



A 15-year history of coupled regional climate modelling for the Mediterranean: success stories and current challenges

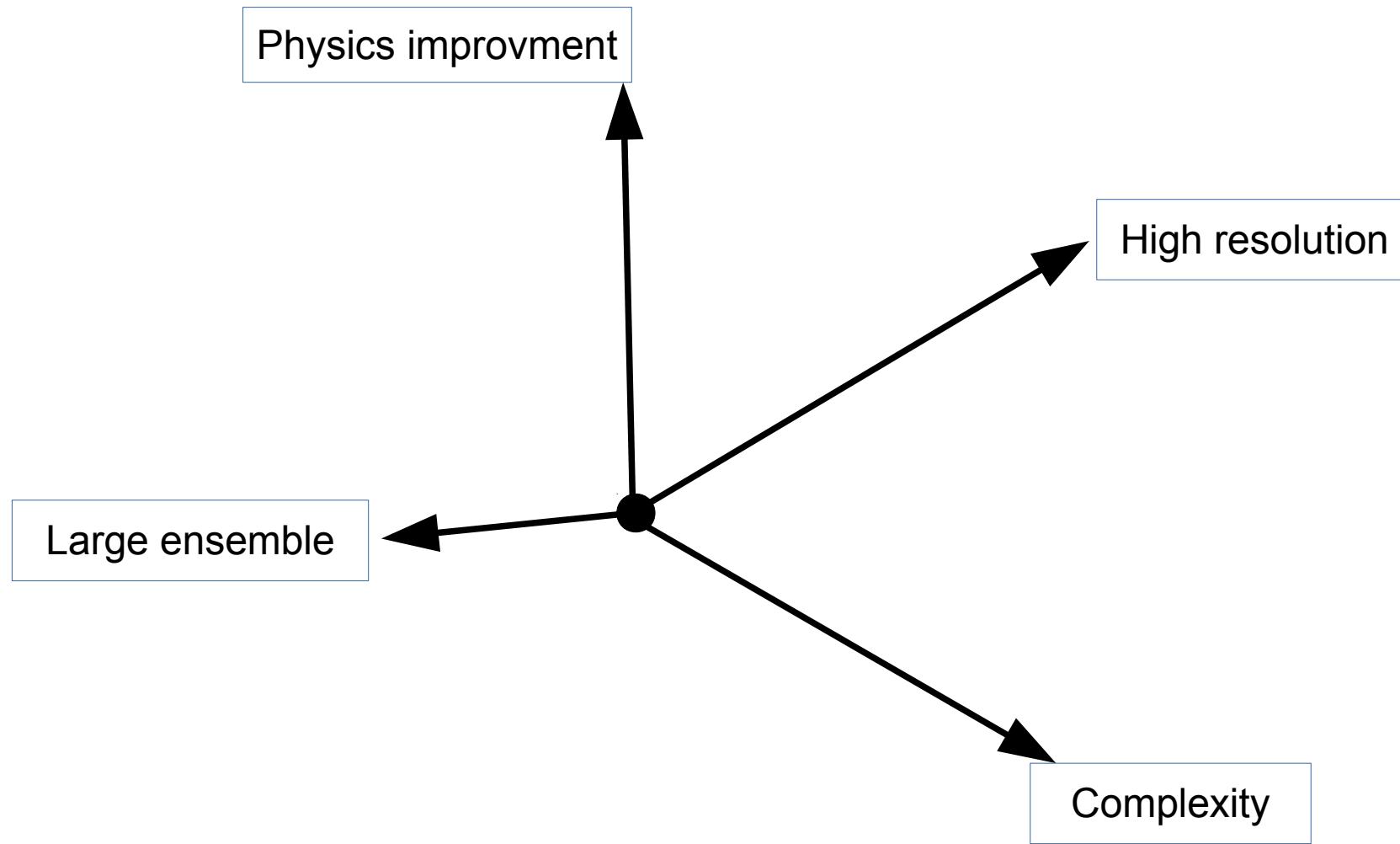
Samuel Somot

with many contributions from the Med-CORDEX community

CNRM, University of Toulouse, Meteo-France, CNRS

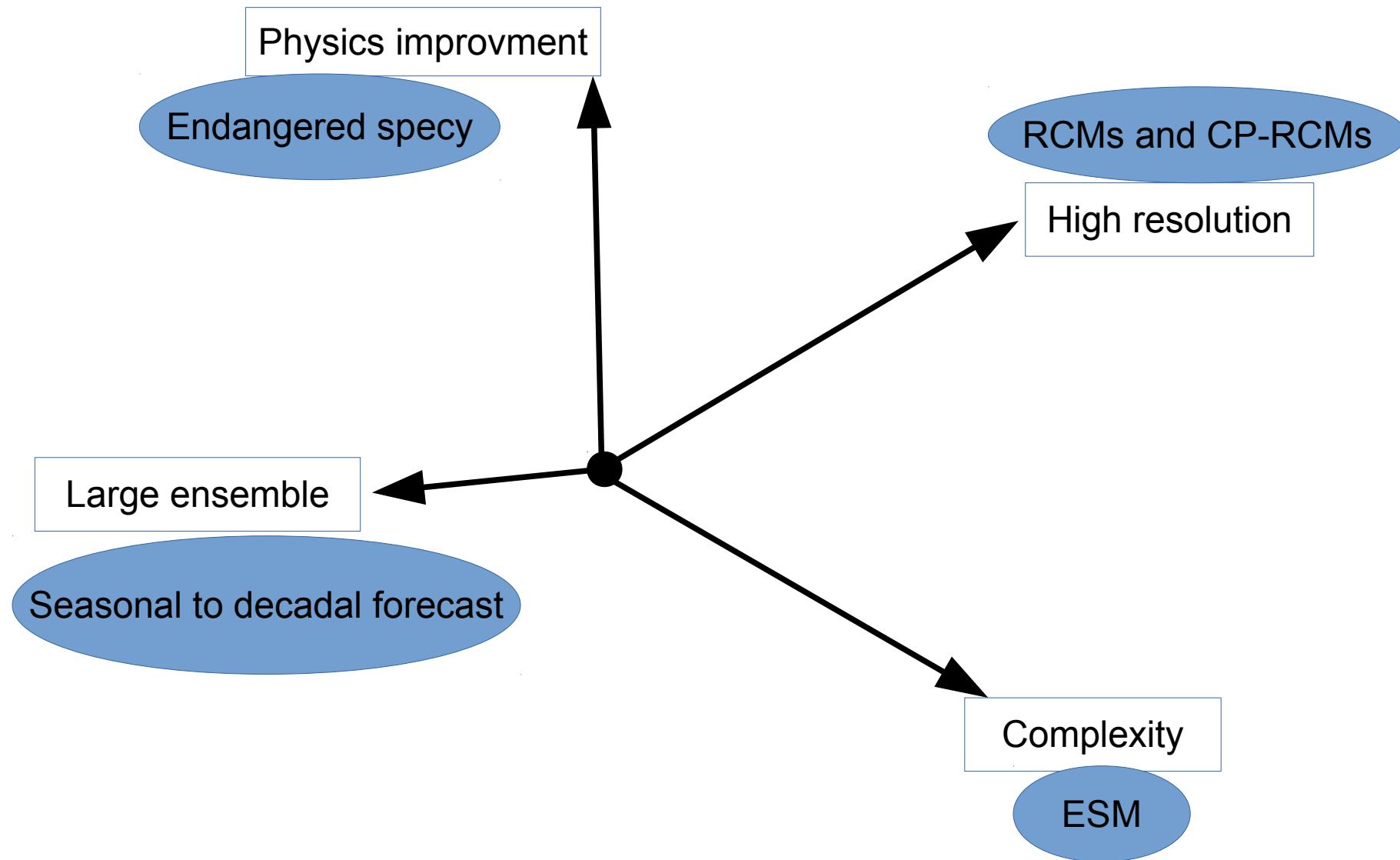
Where are coupled RCMs in the climate model family ?

Multi-axes of the climate model development world



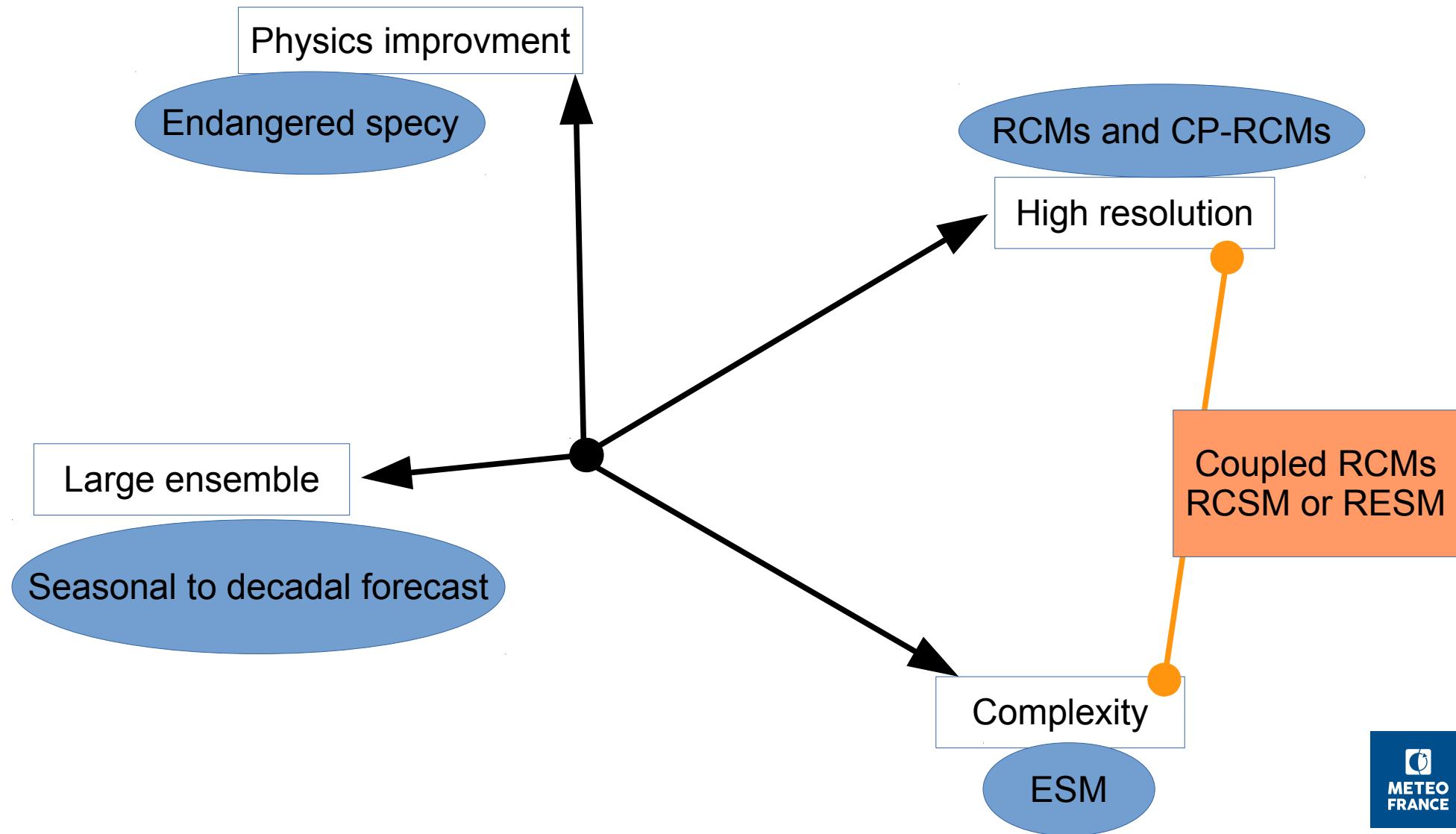
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Where are coupled RCMs in the climate model family ?

Multi-axes of the climate model development world

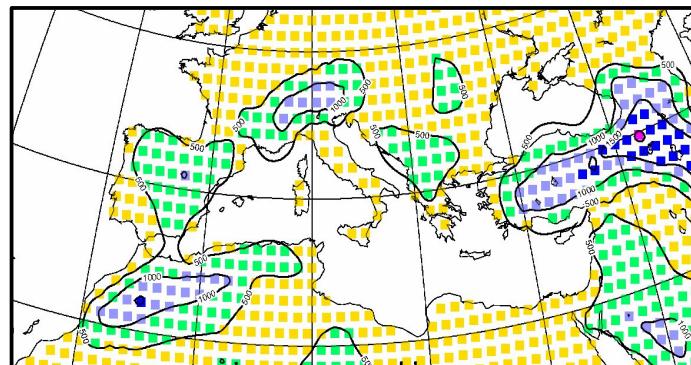


Motivations to develop RCSM : the resolution issue

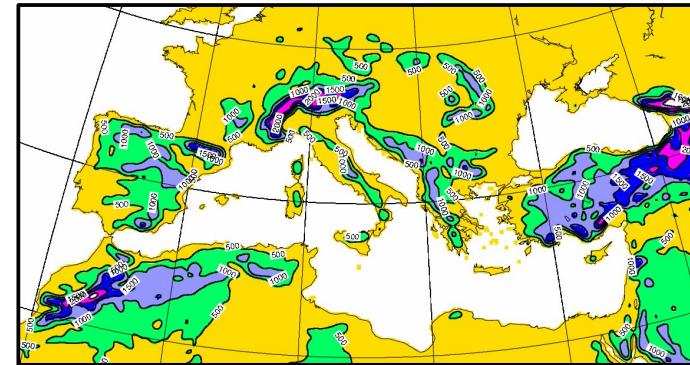
Low-resolution models poorly represent the physical constrains

