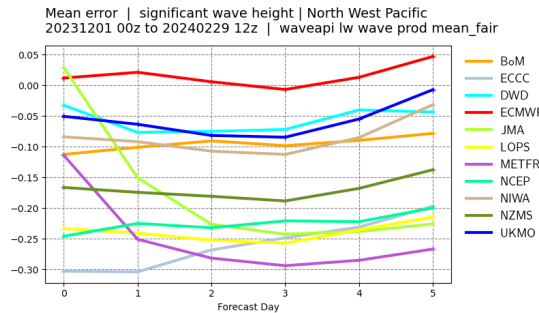
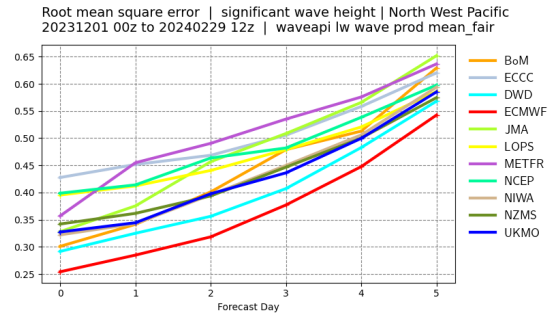
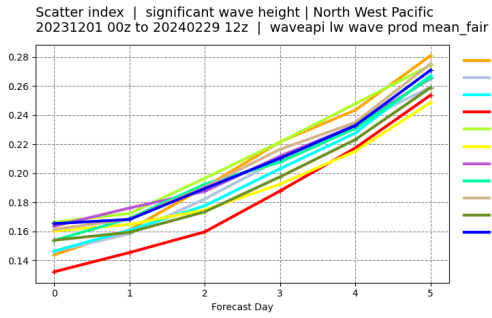
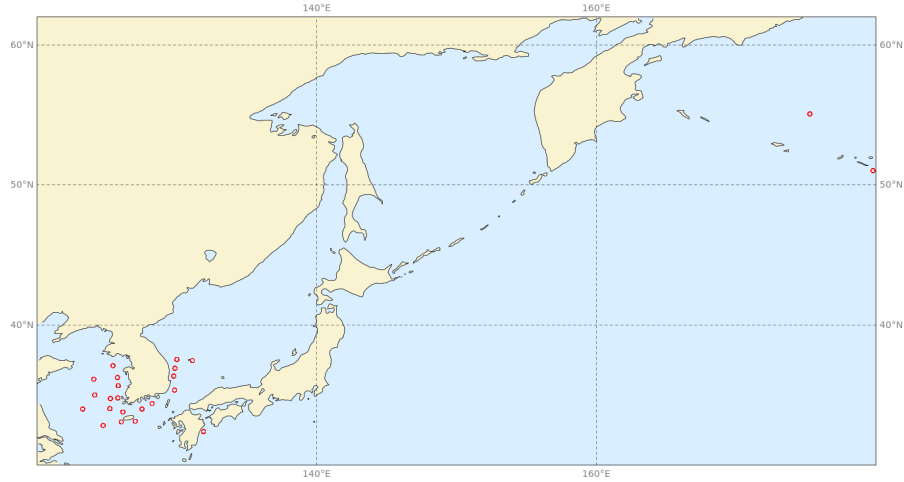
**North East Pacific.** Scores time-series at **day 3**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



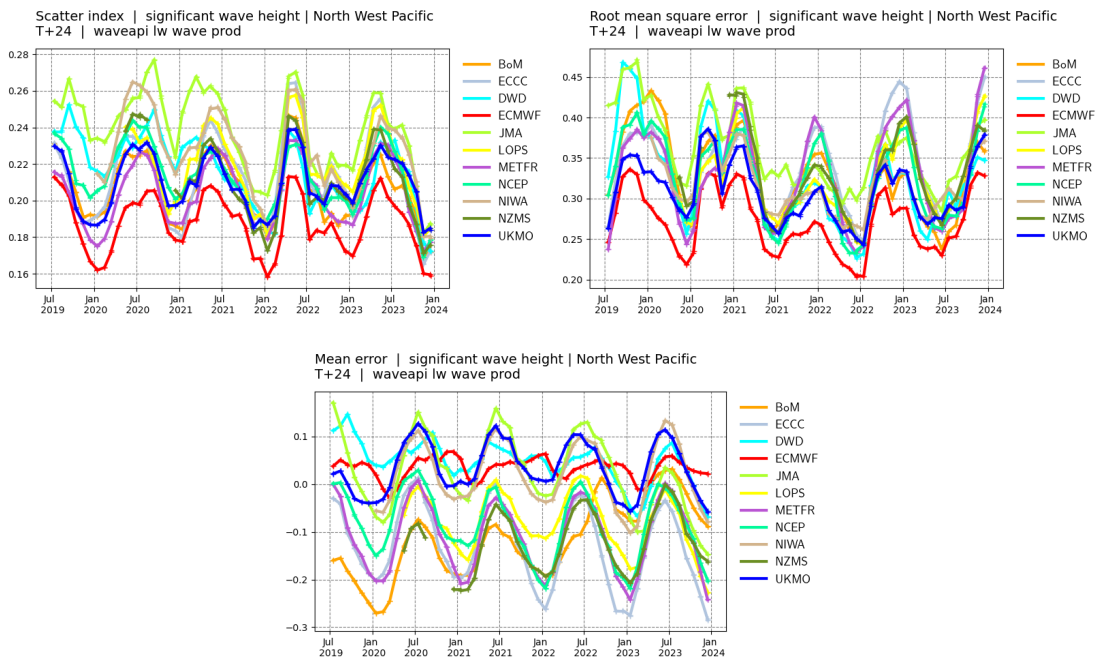


**North East Pacific.** Scores time-series at **day 5**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

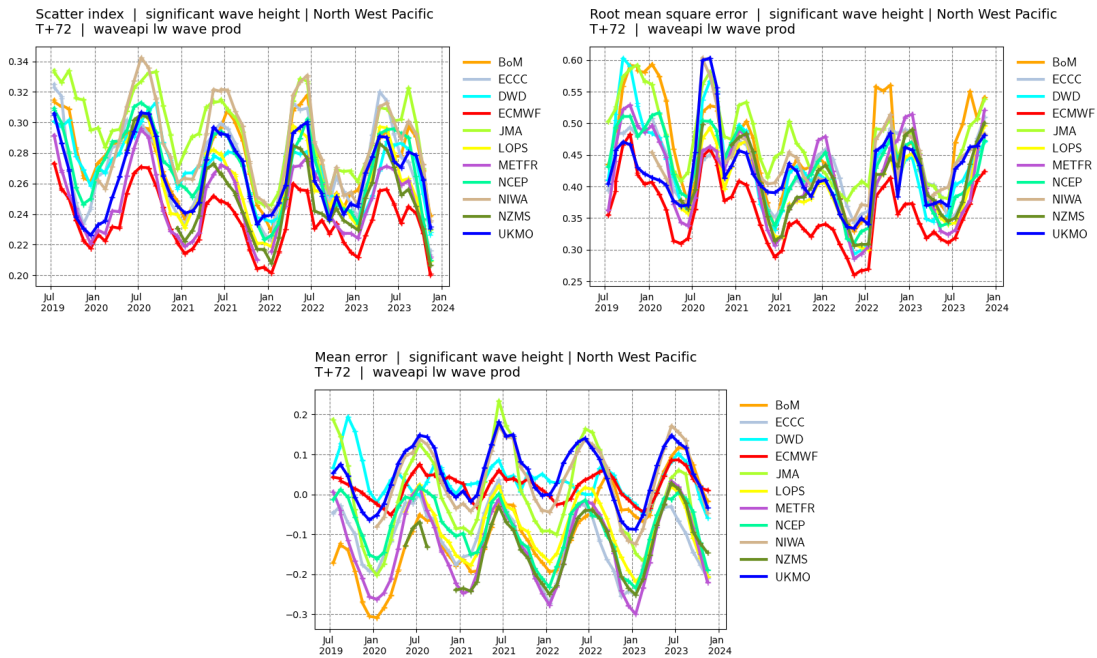
Buoys observations - from 20231201 to 20240229 - (swh)



