



The Mediterranean Forecasting System

Toward Environmental Prediction

The Project aims at the further development of an operational forecasting system for the Mediterranean Sea based upon three main components: a) the Near Real Time Observing system; b) the numerical forecasting systems at basin scale and for regional areas; c) the forecast products dissemination and exploitation system.

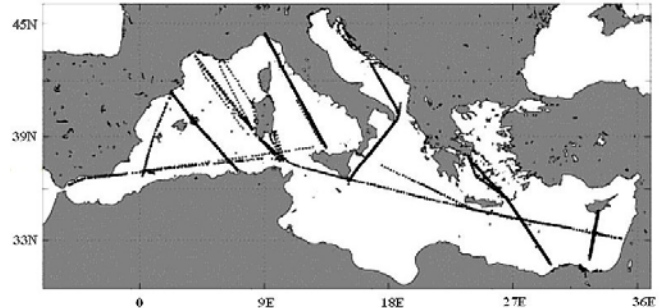
The problems to be solved belong to three major categories:

- 1) Technology developments, connected to the new instrumentation for NRT monitoring and the provision of NRT protocols for data dissemination, comprehensive of telecommunication technology and quality control procedures;
- 2) Scientific development, connected to the understanding of the sampling scheme for different measuring platforms, the design and implementation of data assimilation schemes for different spatial scales, the ecosystem modelling validation/calibration experiments at the basin and the coastal areas scale and the development of data assimilation techniques for biochemical data;
- 3) Exploitation developments, consisting of software interfaces between forecast products and oil spill modelling, general contaminant dispersion models, relocatable emergency systems, search and rescue models, and fish stock observing systems. In addition, the study of forecast economic value and impact will be carried out.

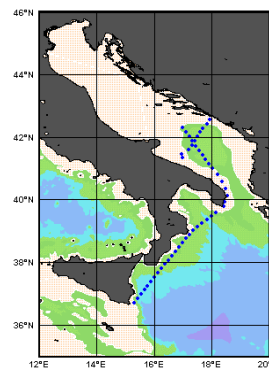
The Ship Of Opportunity Program in the Mediterranean

The Ship Of Opportunity Program in the Mediterranean was developed as part of the Mediterranean Forecasting System Pilot Project. XBT measurements started in September 1999 and have been continued up to now, in the framework of EC (MFSP and MFSTEP) and national funded projects (Adricosm funded by the Italian Ministry of Environment). The XBT monitoring system has been divided in different periods:

1. the MFSP program (September 1999 -May 2000 during which the Mediterranean Sea was covered by seven tracks



2. The MFSP extension (June 2000 - December 2000), during which only three tracks were maintained (Tyrrhenian, Adriatic-Ionian and Levantine)



3. The Adricosm program during which it was maintained the Adriatic - Ionian track (January 2000 - today) and a new track from Dubrovnick to Bari was added (October 2002 - today).

The new phase developed under the EC funded MFSTEP program foresees the collection of XBT along nine tracks.

Information on MFSTEP: www.bo.ingv.it/mfstep/

Access to real time data:

<http://vosdata.santateresa.enea.it:54321/mfs/>