Topography and land-sea mask

GCM
CMIP
125km

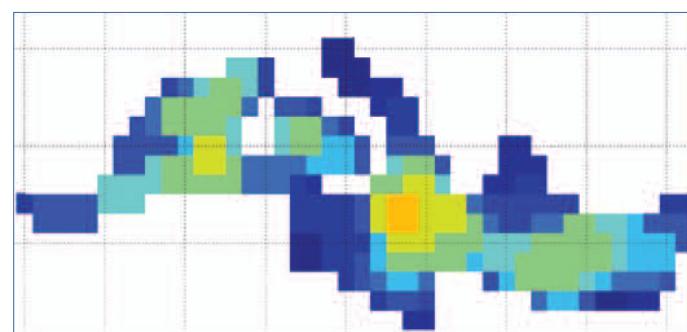


RCM
CORDEX
12km

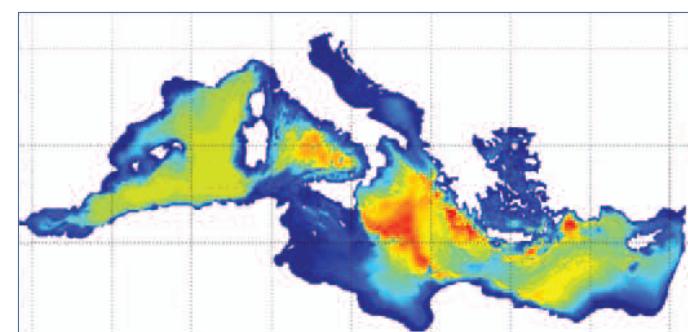


Bathymetry and land-sea mask

GCM
110km



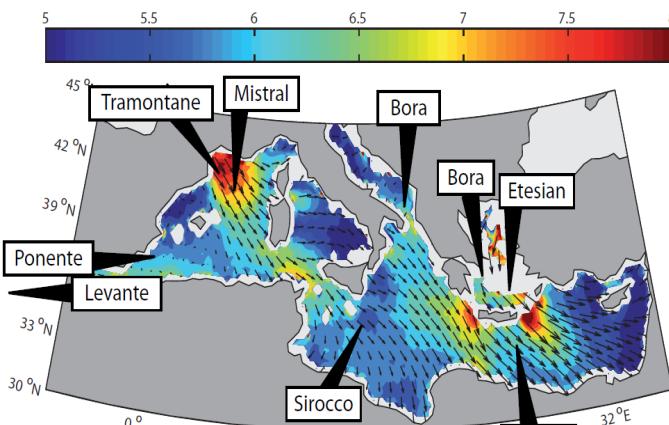
RCSM
10km



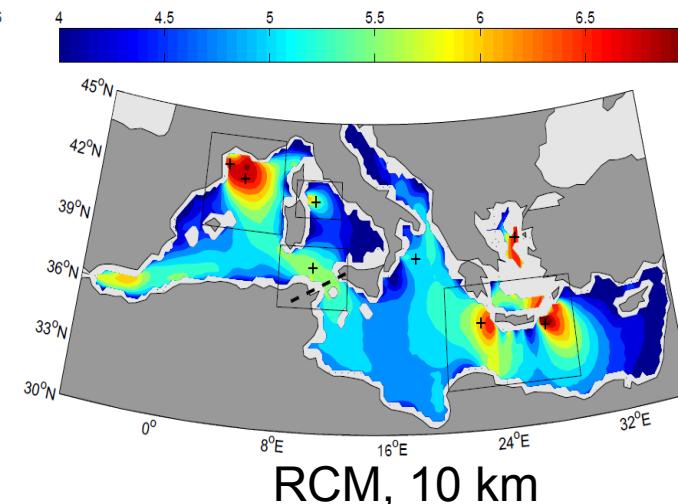
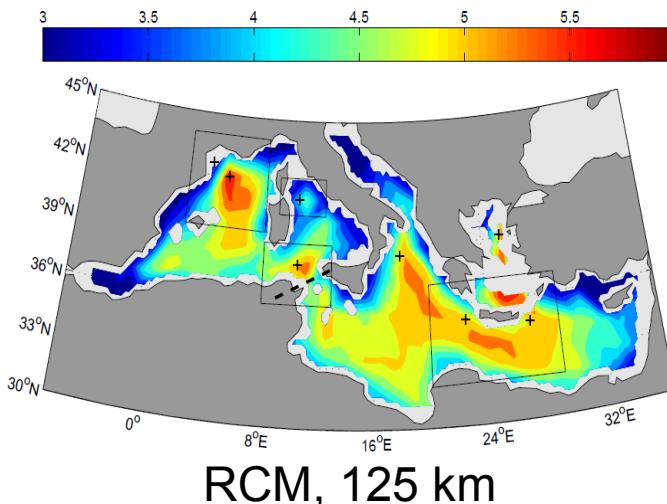
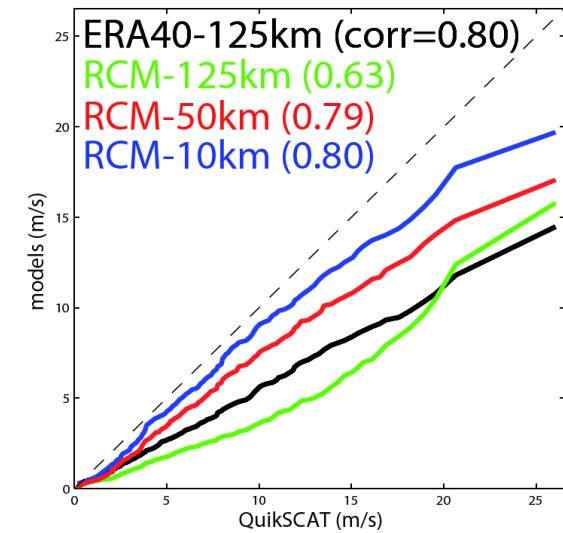
Motivations to develop RCSM : the resolution issue

Low-resolution atmosphere models poorly represent the Mediterranean climate and associated regional sea winds

Mean wind speed (m/s, 2000-2001)

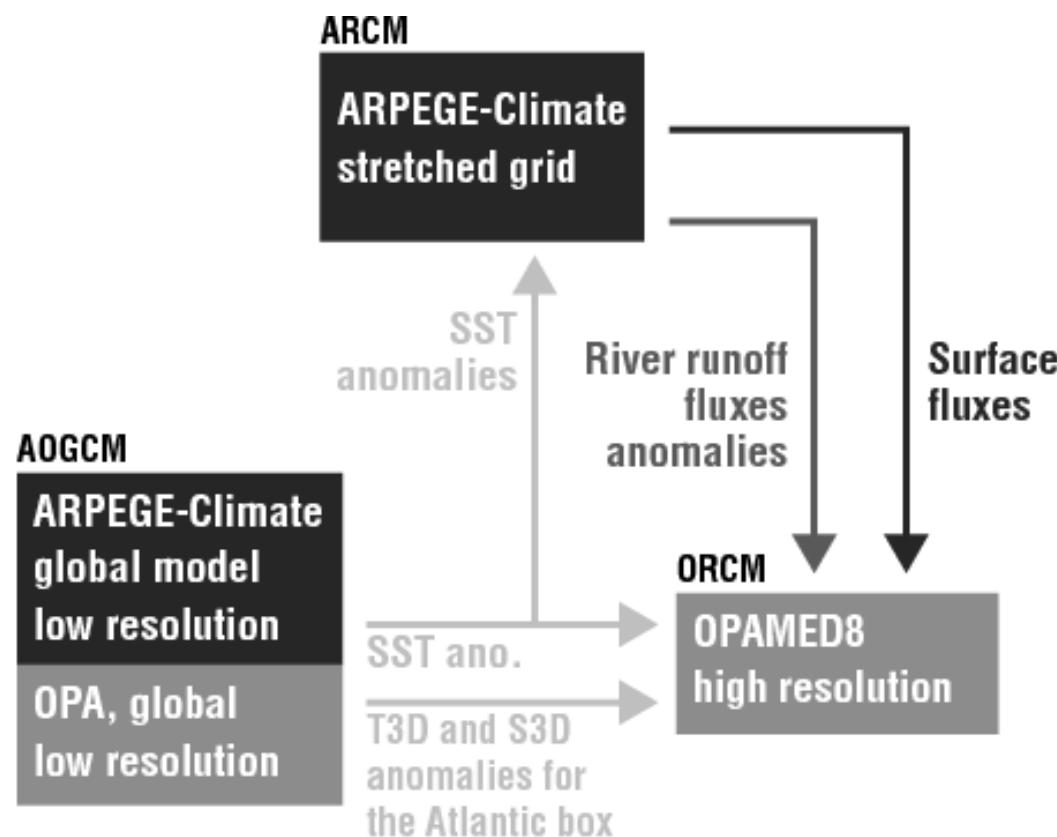


Quantile-Quantile plot for daily wind speed (G. of Lions, 2000-2001, m/s)



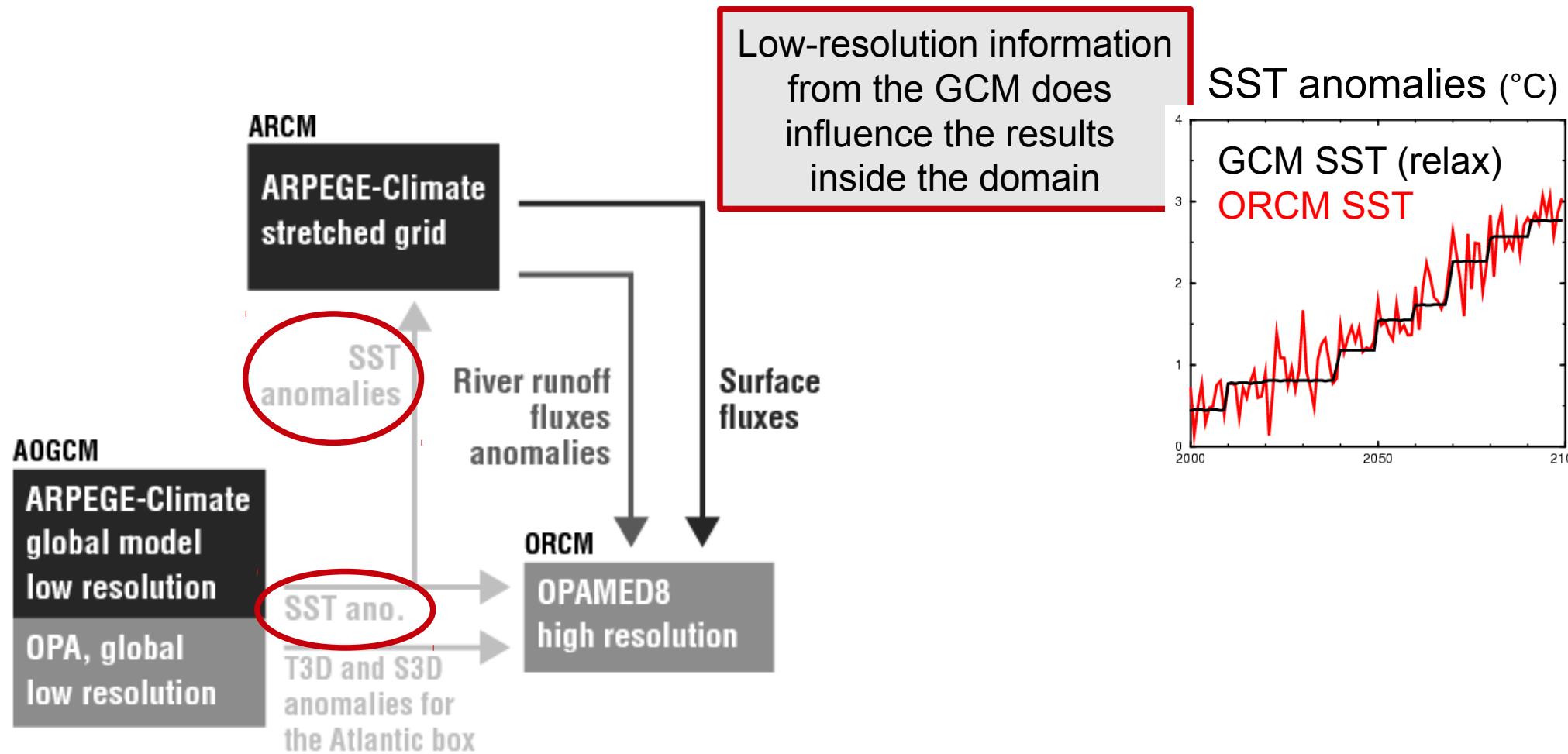
Motivations to develop RCSM : the coupling issue

Non-coupled climate model is an ill-posed problem, specially in scenario mode



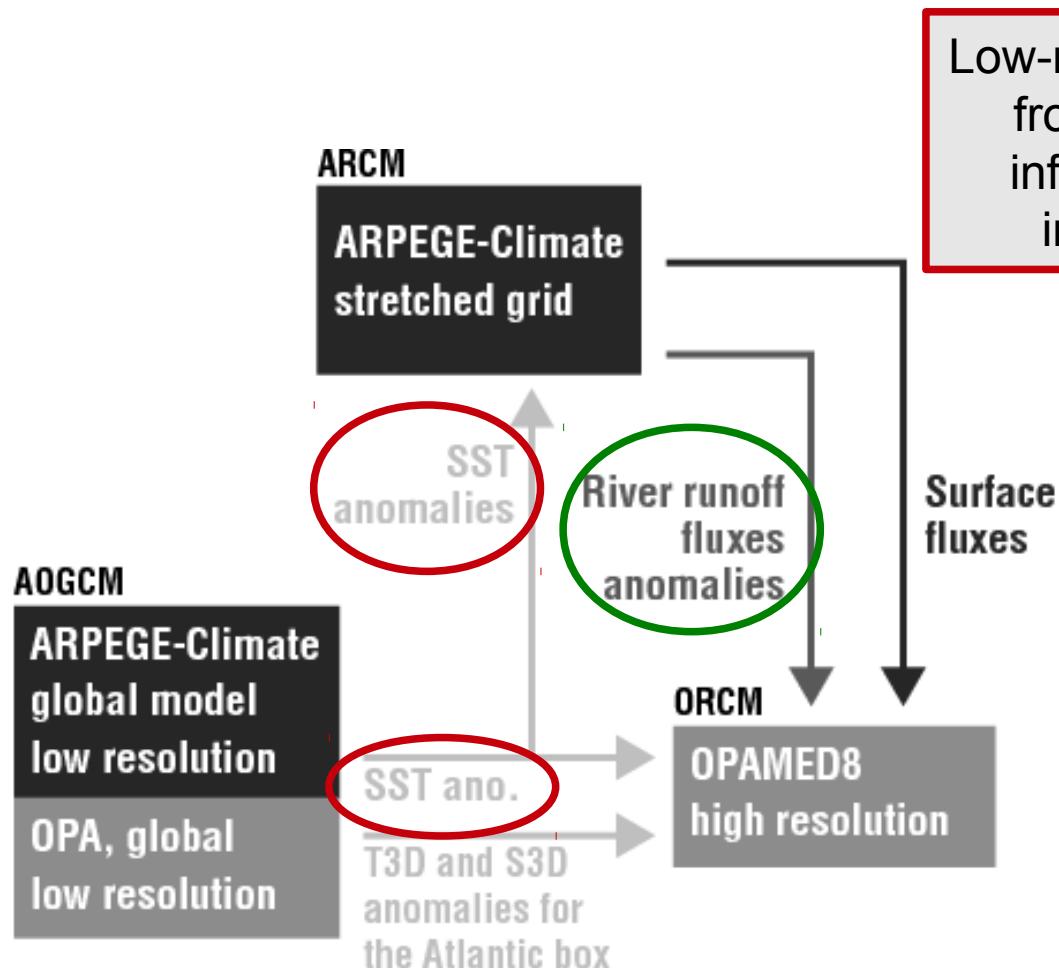
Motivations to develop RCSM : the coupling issue

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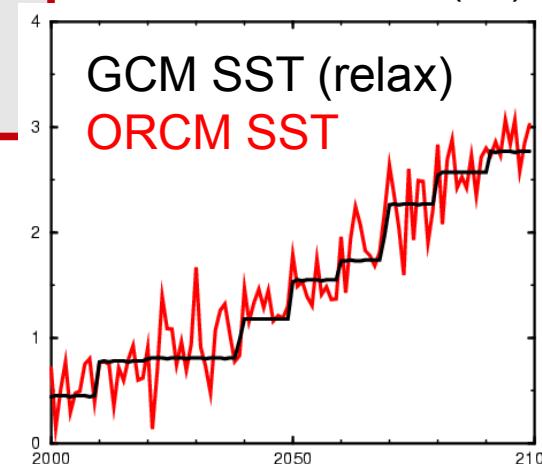
Motivations to develop RCSM : the coupling issue

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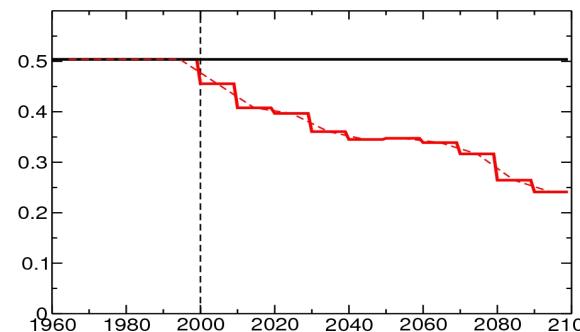
Low-resolution information from the GCM does influence the results inside the domain

SST anomalies ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)



Imposing consistent river flow changes is a big issue

River and Black Sea anomalies (mm/d)



History of the Mediterranean RCSM

1995

Atmosphere + Surface = (A)RCM
(Déqué & Piedelievre 1995, Jones et al. 1995)

time



RCM : Regional Climate Model

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2015

+ Marine biogeochemistry

(Sein et al. 2015)

+ Natural & Anthropogenic aerosols = RCSM

(Nabat et al. 2015)

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(Sein et al. 2015)

+ Natural & Anthropogenic aerosols = RCSM

(Nabat et al. 2015)

2017

+ Lake, Aquifers, Flood plains = RCSM

(Volodire et al. 2017)

When ? What ? Why ? Who ?