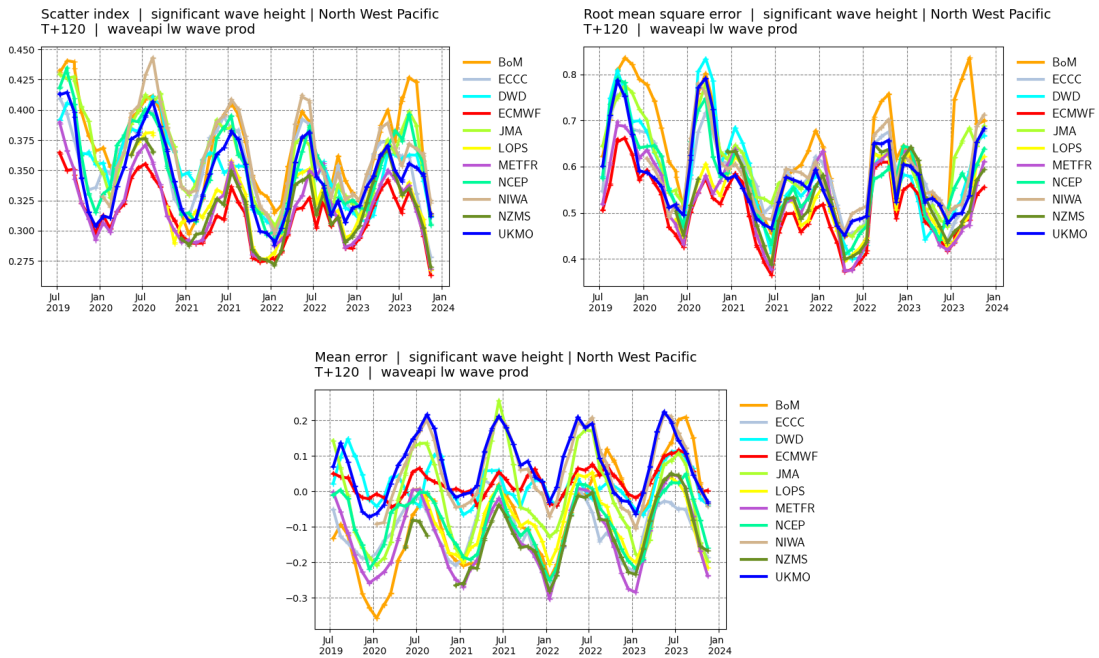
**North West Pacific.** Top panel: observation distribution. Middle left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Middle right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



**North West Pacific.** Scores time-series at **day 1**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

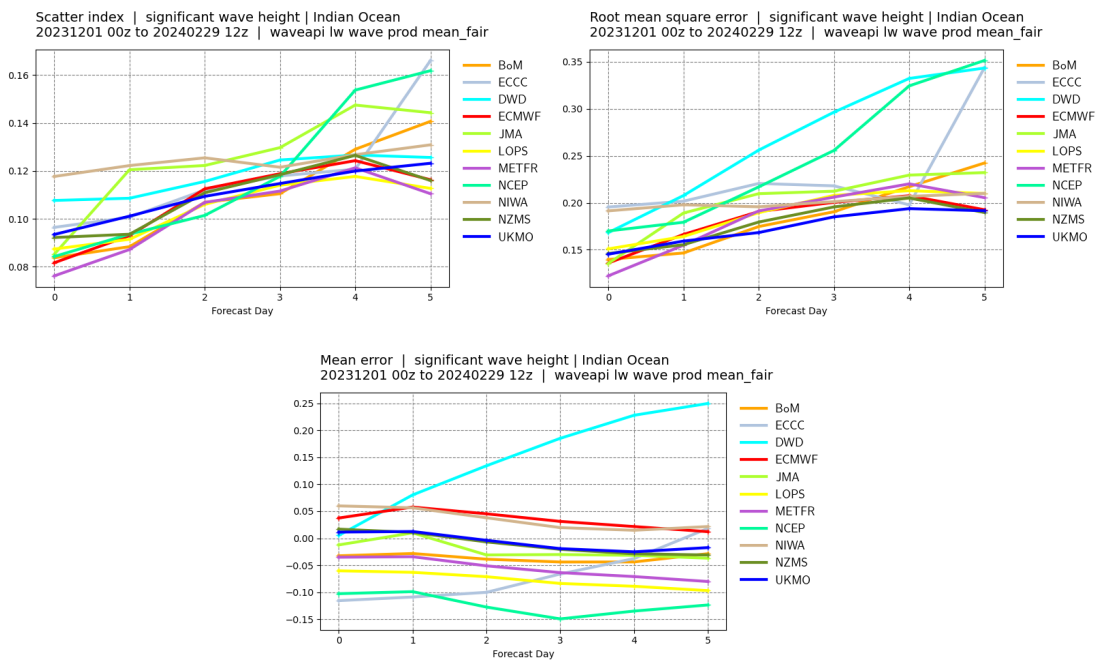
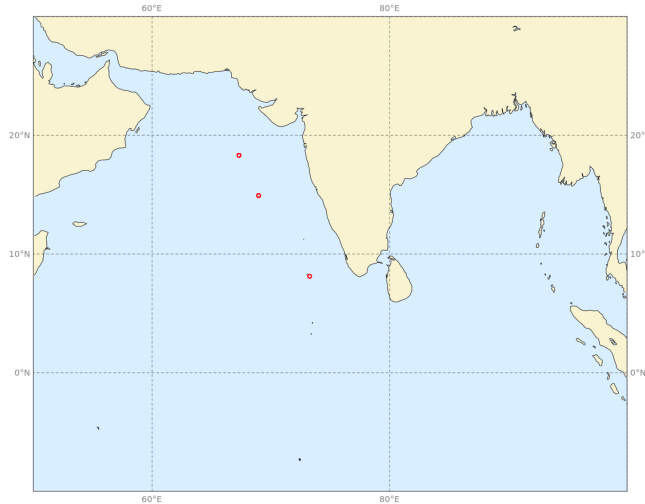


**North West Pacific.** Scores time-series at **day 3**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

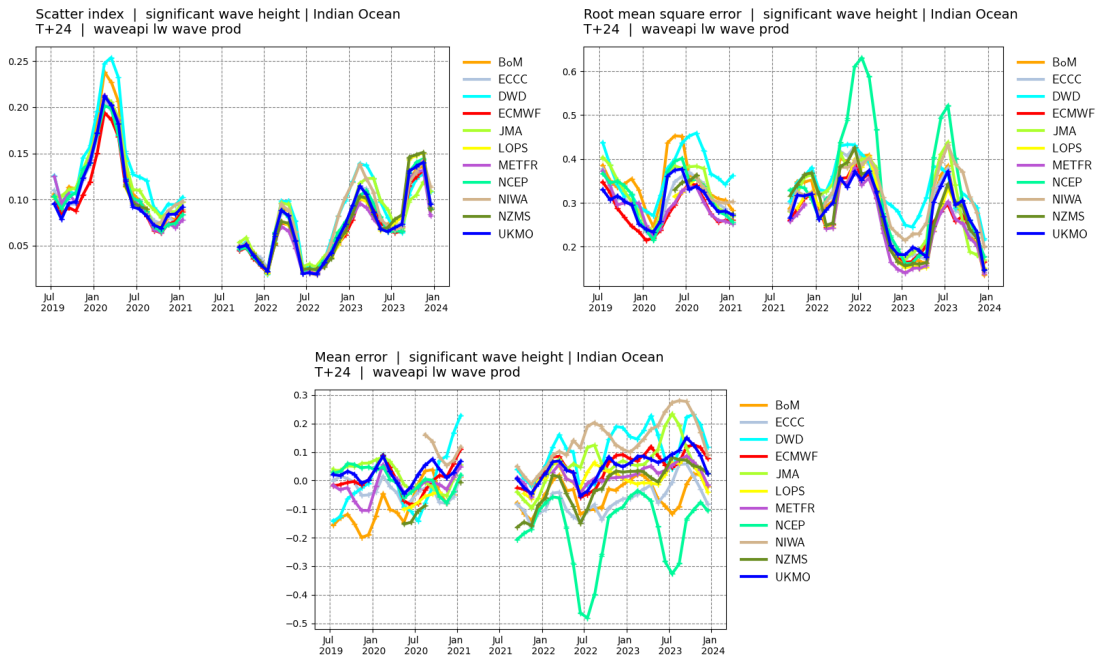


**North West Pacific.** Scores time-series at **day 5**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

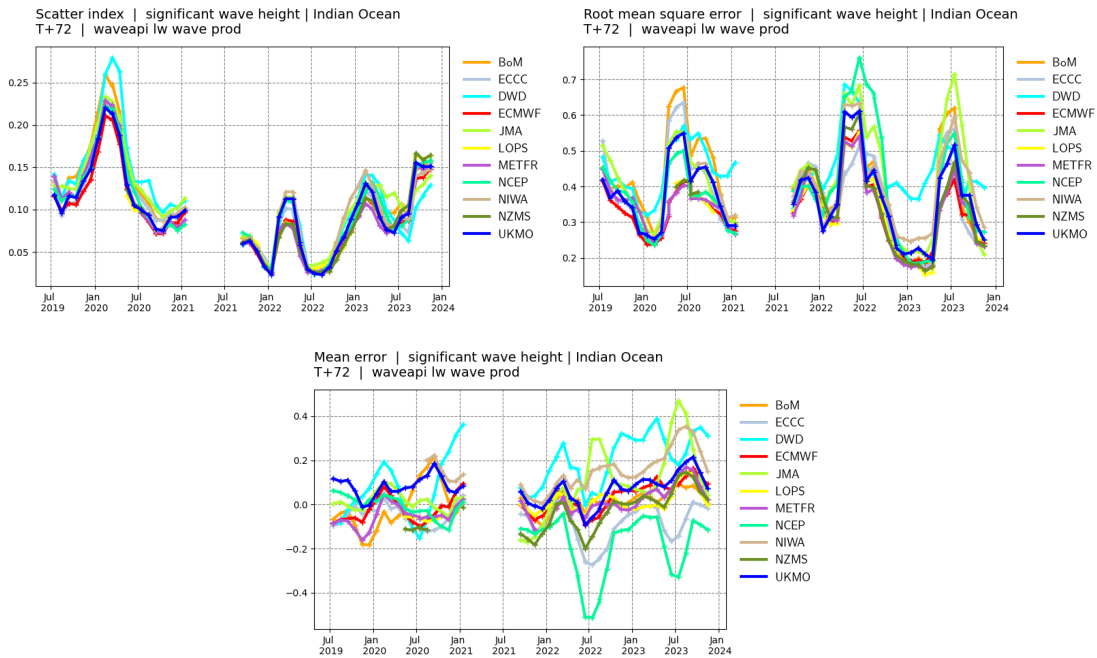
Buoys observations - from 20231201 to 20240229 - (swh)



**Indian Ocean.** Top panel: observation distribution. Middle left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Middle right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

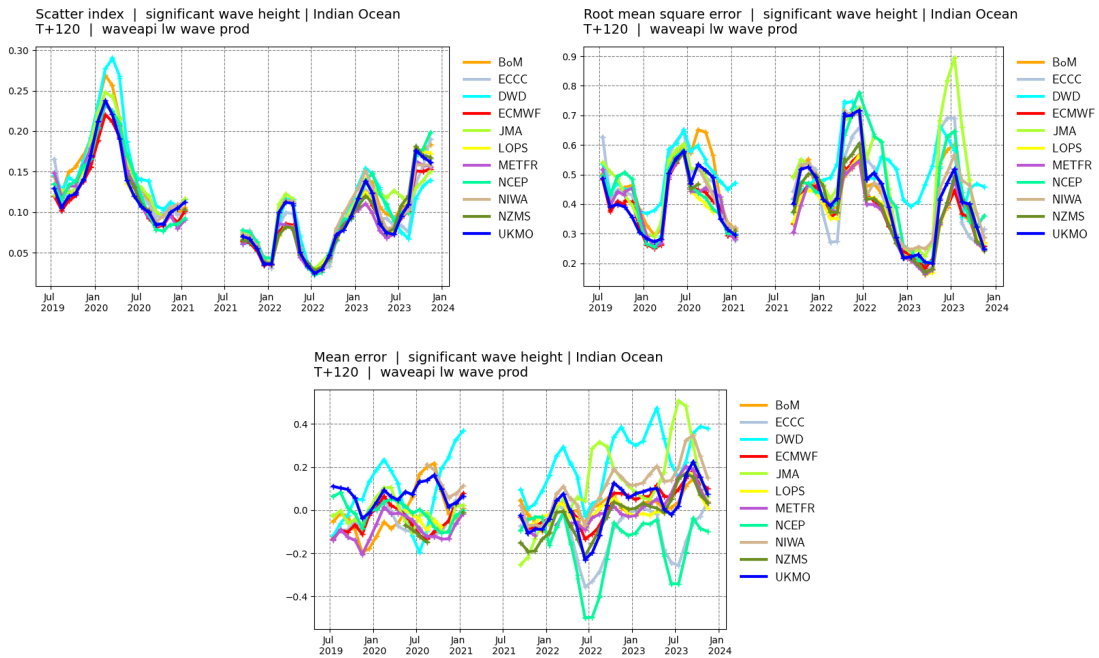


**Indian Ocean.** Scores time-series at **day 1**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



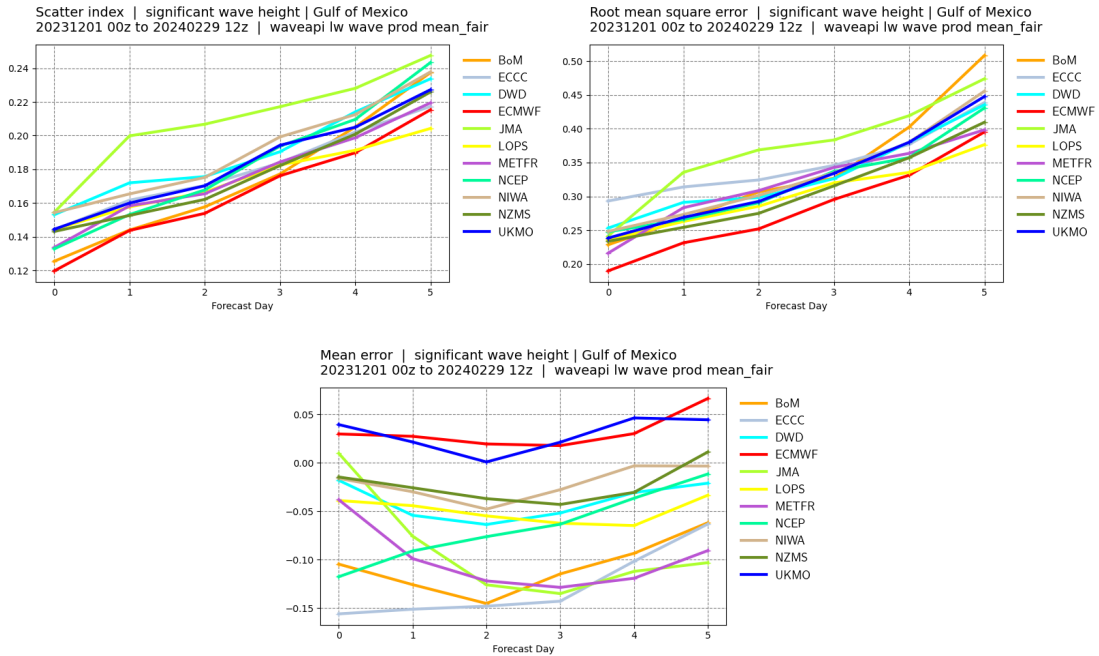
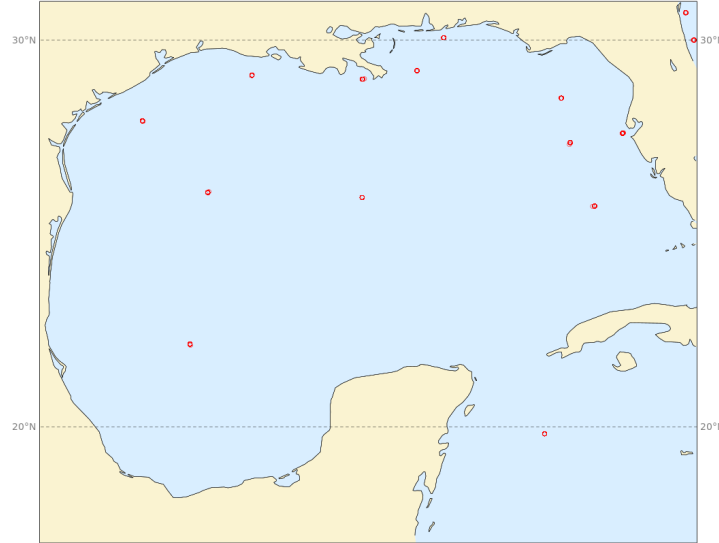
**Indian Ocean.** Scores time-series at **day 3**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