time



RCM : Regional Climate Model

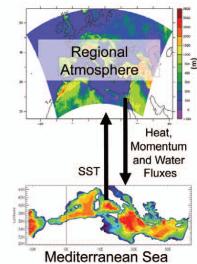
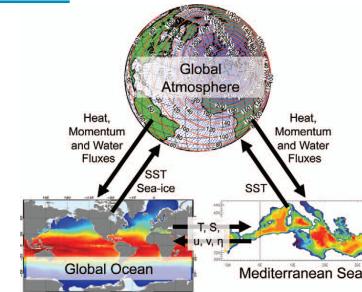
AORCM : Atmosphere-Ocean Regional Climate Model

RCSM : Regional Climate System Model

Coordinated multi-model initiatives to date

■ The EU CIRCE project (*Gualdi et al. 2013*)

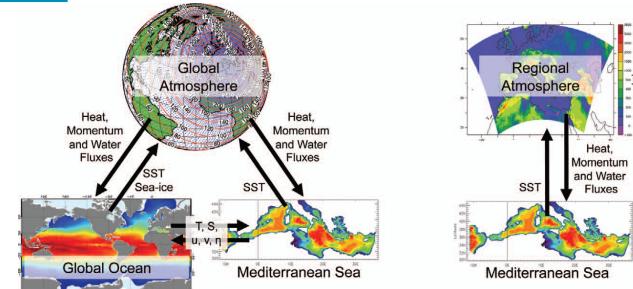
- 6 AORCMs (ENEA, LMDZx2, MPI, CNRM, INGV)
- Scenario runs for the 1950-2050 period, A1B
- Very few multi-model scientific articles (*Dubois et al. 2012, Gualdi et al. 2013*)
- Contribution to the RACCM and Med-CLIVAR book



Coordinated multi-model initiatives to date

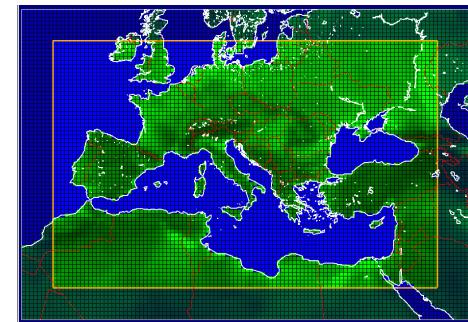
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■ The Med-CORDEX initiative (*Ruti et al. 2016*)

- Endorsed by WCRP CORDEX and Med-CLIVAR
- Financially supported by MISTRALS/HyMeX since 2009
- 12 RCMs : evaluation runs (1979-2013) and scenario runs (1950-2100, RCP8.5, RCP4.5, RCP2.6)
- Improved models wrt CIRCE
- Growing number of multi-model articles
- Phase 2 starting with Baseline runs and FPS air-sea
- Contribution to the MedECC, IPCC-SROCC, IPCC-AR6 reports



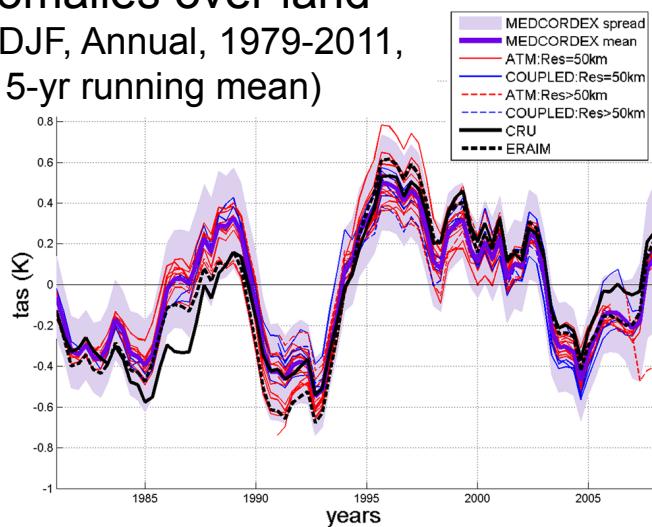
MedCORDEX – TIER1 simulations RCM (same atm as corresponding ARCM)			ERA40	HIST	RCP8.5	RCP4.5	RCP2.6
RUN	institute	model	1979-now				
			1950-2010	1971-2001	2008-2100	2008-2100	2008-2100
	ENEA	PROTHEUS	ALRO				
	MPI	REMO/MP1-CM	ALRD				
	CNRM	RCM4 v1	ALRO	1950-2013	1950-2005	2008-2100	2008-2100
	LMD	LMDZ4NEMOMEDS	ALG	1979-2009	1979-2009	2008-2100	2008-2100
	Univ. Belg.	EBUROM	ALG	1950-2005	1950-2005	2008-2100	2008-2100
	IPSL	WRF311NEMO-20km	ALG	1950-2013			
	UCLM/UPM	PRMES/NEMOMED12	ALG				
	INSTM	LMDZ4OMS-MED	ALG	1979-2009			
	UAH-AWI-ROM	REMO-MITgcm	ALROB				
	GUF	CCLM-NEMO	ALG	1950-2012	1950-2005	2008-2100	2008-2100
	CMCC / U. of Salento	CCLM4-21-NEMOMFS	ALG	1950-2011	1950-2005	2008-2100	2008-2100
	ITU	RegCM4/ROMS	ALG				

METEO
FRANCE

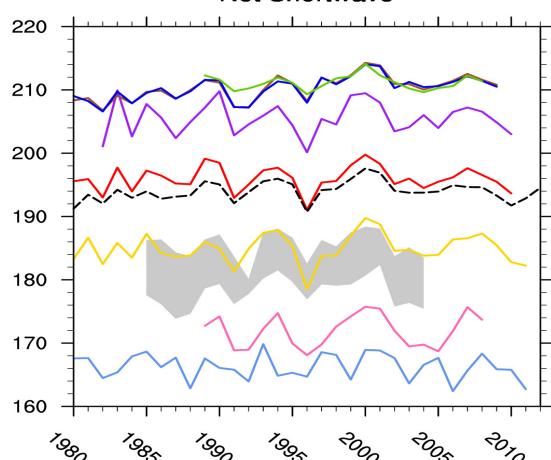


Evaluation : atmosphere, river, air-sea fluxes

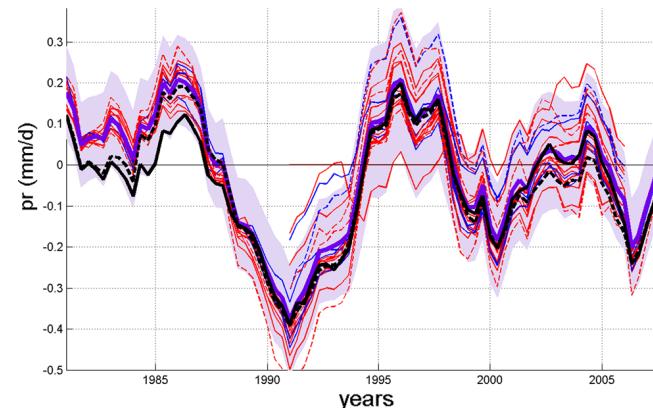
Surface temperature anomalies over land
(°C, DJF, Annual, 1979-2011,
5-yr running mean)



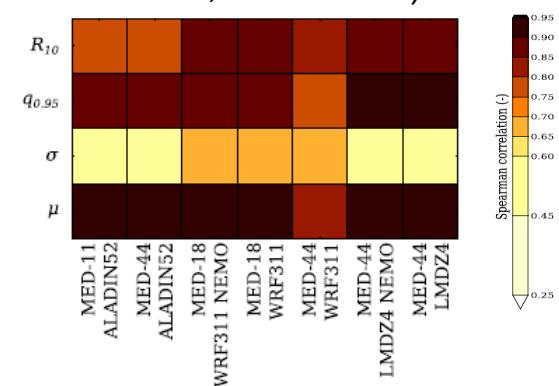
Net Shortwave radiation interannual time series (W/m², Med Sea average)



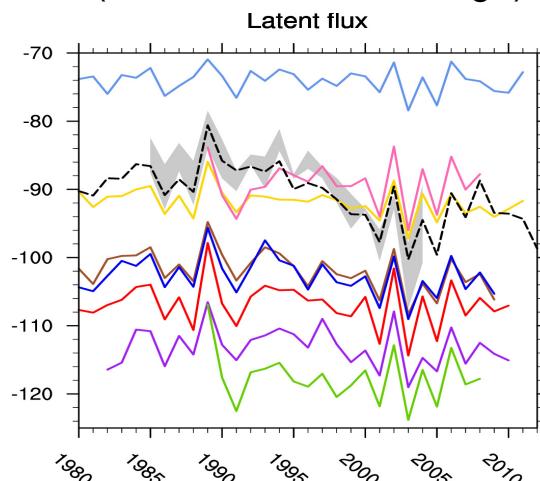
Precipitation anomalies over land (mm/d, DJF, Annual, 1979-2011, 5-yr running mean)



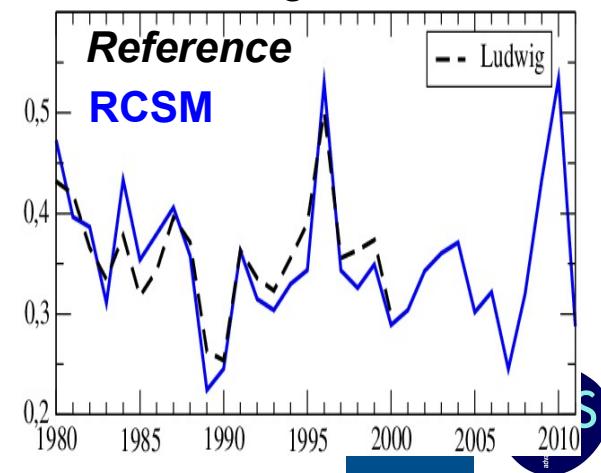
Spatial correlation for temperature indicators (mean, std, Q95, 10-yr return level, ref: E-OBS)



Latent heat loss interannual time series (W/m², Med Sea average)

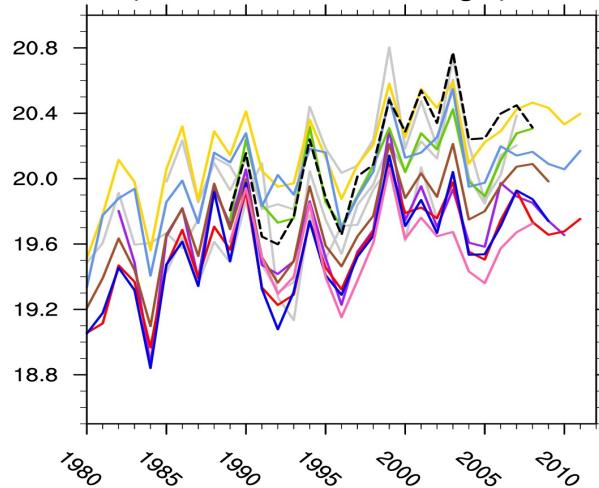


Interannual variability of Mediterranean river discharges (mm/d)

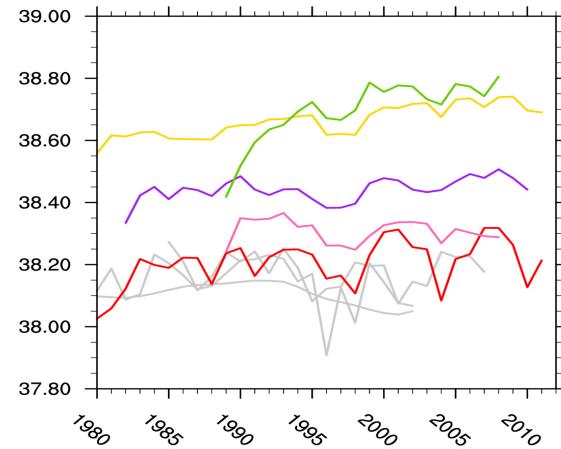


Evaluation : ocean

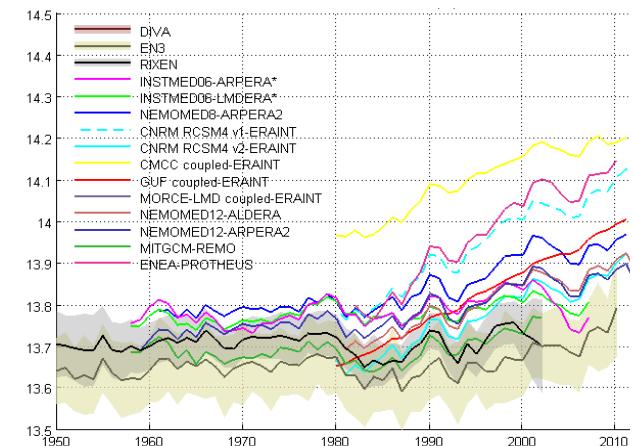
Interannual SST
(°C, Med Sea average)



Interannual SSS
(psu, Med Sea average)



Interannual heat content
(°C, 1960-2013, Med Sea average)



Gibraltar Strait Outflow

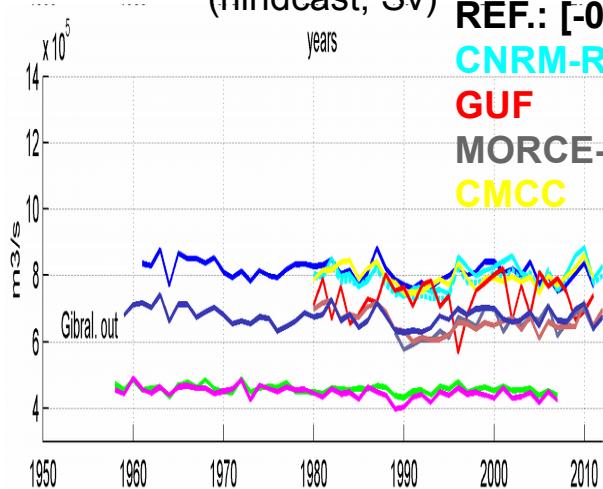
(hindcast, Sv)
years

REF.: [-0.78 ± 0.06] Sv
CNRM-RCSM4

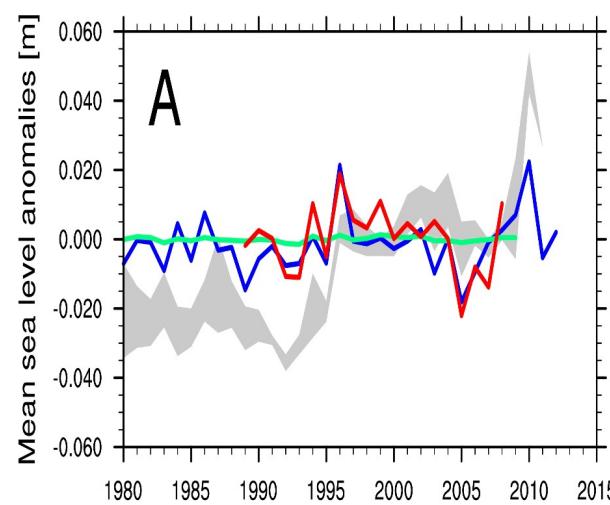
GUF

MORCE-MED

CMCC



Interannual sea level anomaly
(m, hindcast, 1980-2012, Med Sea average)