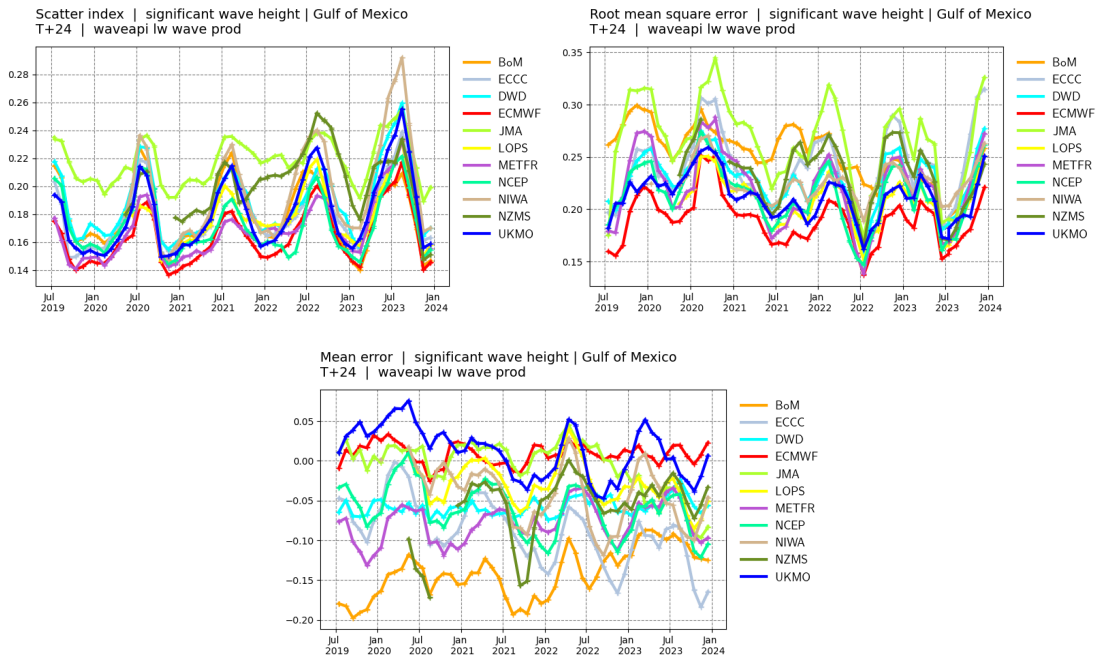


**Indian Ocean.** Scores time-series at **day 5**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

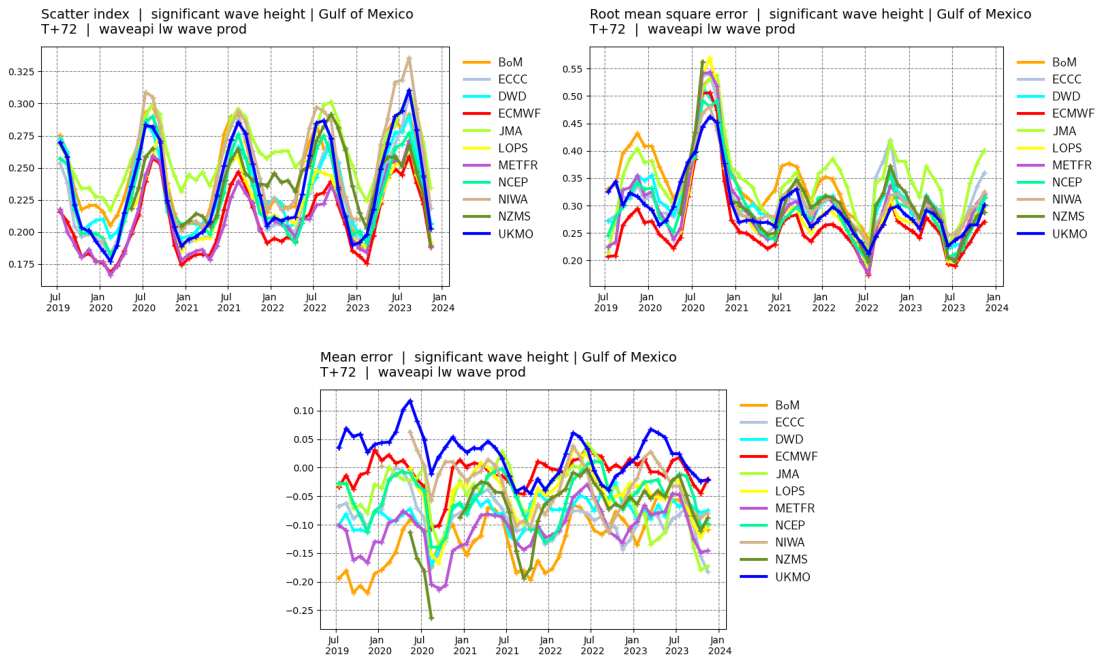
Buoys observations - from 20231201 to 20240229 - (swH)



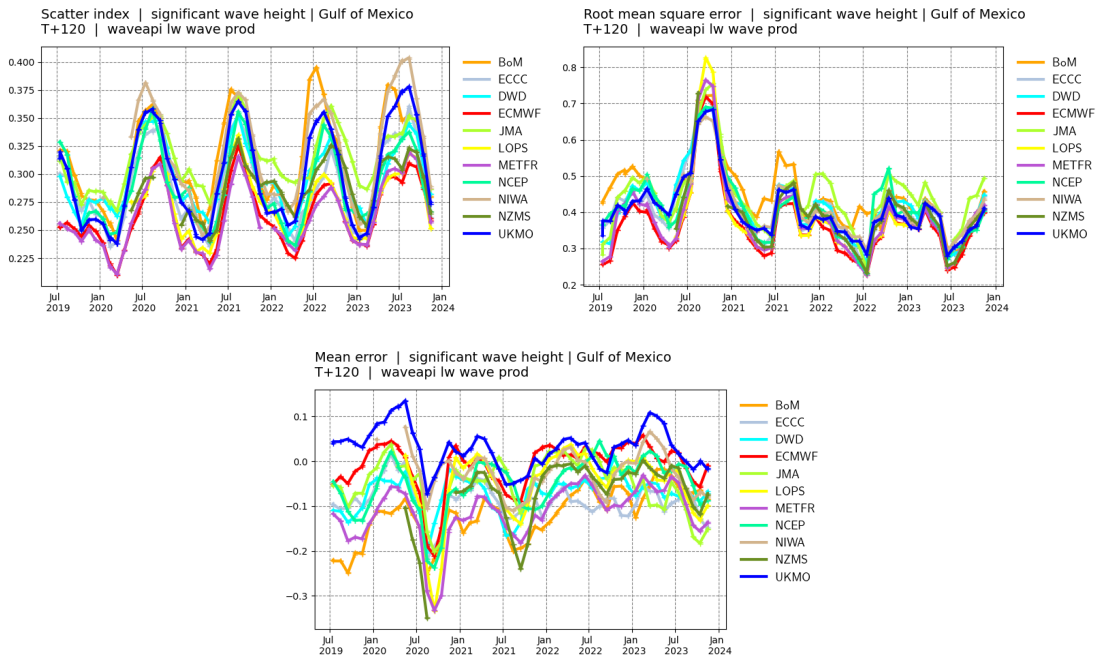
**Gulf of Mexico.** Top panel: observation distribution. Middle left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Middle right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



**Gulf of Mexico.** Scores time-series at **day 1**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

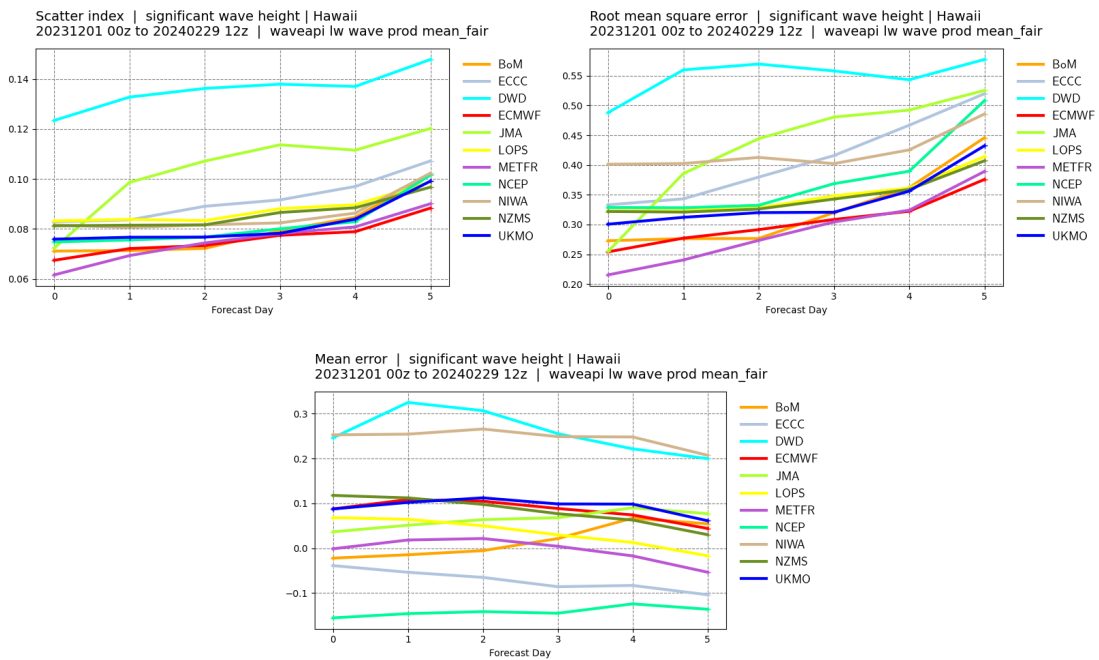
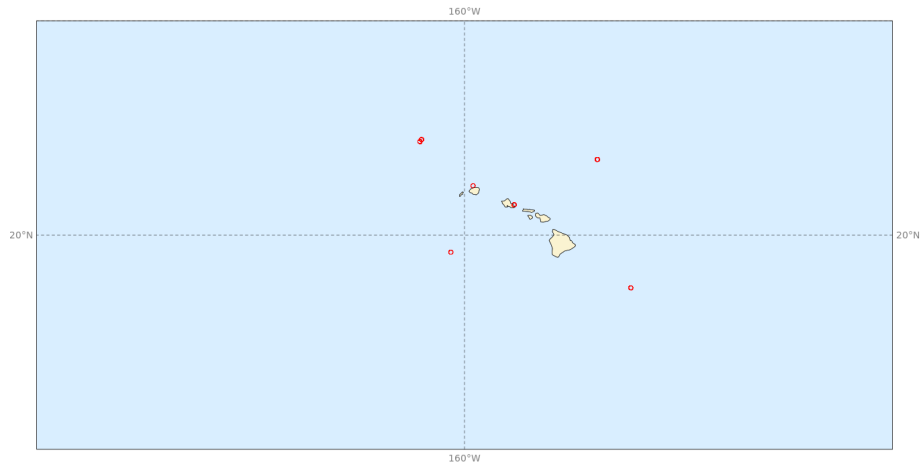


**Gulf of Mexico.** Scores time-series at **day 3**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

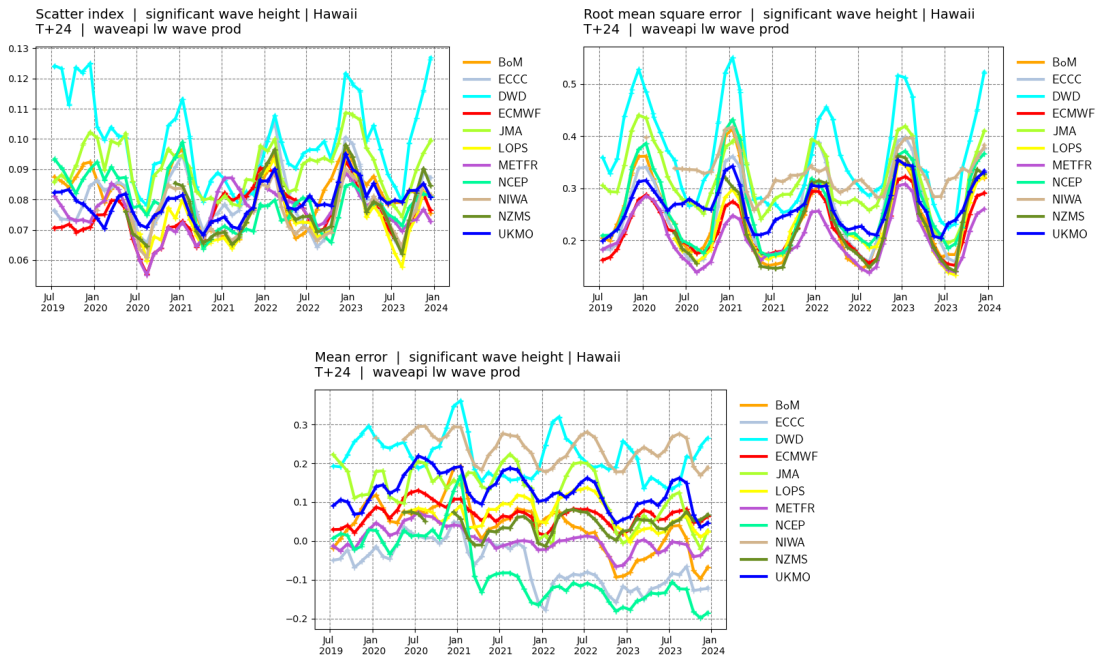


**Gulf of Mexico.** Scores time-series at **day 5**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

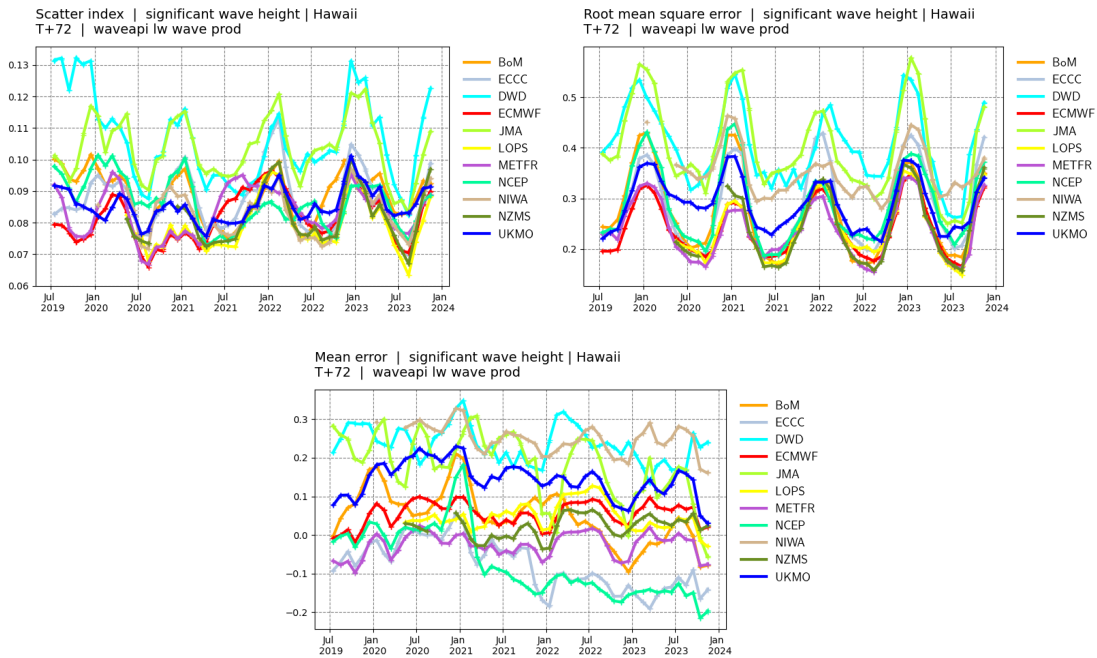
Buoys observations - from 20231201 to 20240229 - (swh)