REFERENCE
CNRM-RCSM4
LMDZ-MED
MORCE-MED

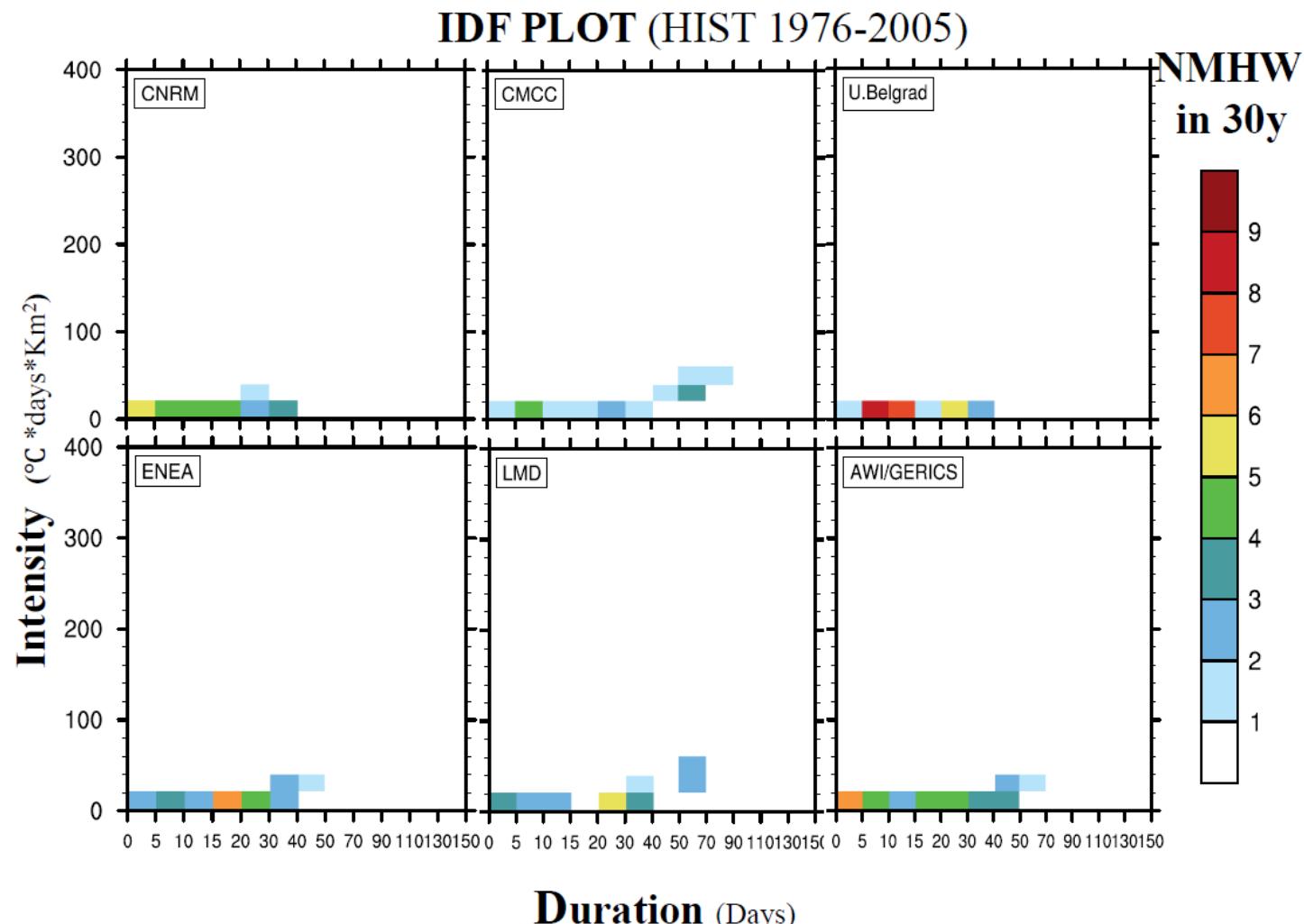
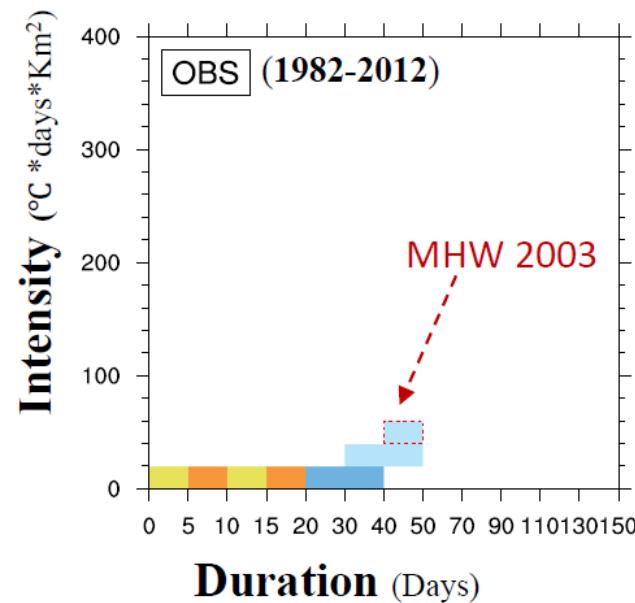


Evaluation : phenomena-oriented

Marine Heat Waves

- Reference: CMEMS L4 satellite product (0.04° , CNR-ISAC-ROME)
- Detection: 2D threshold wrt local Q99-SST, 5- days min. duration, max 3 gap days, min. 20% surface
- RCSM: CNRM, ENEA, LMD, CMCC, AWI-GERICS, Uni. Belgrade / Historical period / 1976-2005

Intensity-Duration-Frequency plots



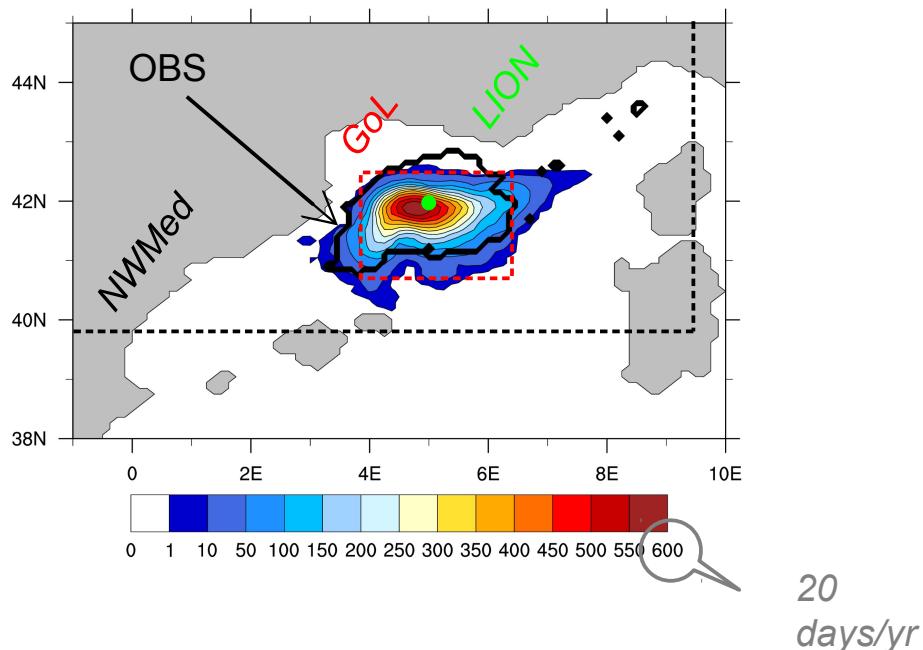
Evaluation : phenomena-oriented

Deep Water Formation in the North-Western Med. Sea

- Reference: LION weather buoy and deep mooring + HYDROCHANGES, CTD field campaigns (MOOSE, DeWeX), re-assessment of past observations
- Model: CNRM-RCSM4, ERA-Int driven + spectral nudging, 1980-2013
- Method: spatial and temporal evaluation of the maximum mixed layer depth

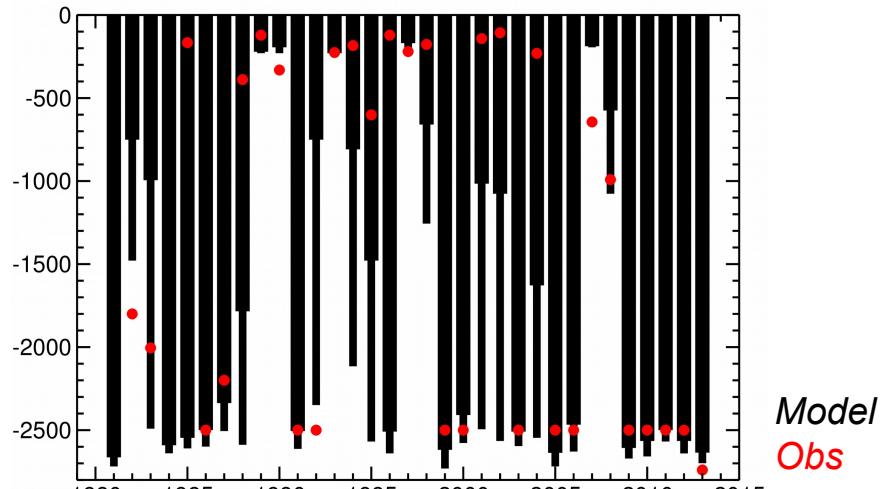
Occurrence of daily MLD>1000m

(Nb of day, 1980-2013)

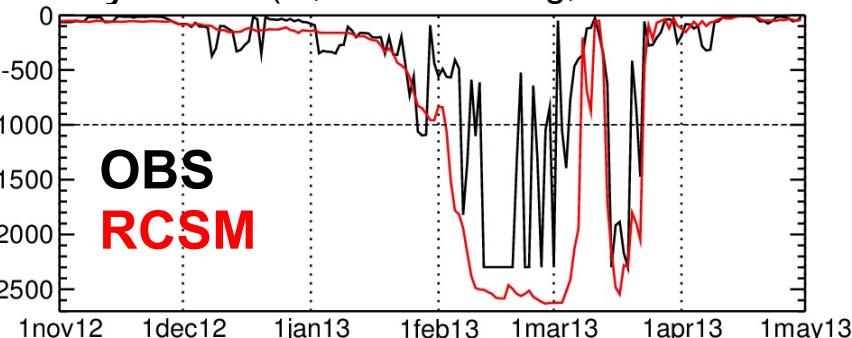


Yearly spatio-temporal maximum MLD

(m, GoL, daily data)



Daily MLD (m, LION mooring, Winter 2012-2013)



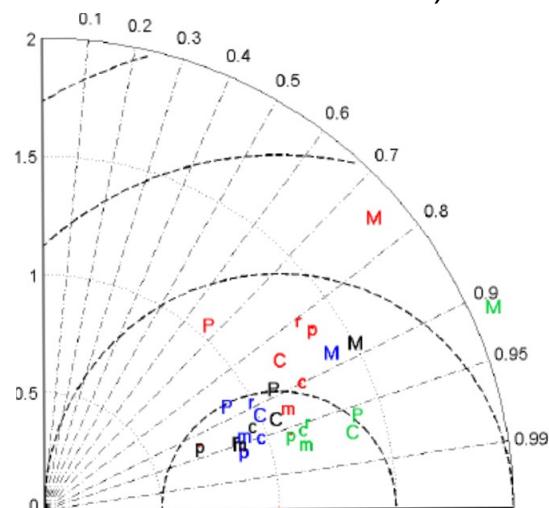
Adapted from Somot et al. 2016, using additional observations from Houpert et al. 2016, Waldman et al. 2018 (also see L'Hévéder et al. 2013)

Added-value : RCSM vs AOGCM

If any, related to a better representation of SST at small-scale and high-frequency

SST spatial Taylor diagram (ref :

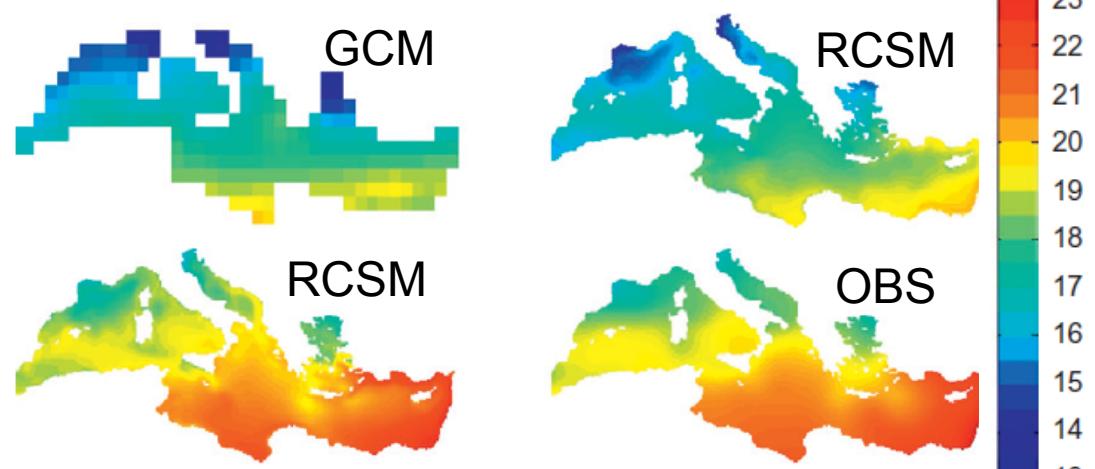
Marullo et al. 2007 dataset, 1985-2010,
Mediterranean Sea)



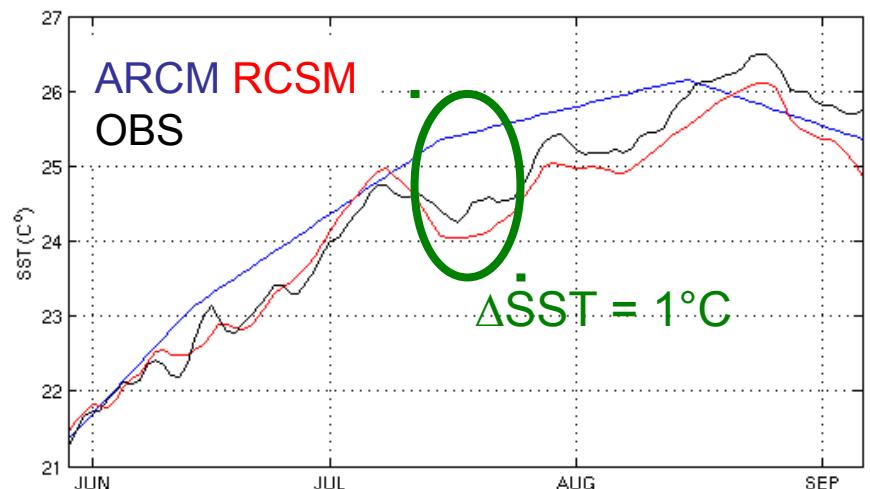
Comparison between GCM (capital letters) and AORCM (small letters) for DJF (black), MAM (green), JJA (red), SON (blue)

RCSMs better capture SST spatial pattern and high-frequency variability than GCM or ARCM. This potentially leads to improve air-sea fluxes, moisture and heat transports and finally may influence the surrounding land areas

SST spatial pattern (°C)



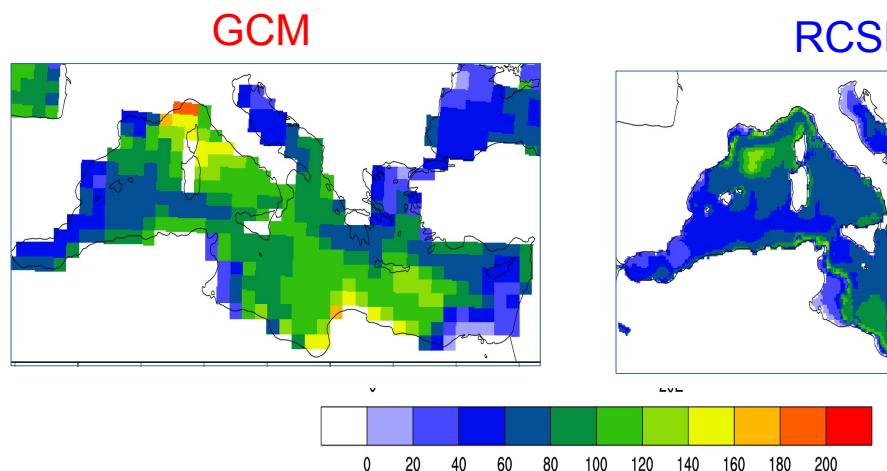
SST daily time series (°C, July 2000,
RegCM vs PROTHEUS, ref : Marullo et al. 2007)