**Hawaii.** Top panel: observation distribution. Middle left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Middle right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

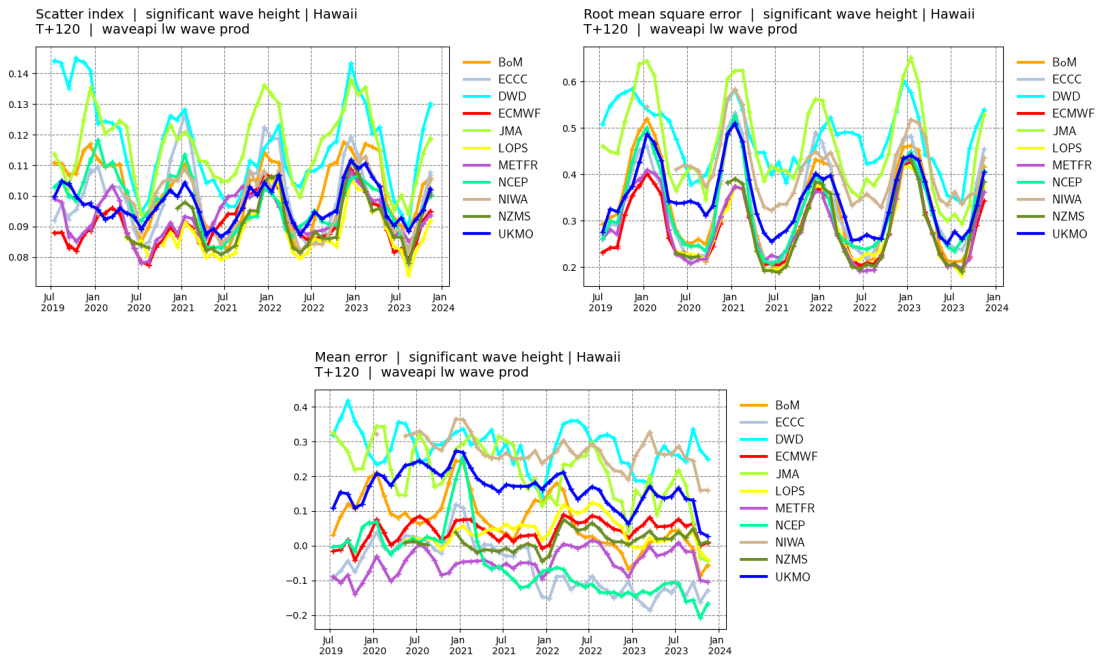


**Hawaii.** Scores time-series at **day 1**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



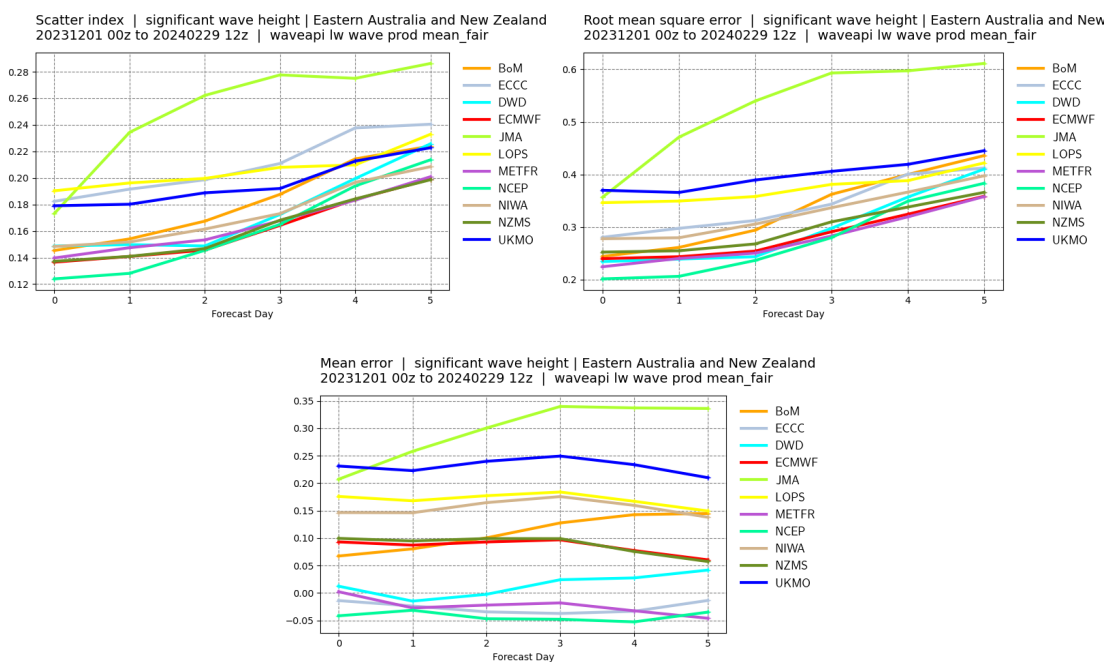
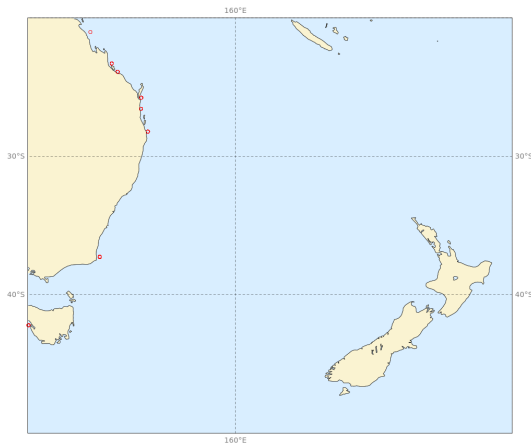
**Hawaii.** Scores time-series at **day 3**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



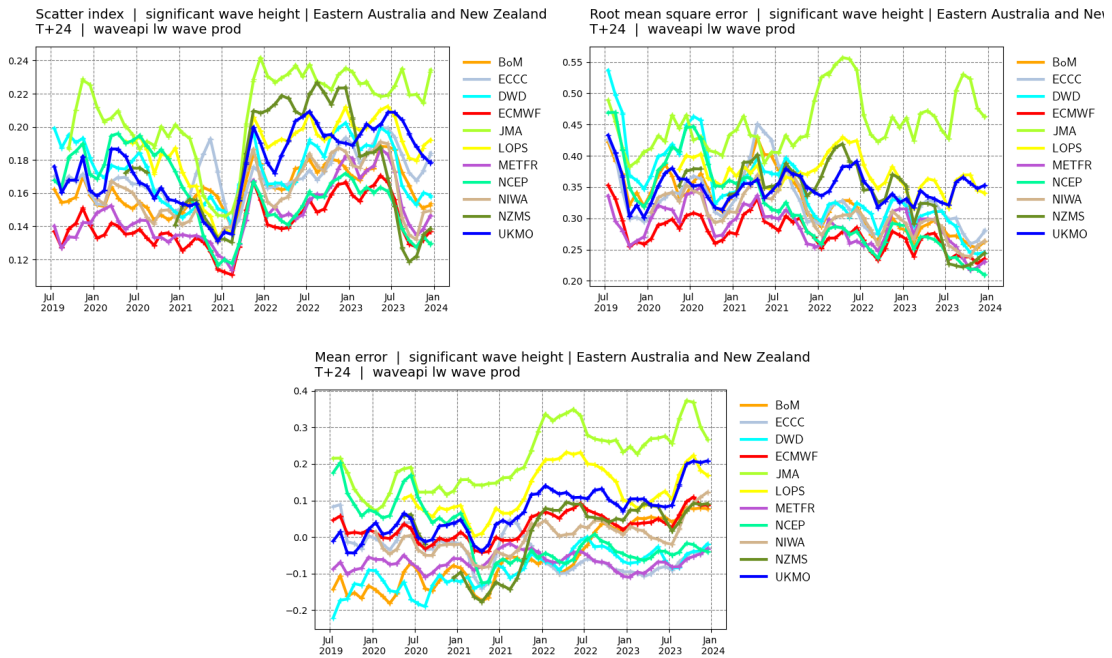


**Hawaii.** Scores time-series at **day 5**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

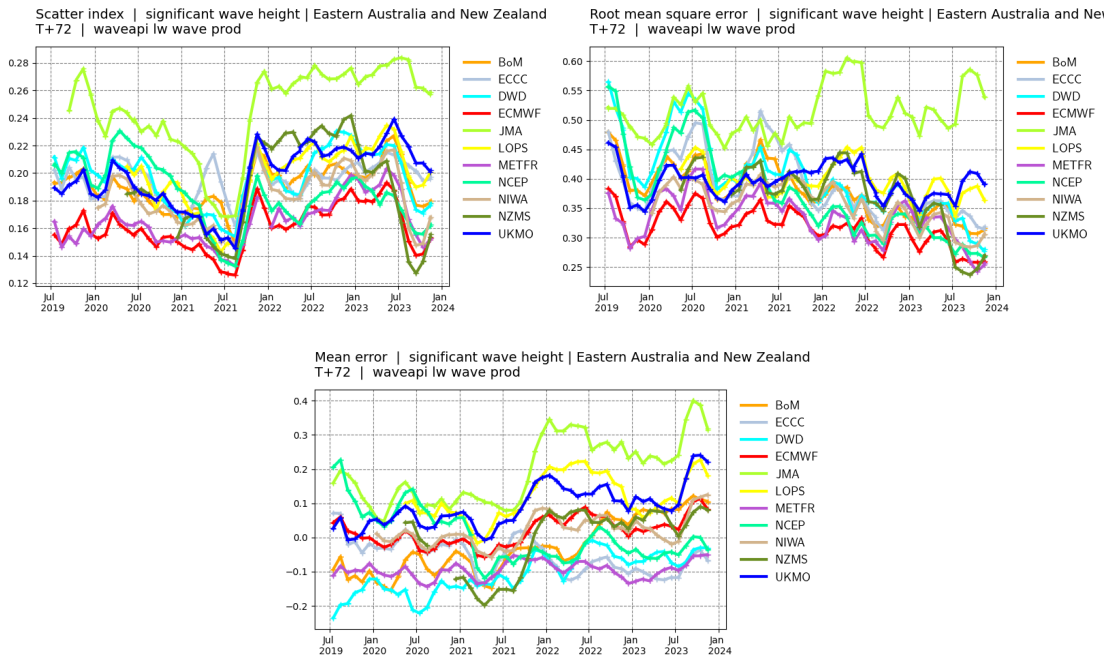
Buoys observations - from 20231201 to 20240229 - (swh)



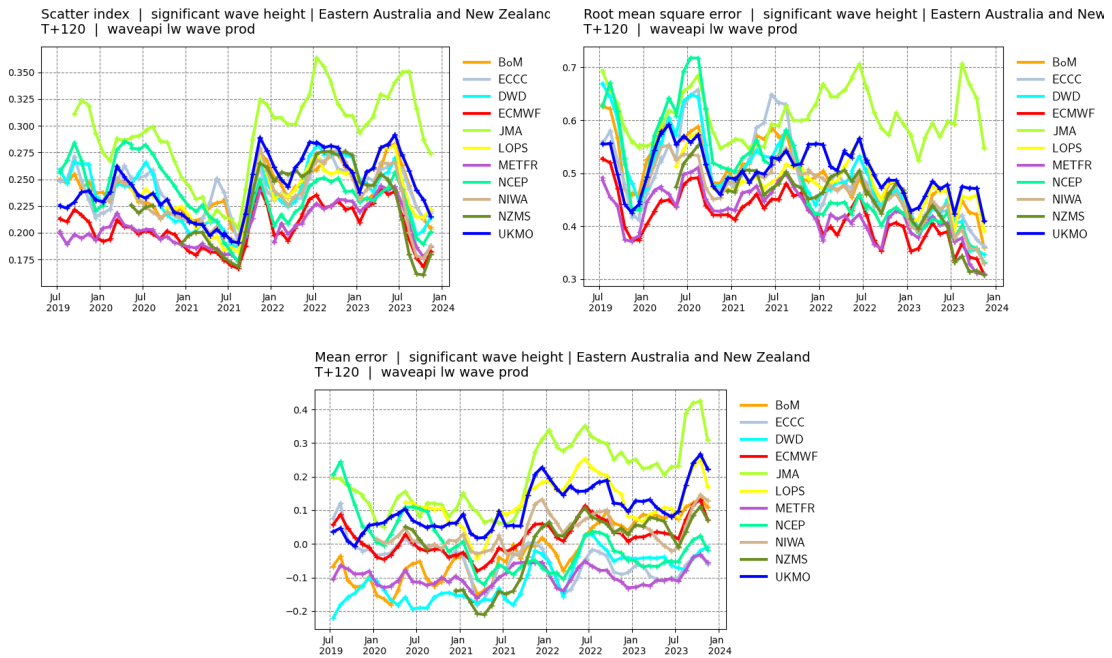
**East Australia - New Zealand.** Top panel: observation distribution. Middle left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Middle right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



**East Australia - New Zealand.** Scores time-series at **day 1**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

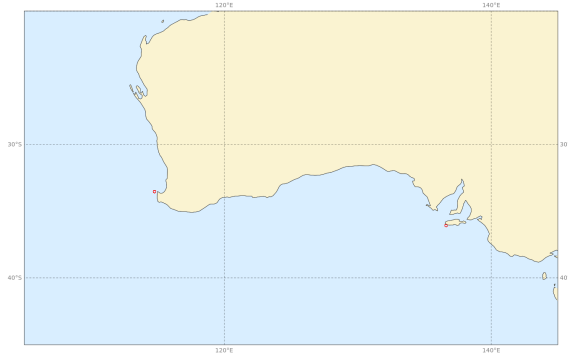


**East Australia - New Zealand.** Scores time-series at **day 3**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

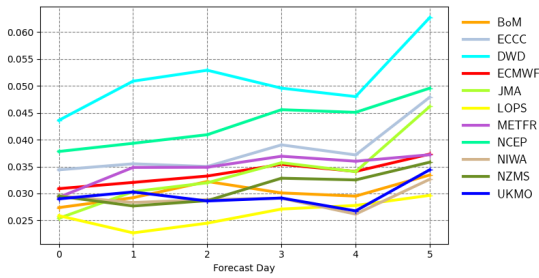


**East Australia - New Zealand.** Scores time-series at **day 5**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

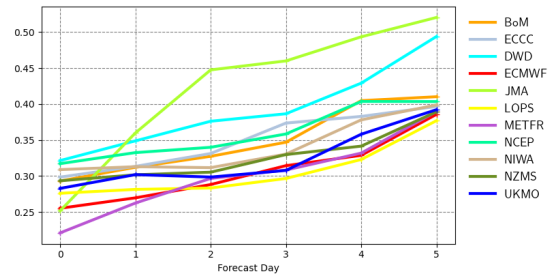
Buoys observations - from 20231201 to 20240229 - (swh)



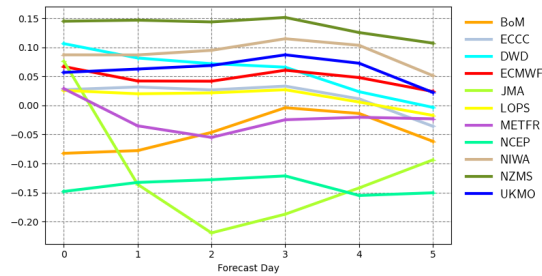
Scatter index | significant wave height | South Southwestern Australia  
20231201 00z to 20240229 12z | waveapi lw wave prod mean\_fair