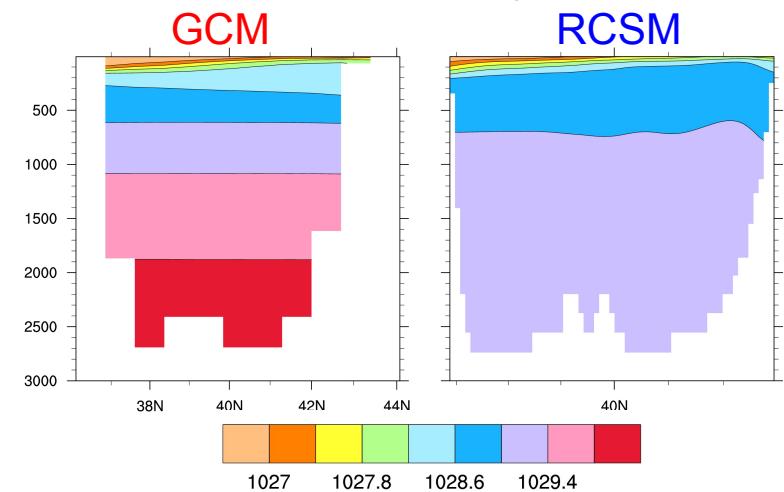
Added-value : RCSM vs AOGCM

RCSM improves the representation of DWF and MTHC wrt GCM

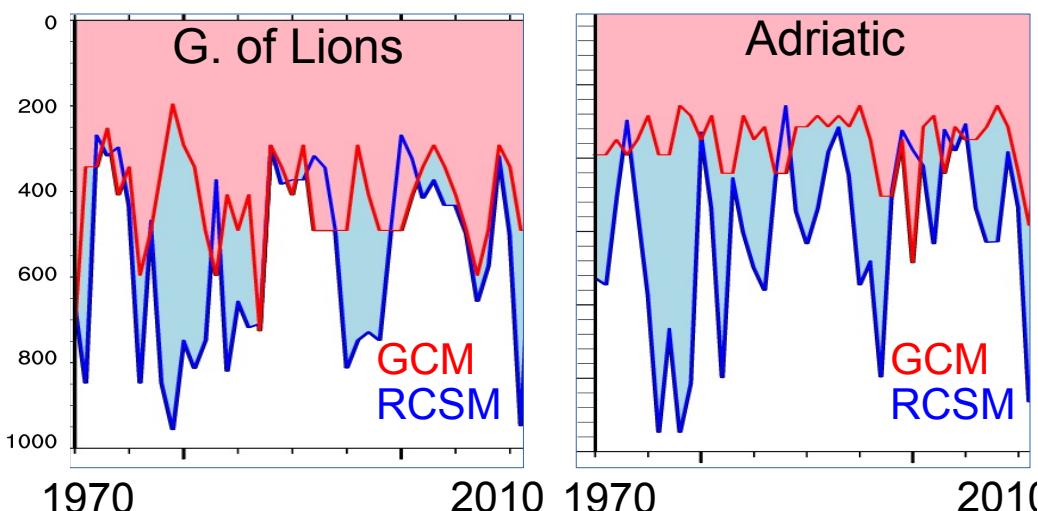
Mixed layer depth (DJF, 1976-2005, m)



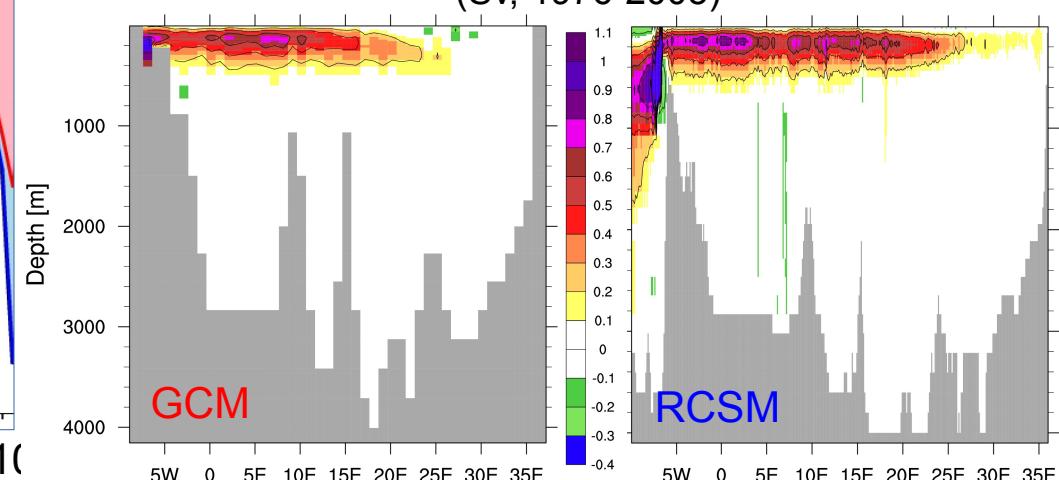
Potential density vertical section
(G. of Lions, 5°E, kg/m³)



Yearly maximum MLD (m)



Zonal overturning streamfunction
(Sv, 1976-2005)

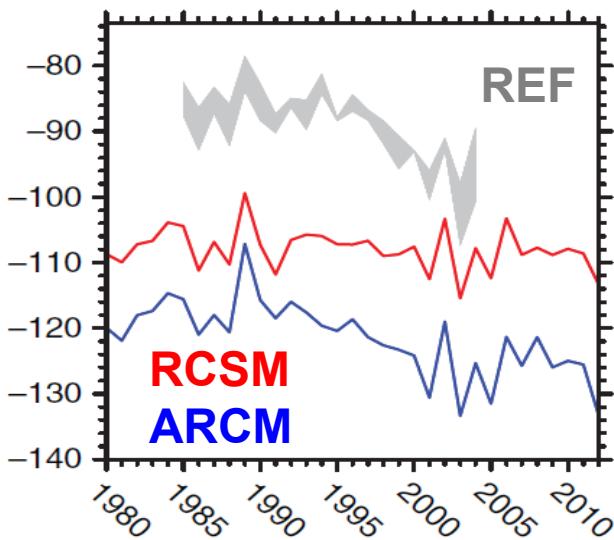


Added-value : RCSM vs ARCM

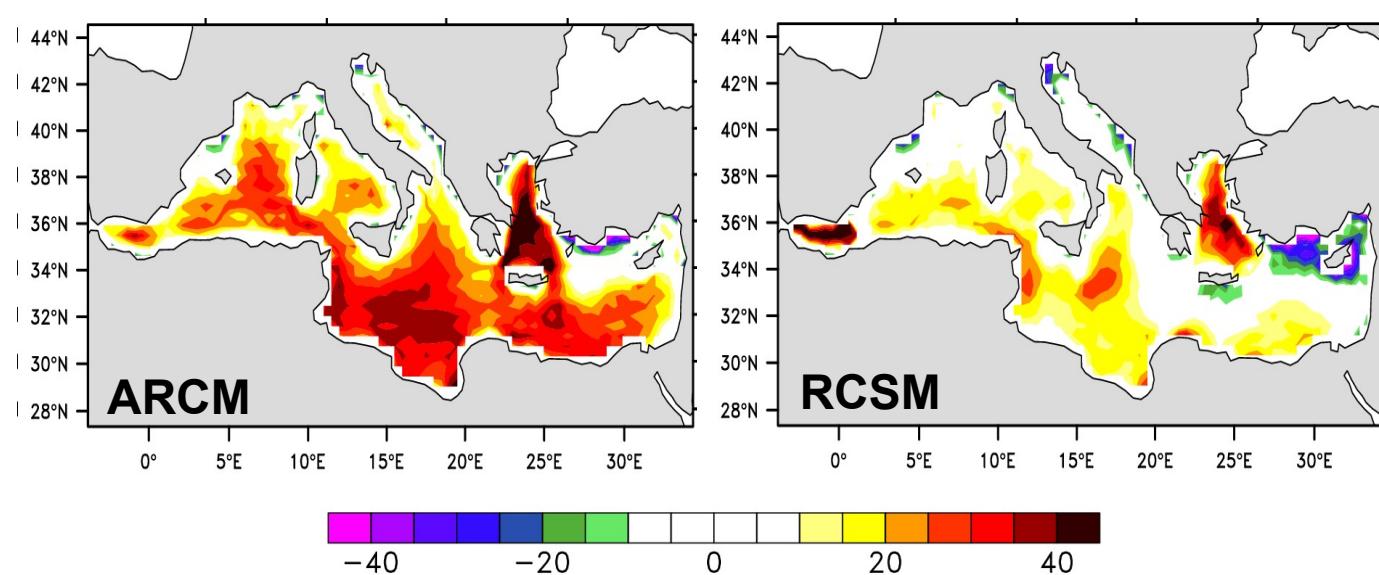
Latent heat flux and net heat flux

- Reference: OAFLUX satellite product
- Model: CNRM-RCSM4 and corresponding ALADIN simulation, ERA-Int driven + spectral nudging, 1980-2013

Latent heat loss interannual time series (W/m^2 , Med Sea average)



Latent Heat flux bias wrt OAFLUX (W/m^2)

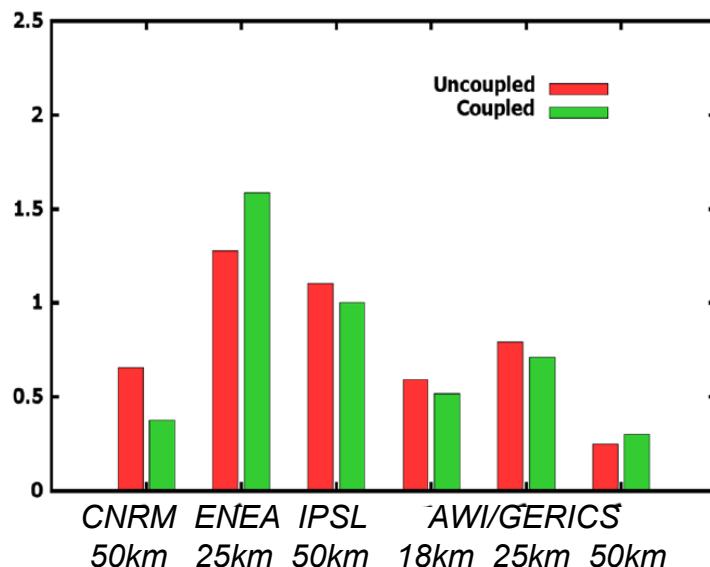


RCSM generally improves latent heat flux and net heat flux wrt ARCM
However, this often leads to SST bias wrt observations

Added-value : RCSM vs ARCM

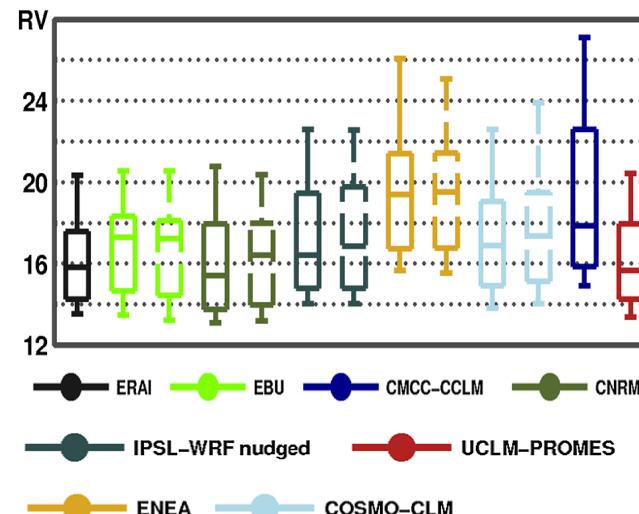
Mediterranean cyclones and medicanes

Medicane frequency
(Number/year)



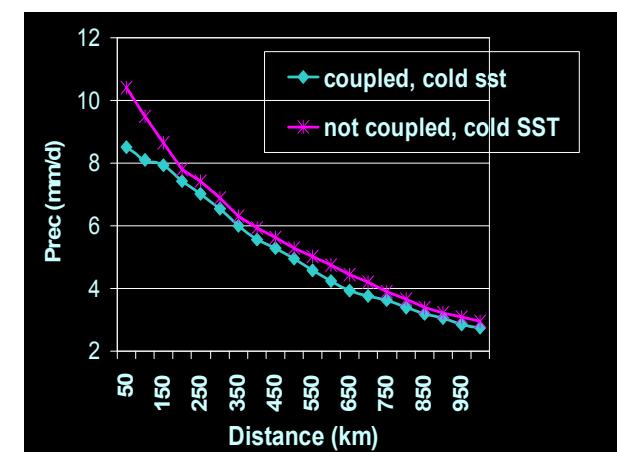
Detection based on Picornell et al. 2001 for tracking, Hart (2003) for cyclone phase space method and Miglietta et al. 2013 for threshold (17.5 m/s)

Maximum intensity for the most intense cyclones
(West Med, 10^{-5} s^{-1})



*Maximum relative vorticity of the 500 most intense Mediterranean cyclones, 1989-2008.
Using 5 ARCM/RCSM pairs
Using 2 tracking methods.
Coupled models in dashed lines.*

Precipitation composite wrt to cyclone center distance
(mm/d, G. of Genoa, $> 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$)



Coupling has a limited impact on Medicanes (frequency, intensity)

Coupling has a weak impact on Mediterranean cyclones (number, geography, intensity)

Coupling leads to negative feedback on precipitation close to cyclone center

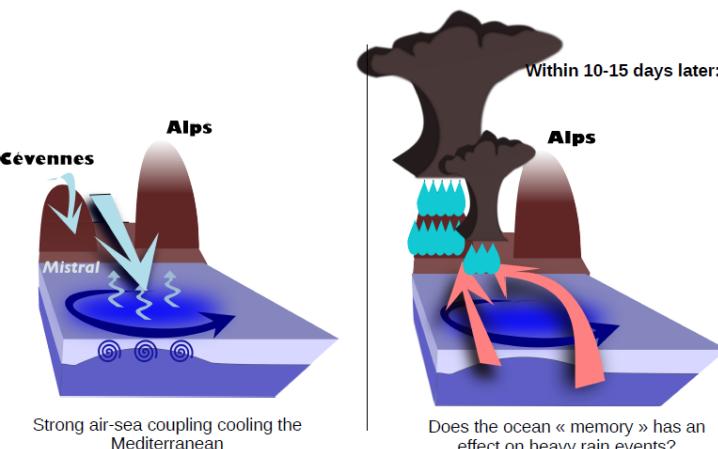
RCSM as a tool to answer scientific questions

Ocean short-term memory effect on Mediterranean Heavy Precipitation Events

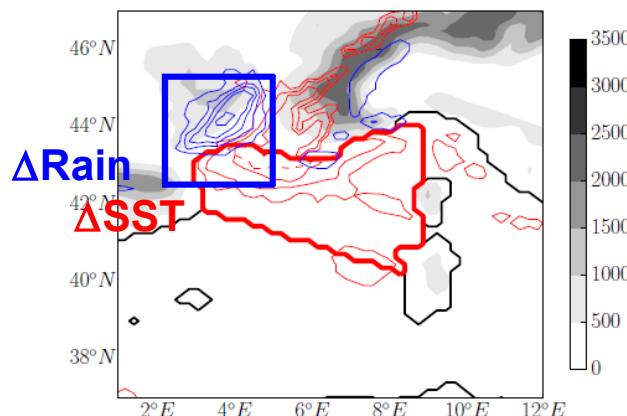
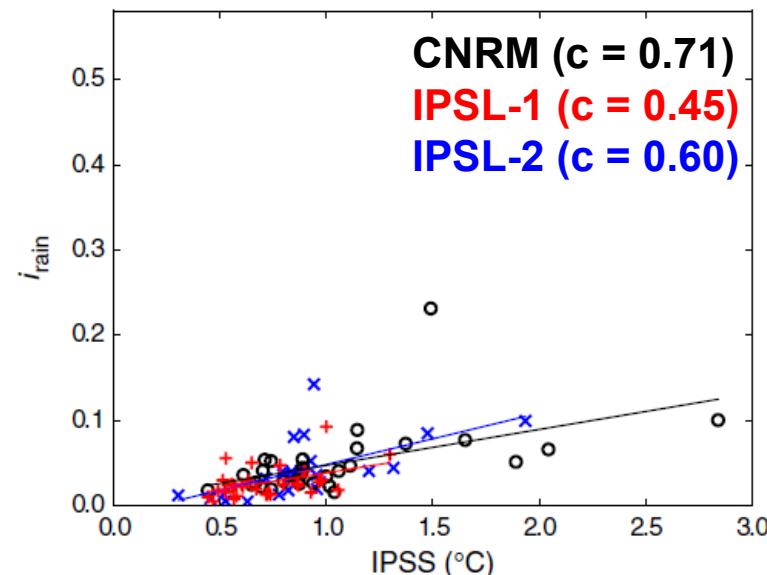
Statistically, HPE intensity is influenced by regional high-frequency ocean-atmosphere interactions

A SST-HPE relationship is obtained comparing RCSM and ARCM negative (multi-model, multi-site)

Schematic view of a Mistral event followed by an HPE event



Relationship between an HPE indice (i_{rain}) and a SST indice (IPSS, °C) for the Cévennes area



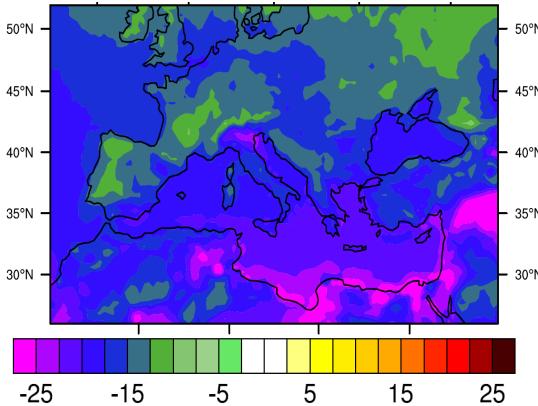
$$IPSS = \sqrt{\delta SST^2}^{\text{RegSST}}$$
$$I_{rain} = \sqrt{\delta P^2}^{\text{RegPrecip}} / P_{max}$$

RCSM as a tool to answer scientific questions

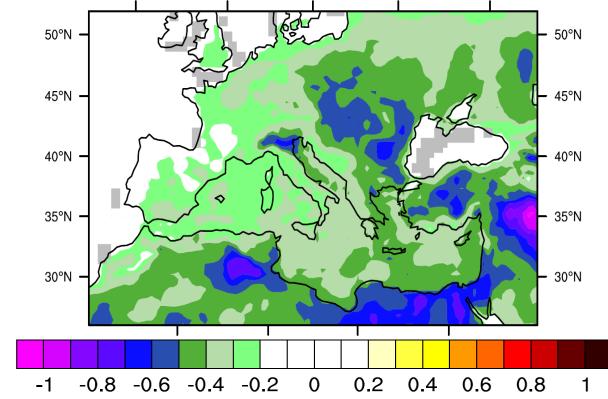
Aerosol impact on Mediterranean climate

- Most of the CORDEX RCMs do not take aerosol variability into account
- Sensitivity tests with and without aerosols in CNRM-RCSM4 (2003-2009)

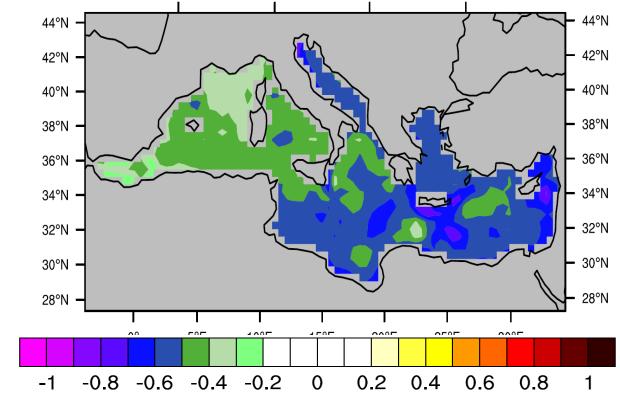
Direct aerosol SW
radiative forcing (W/m²)



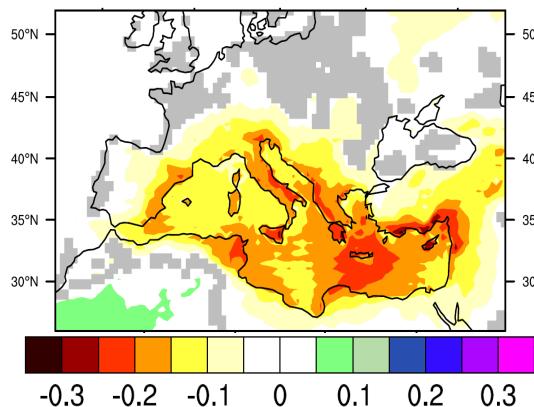
Effect on T2m (°C)



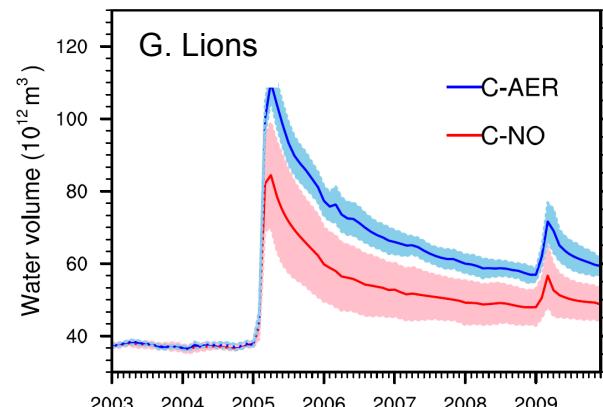
Effect on SST (°C)



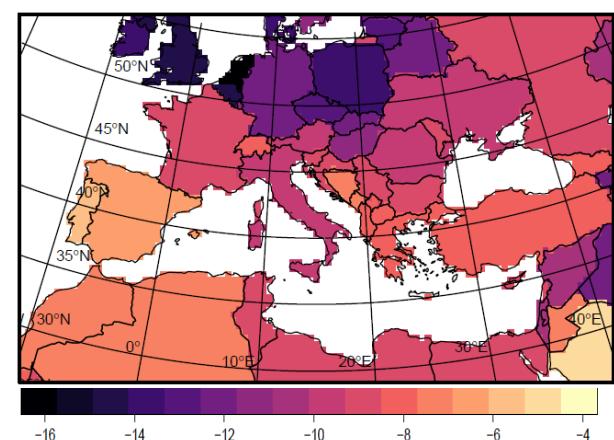
Effect on specific
humidity (g/kg)



Effect on dense water
volume (10¹² m³)



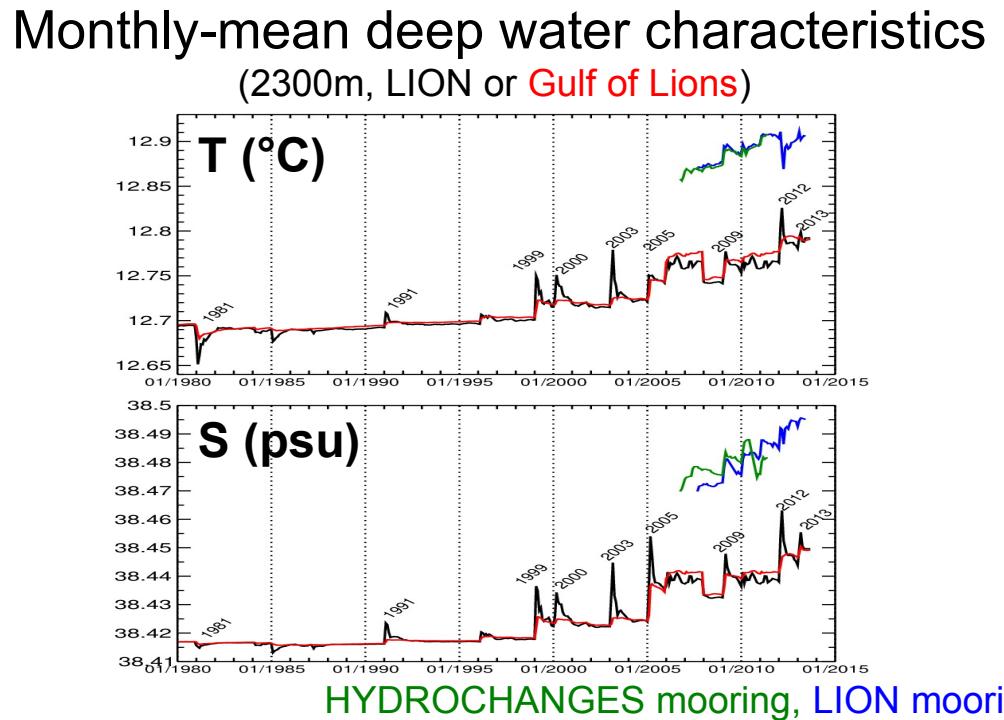
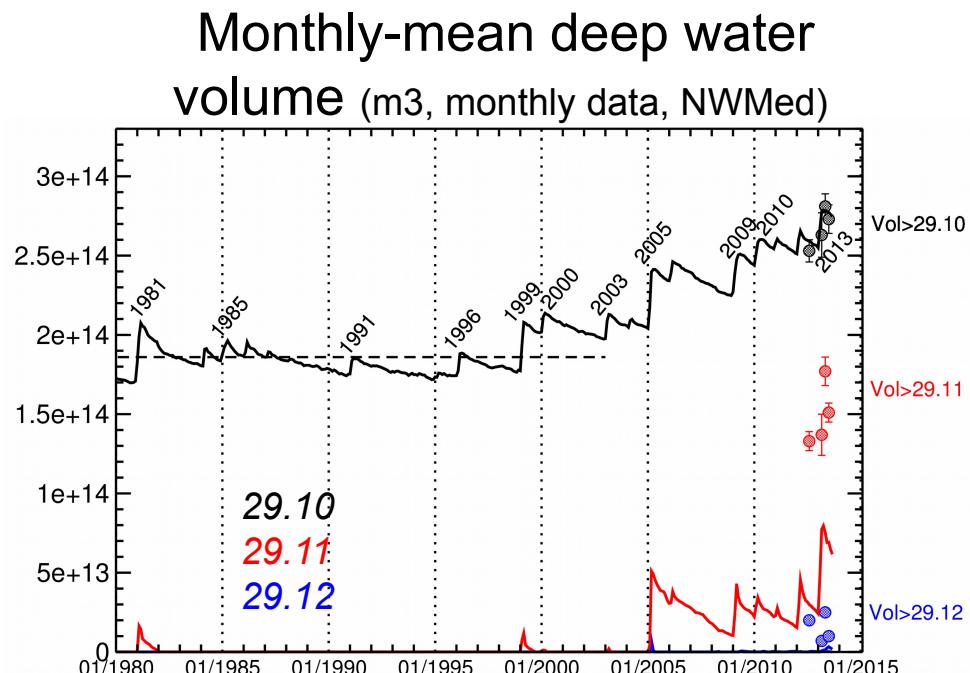
Effect on photovoltaic
production (%, 2-axes panels)



RCSM as a tool to answer scientific questions

Trend in North-Western Mediterranean Deep Water Masses

- Reference: LION deep mooring + HYDROCHANGES, CTD field campaigns (MOOSE, DeWeX), re-assessment of past observations
- Model: CNRM-RCSM4, ERA-Int driven + spectral nudging, 1980-2013

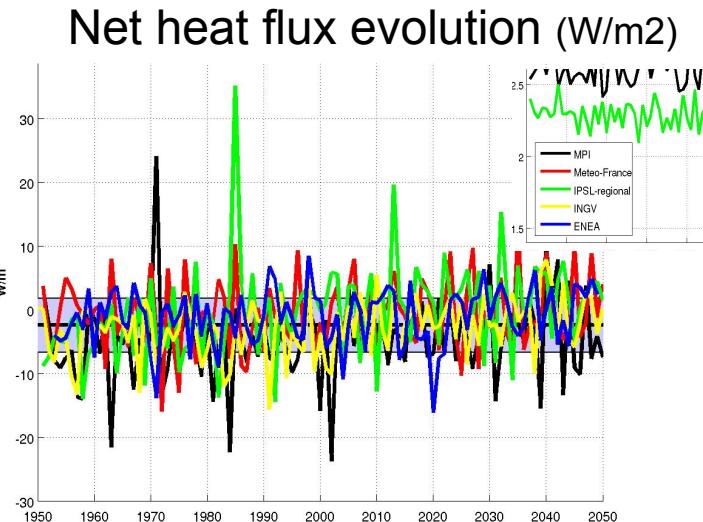


Deep water mass trends (warming, salting, densening) is reproduced though underestimated. Trend is a stepwise phenomena, not explained by trends in the buoyancy forcing or in the water stratification but by significant trends in the surface and intermediate water characteristics, initially linked to a near-Atlantic salinity trend

Regional future climate change : air-sea flux

Future evolution of the Med Sea Heat Budget (MSHB) terms

- ARCMs give physically inconsistent results (ENSEMBLES runs)
- AORCMs allow a consistent estimation for the first time. They give qualitatively similar responses (5 CIRCE runs: A1B, 1950-2050)
- Surface net heat loss decreases during the 21st century leading to a weaker cooling of the sea by the atmosphere or even a warming



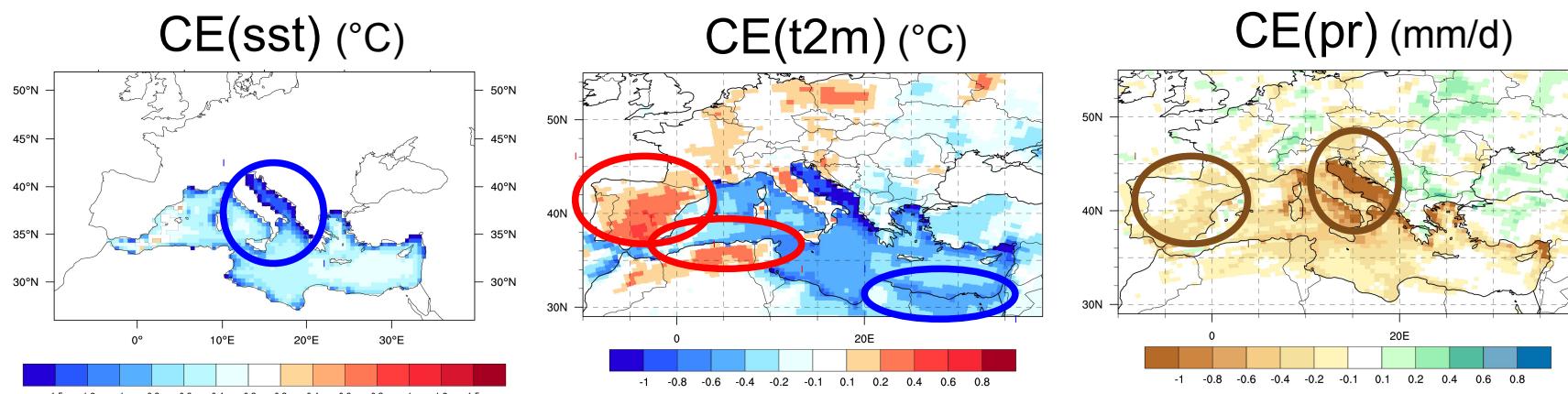
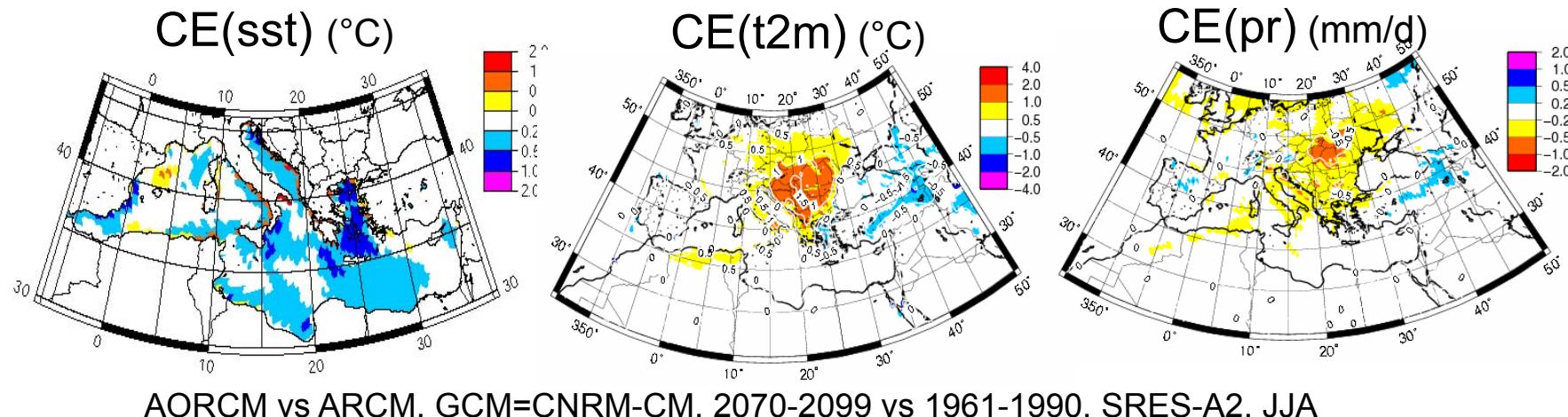
Difference 2021-2050 vs 1961-1990, A1B	SW	LW	SH	LH	MSHB
CIRCE Ensemble Mean	+2.2	+1.9	+1.5	-2.5	+3.1
CIRCE Ensemble Range	[+0.8 ; +2.6]	[+1.2 ; + 2.8]	[+0.7 ; +2.9]	[-0.8 ; -3.4]	[+1.6 ;+5.5]