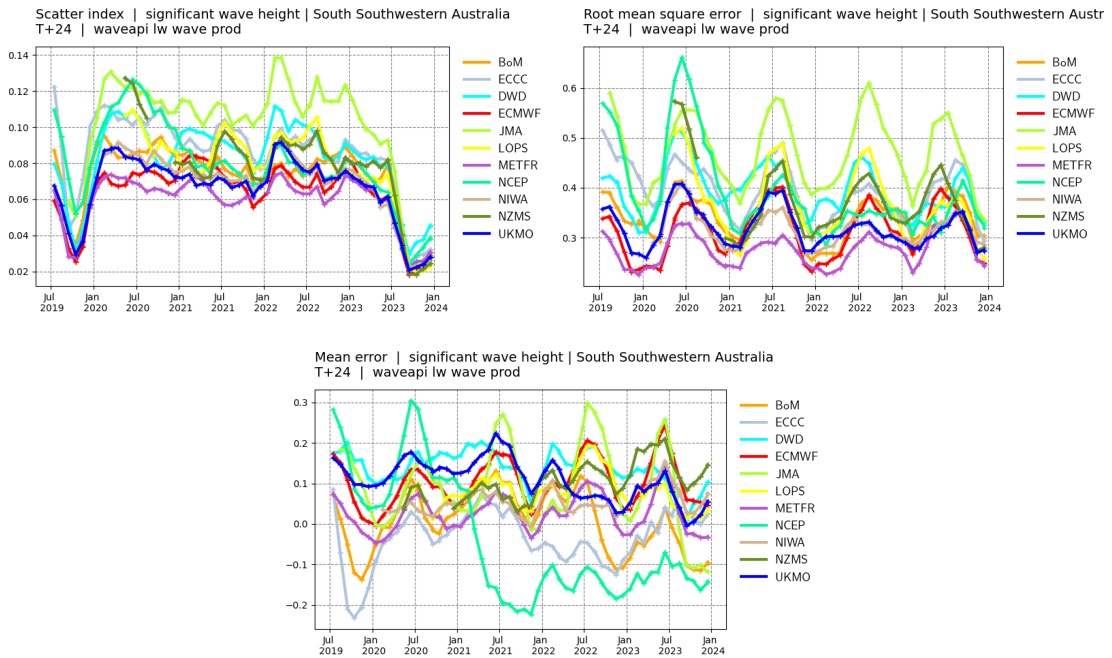
Root mean square error | significant wave height | South Southwestern Aust  
20231201 00z to 20240229 12z | waveapi lw wave prod mean\_fair



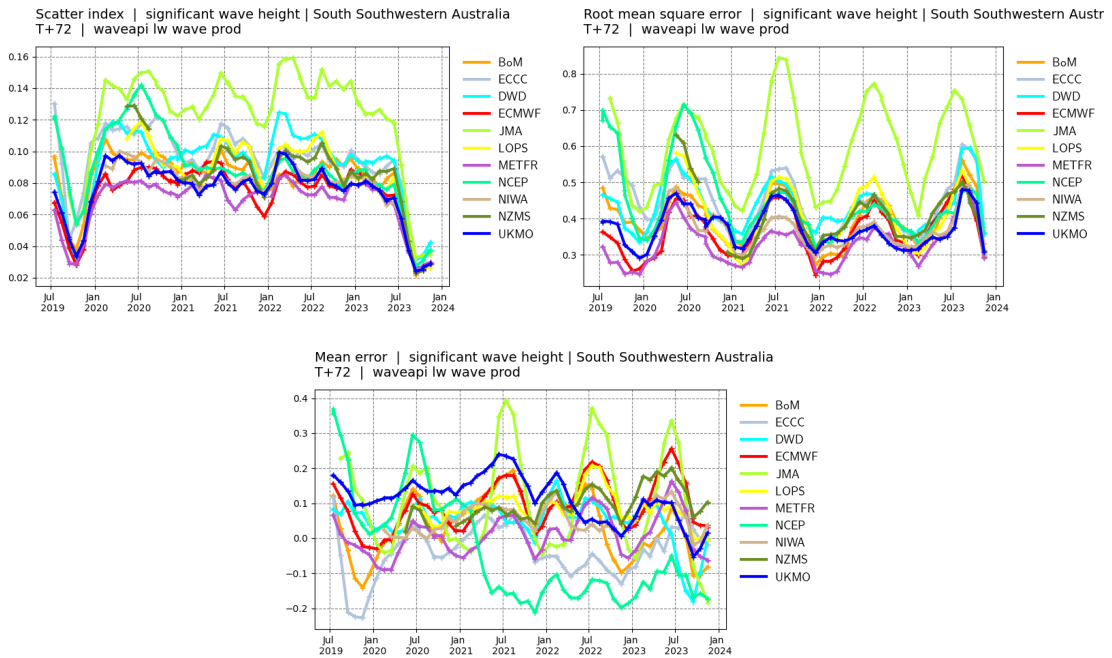
Mean error | significant wave height | South Southwestern Australia  
20231201 00z to 20240229 12z | waveapi lw wave prod mean\_fair



**South South West Australia.** Top panel: observation distribution. Middle left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Middle right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).

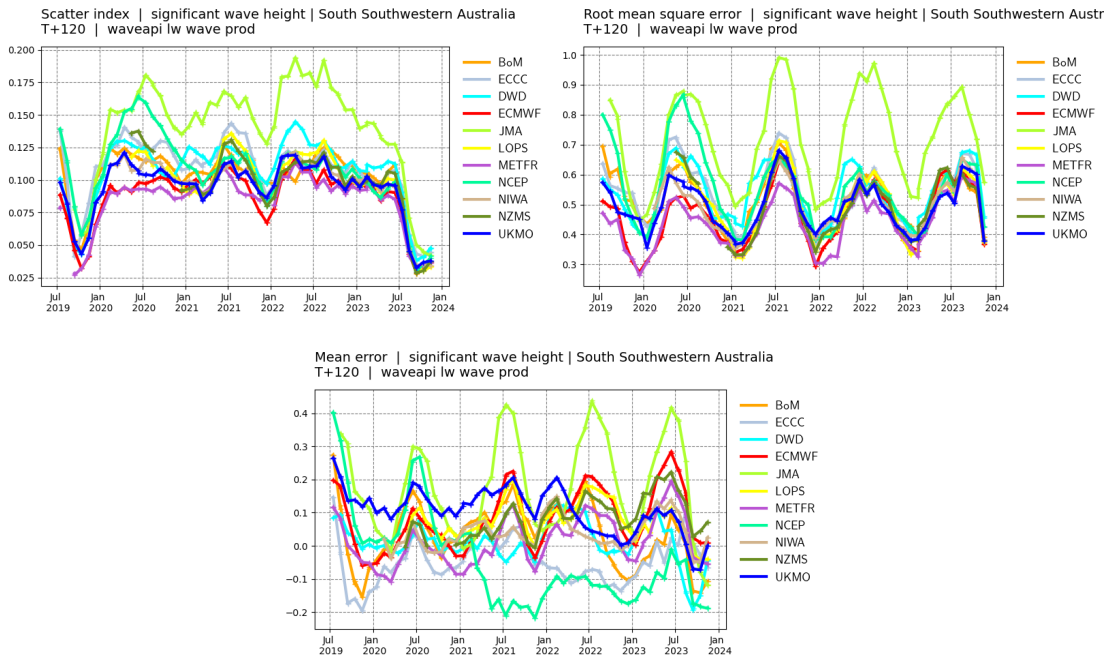


**South South West Australia.** Scores time-series at **day 1**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).



**South South West Australia.** Scores time-series at **day 3**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).





**South South West Australia.** Scores time-series at **day 5**. Top left panel: Forecast scatter index (standard deviation of the difference normalised by the mean of the observations). Top right panel: Forecast root mean square error (RMSE). Bottom panel: forecast mean error (bias).