More warming (less cloud)
Less cooling (GHG effect > SST warming)
Less cooling (air-sea gradient, wind decrease)
More cooling (warmer sea, dryer atm)
Less cooling or even warming for some models

Regional future climate change : coupling impact

RCSM can modify regional climate change signal of ARCM

Summer Coupling Effect (CE) on regional climate change (CC) : $CE = CC(RCSM) - CC(ARCM)$



CNRM-RCSM4 vs CNRM-ALADIN, GCM=CNRM-CM5, 2071-2100 vs 1976-2005, RCP8.5, JJA

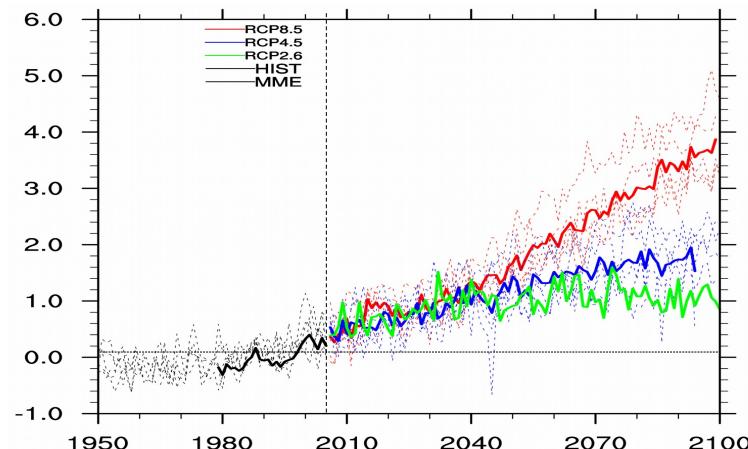
Regional future climate change: Med-CORDEX

RCSM can deliver spatial information for the SST change

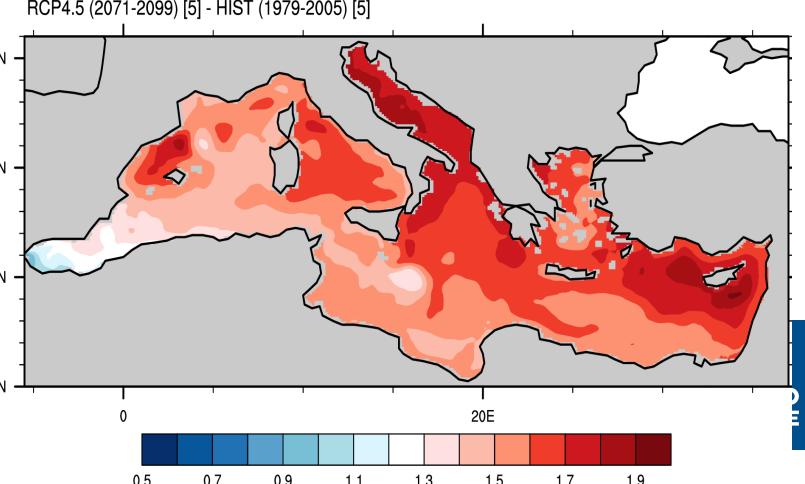
INSTITUTE	RCSM name	Driving GCM	Resol. Ocean	Historical	RCP8.5	RCP4.5	RCP2.6	Contact
CNRM	CNRM-RCSM4	CNRM-CM5	9-12km	1950-2005	2006-2100	2006-2100	2006-2100	S. Somot
LMD	LMDZ/NEMOMED8	IPSL-CM5	9-12km	1950-2005	2006-2100	2006-2100		L. Li
CMCC	COSMOMED	CMCC-CM	1/16°	1950-2005	2006-2100	2006-2100		L. Cavigchia
AWI/GERICS	ROM	MPI-ESM-LR	25km	1950-2005	2006-2100	2006-2100		W. Cabos, D. Sein
U. Belgrade	EBU-POM	MPI-ESM-LR	0.2°	1950-2005	2006-2100			V. Djurdjevic
ENEA	PROTHEUS	CNRM-CM5	1/8°	1978-2005		2006-2095		G. Sannino

(6) (5) (5) (1)

Yearly-mean SST anomalies
(°C, Med Sea spatial average, wrt 1979-2005)

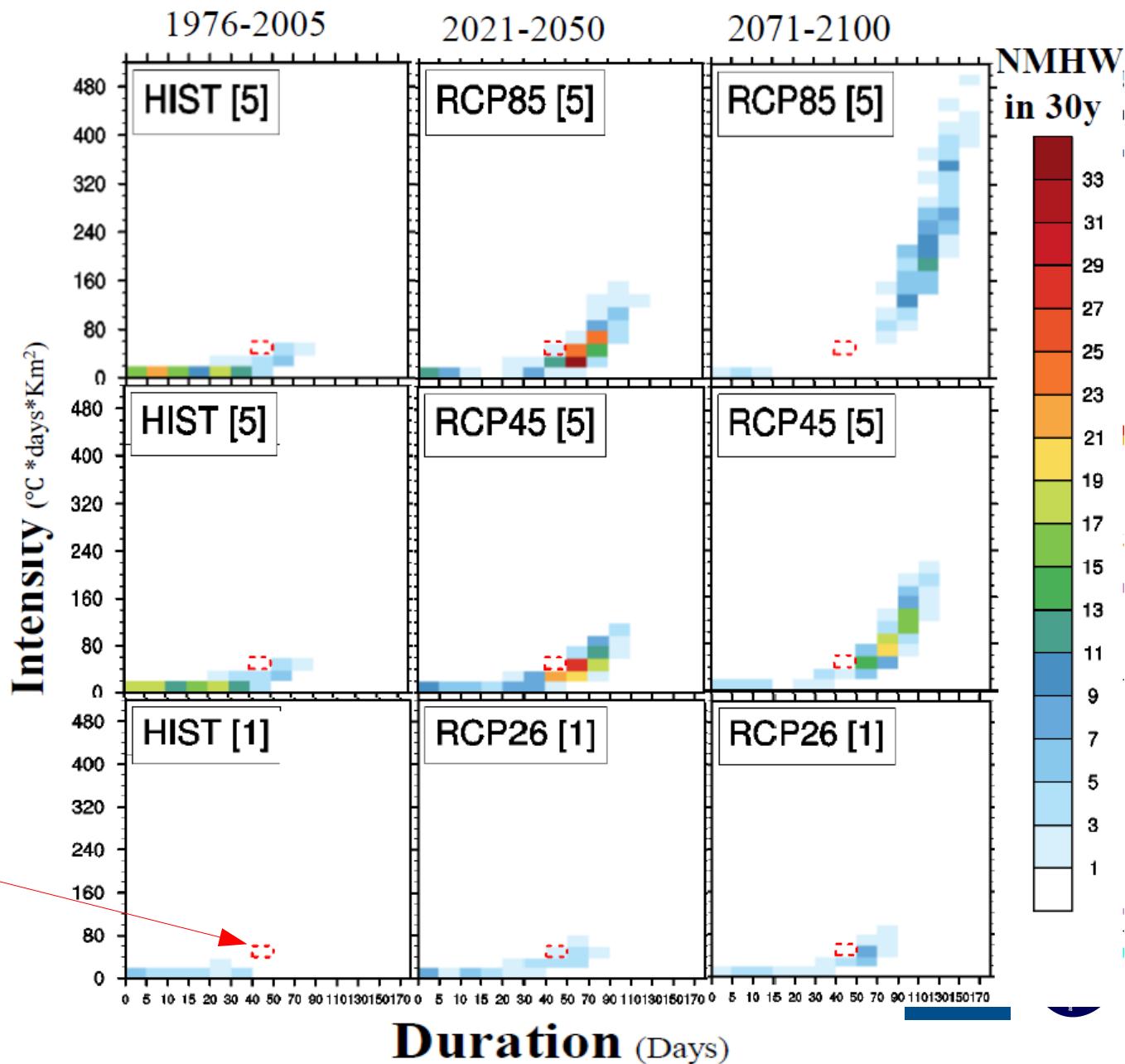


Yearly-mean SST change
(°C, 2071–2099 vs 1979–2005, RCP4.5)



Regional future climate change: Marine Heat Waves

Intensity-Duration-Frequency plots



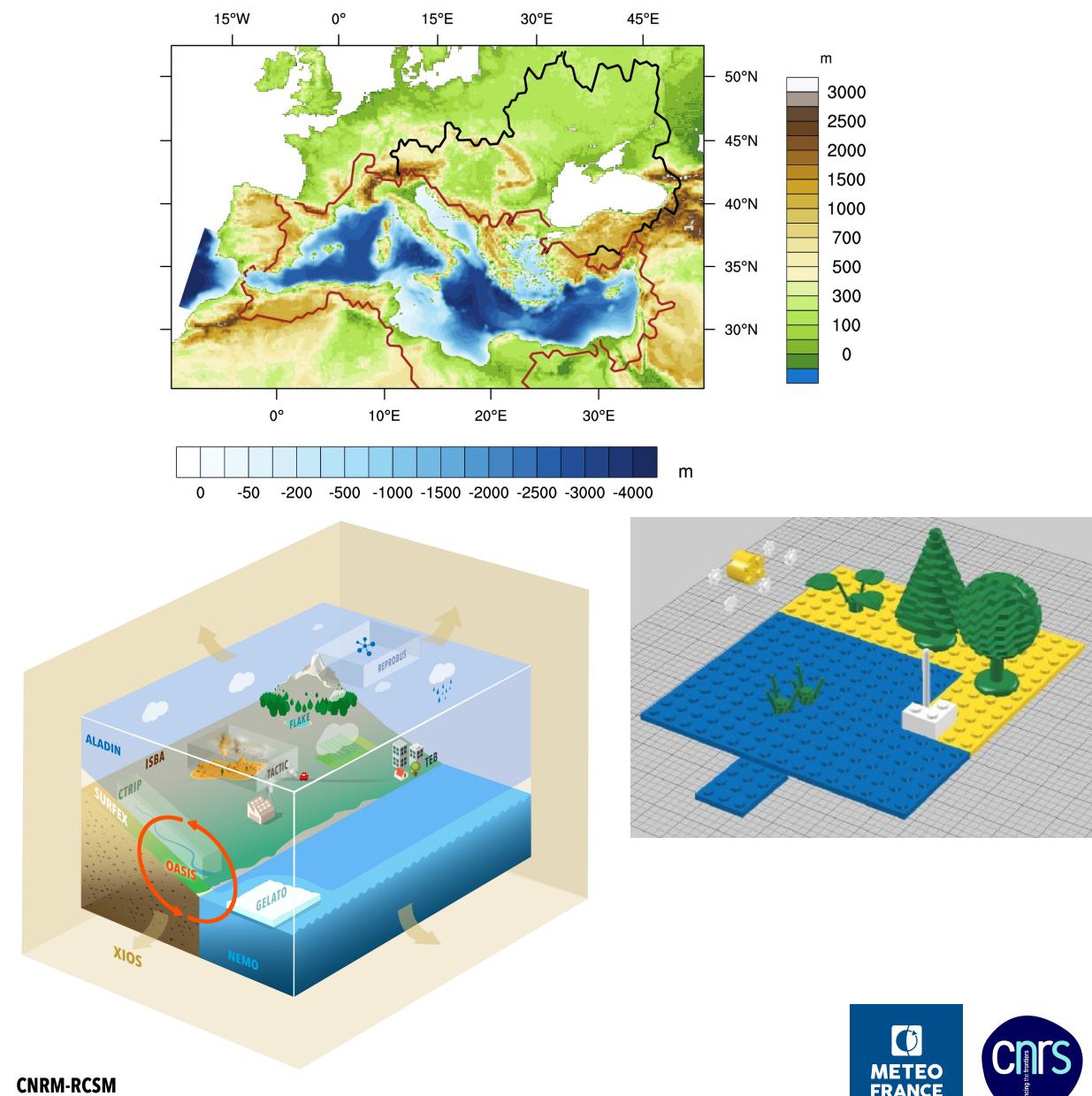
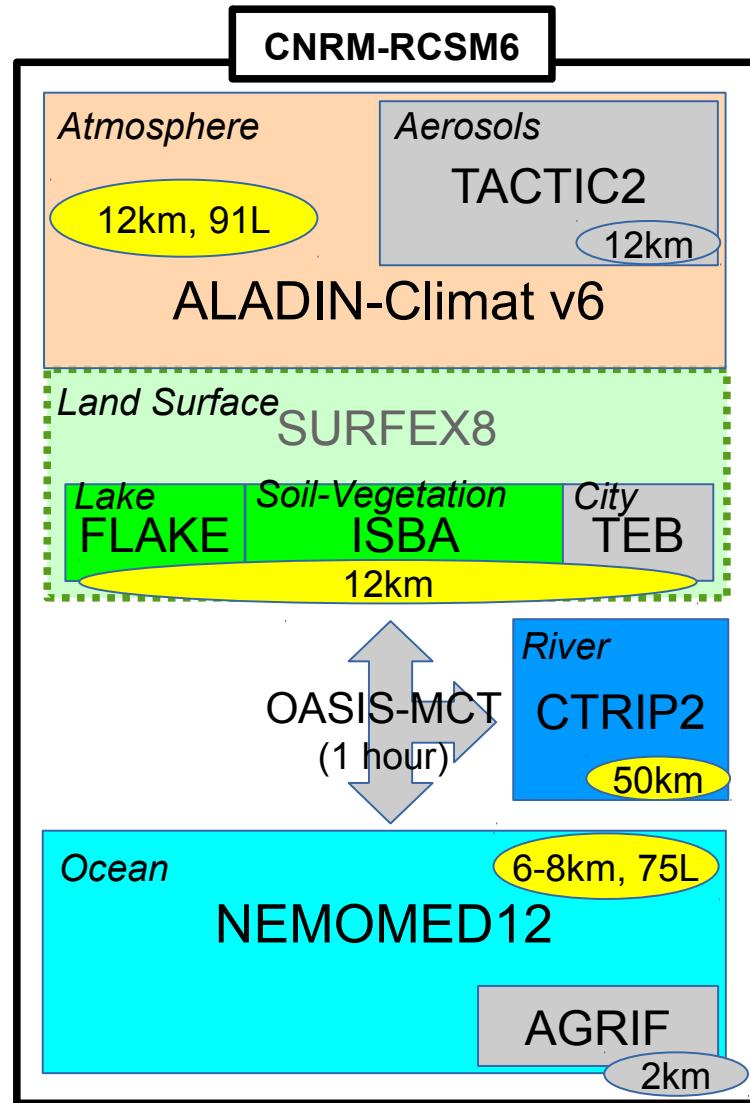
RCP8.5, 2071-2100 vs 1976-2005:

- Extended MHW favourable time
- At least one MHW per year
- Duration increases by a factor 2
- Severity increases by a factor 8
- MHW may cover 100% of Med Sea surface for a given day
- MHW-2003 becomes a cold MHW

Conclusions

- **Success stories**
 - Model development : very good (numerous and diverse modelling platforms, new model versions, new coupled components, regularly new modelling centers)
 - Coordination : currently good in Med-CORDEX
 - Evaluation : good (individual models well documented, evaluation of the interfaces, first multi-model studies)
 - Added-value : limited (RCSM are not worse than ARCM and ORCM but added-value is often hidden by SST biases, air-sea flux and ocean reference dataset are rare)
 - Answering scientific questions : very encouraging results (heavy precip, cyclones, medicanes, deep water formation, marine heat waves, aerosol-climate interactions, winds, sea level, trend understanding, sea breeze)
 - Scenarios : not bad (11 Med-CORDEX runs by 6 RCSMs, driven by 4 GCMs for 3 RCPs, coordination, data partly available on open database)
- **Current challenges**
 - Model development: work on bias reduction (Med Sea heat budget terms), challenge of the long-term sustainability of model quality and diversity, adding the humans in the system
 - Coordination: lack of EU-scale funding after CIRCE ends
 - Evaluation: need for more phenomena-oriented multi-model evaluation, need for spreading good practices and reference datasets
 - Added-value: need for persuasive and multi-model proofs (How to convince Euro-CORDEX & C3S ?)
 - Answering scientific questions: « stop developing and evaluating, use your wonderful tools »
 - Scenarios : need for more runs, for more multi-model studies, for easier model output access

Illustrations of Mediterranean RCSM

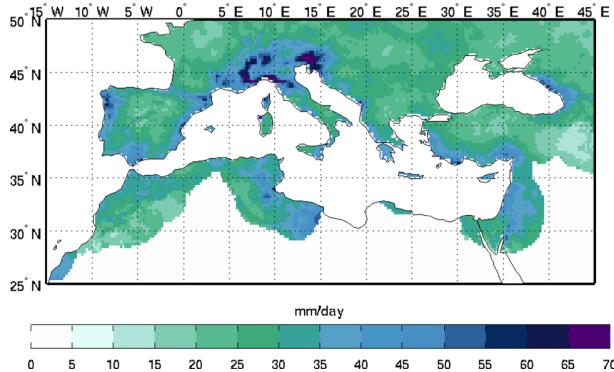


Evaluation : phenomena-oriented

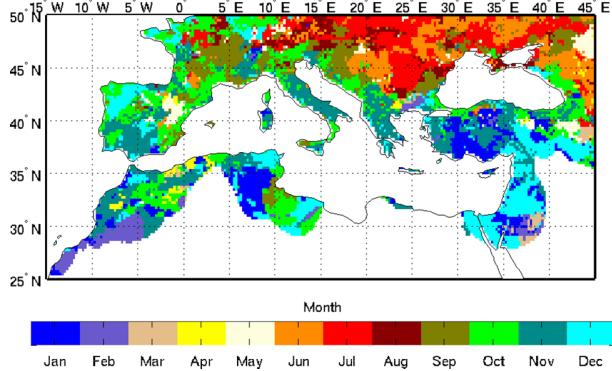
Extreme precipitations

- Reference: E-OBS
- Model: Med-CORDEX ARCM, High-resol ARCM, Coupled AORCM

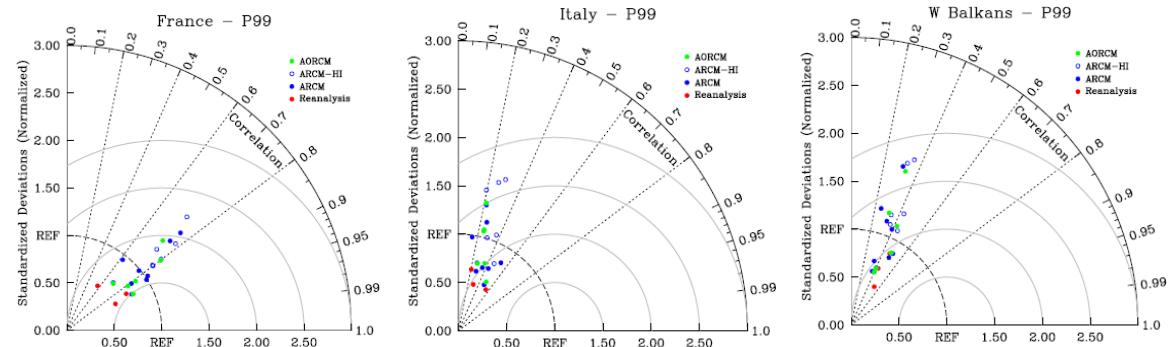
Wet days 99th percentile
of daily precip. in E-OBS



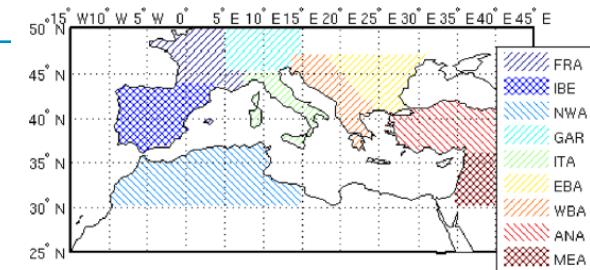
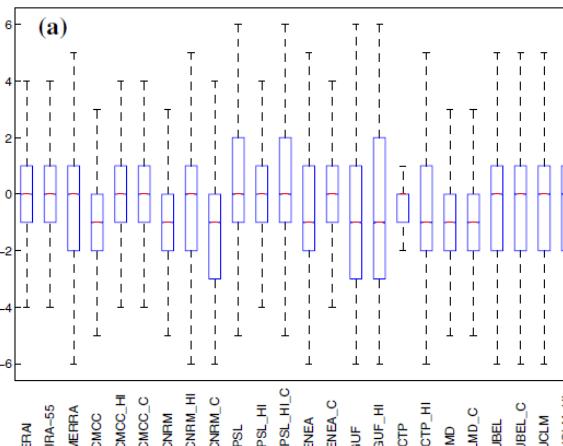
Timing of extreme
precipitations in E-OBS



Taylor diagram for 99th
percentile for various regions



Box plot of timing difference in models



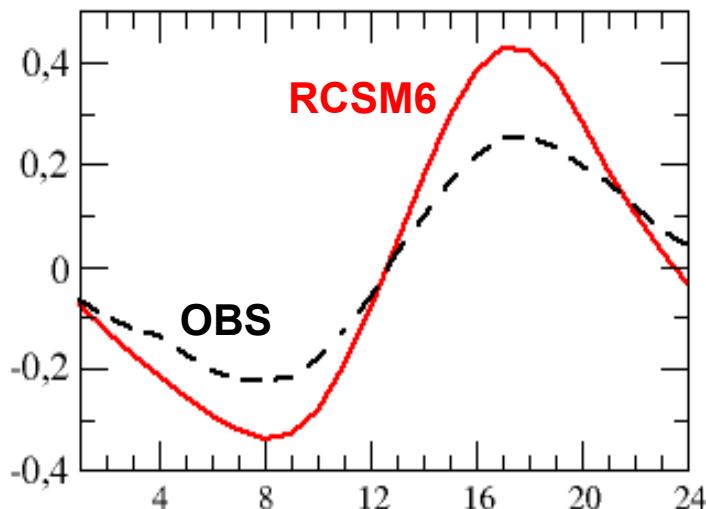
Evaluation : phenomena-oriented

SST diurnal cycle in the North-Western Med Sea

- Reference: LION weather buoy, hourly SST data (2006-2012) at 0.5m, HyMeX dataset
- Model: CNRM-RCSM6, ERA-Int driven + spectral nudging, 1-hour coupling frequency, 1-meter thick first model level, 2D monthly Chlorophyll climatology (ESA-CCI) for the solar radiation penetration
- Method: SSTmax(9h-17h)-SSTmin(18h at J-1 - 8h), day kept if no missing data at the buoy (88%) and if amplitude>0.1°C

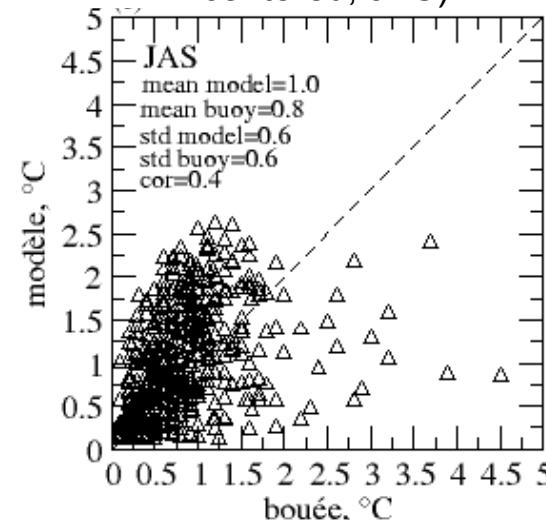
SST diurnal cycle composite

(°C, 2006-2012, LION, ampl.>0.1°C, centered, JAS)



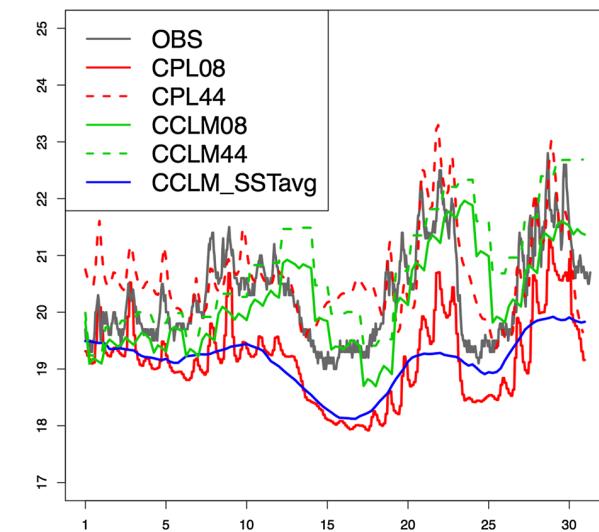
Scatter-plot of the SST diurnal cycle amplitude

(°C, 2006-2012, LION, ampl.>0.1°C, centered, JAS)



RCSM6 statistics (JAS):
Freq.: 81 % (buoy: 91%)
Mean ampl: 1.0°C (buoy: 0.8°C)
Std : 0.6°C (buoy : 0.6°C)
Daily correlation of amplitude : 0.4

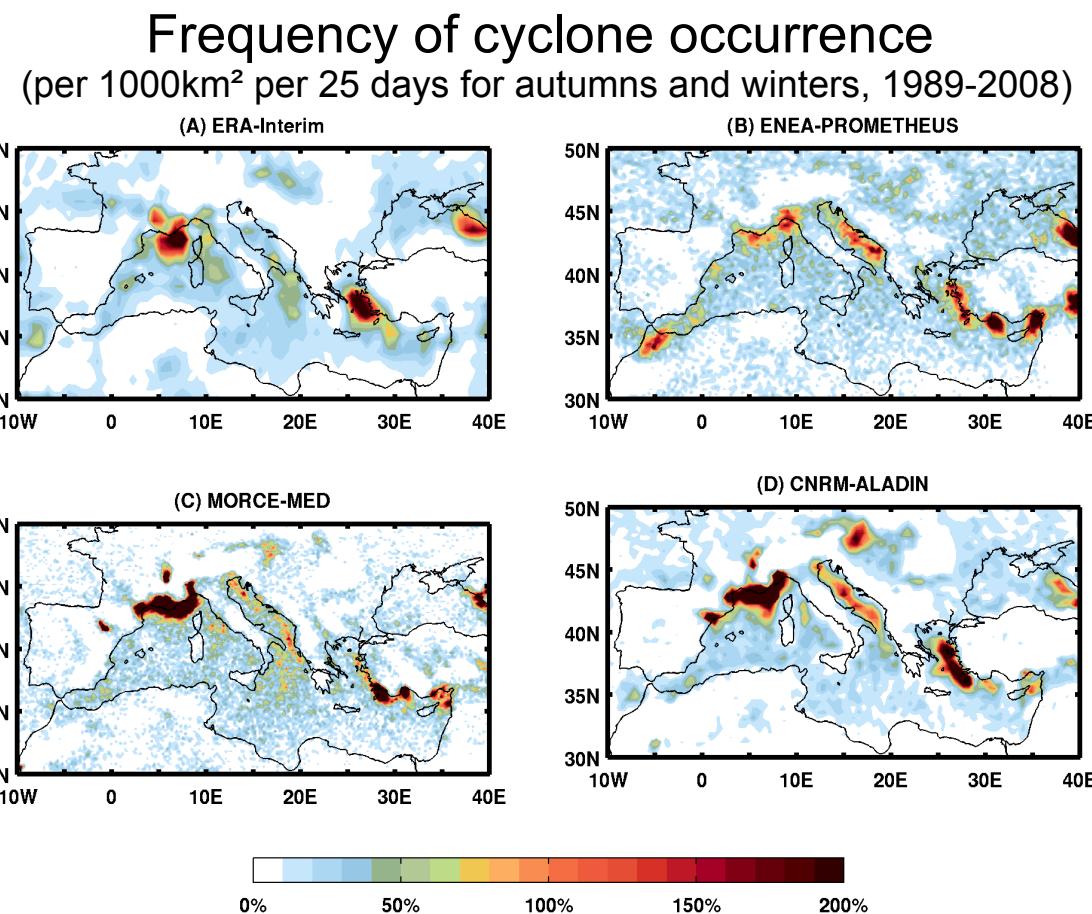
Sub-daily SST LION buoy (July 2002, °C)



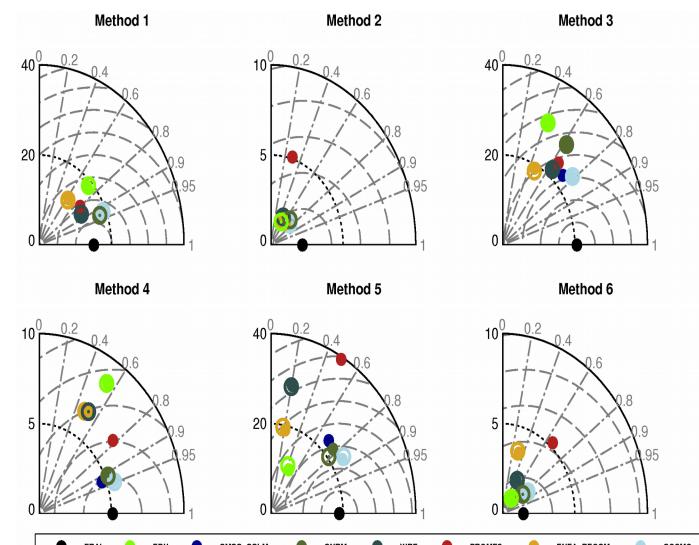
Evaluation : phenomena-oriented

Mediterranean cyclones

- Reference: ERA-interim
- Model: CNRM-RCSM4, ENEA-PROTHEUS, MORCE-MED
- Method: cyclone tracking algorithm



Taylor diagram for
cyclone center density
(1989-2008)



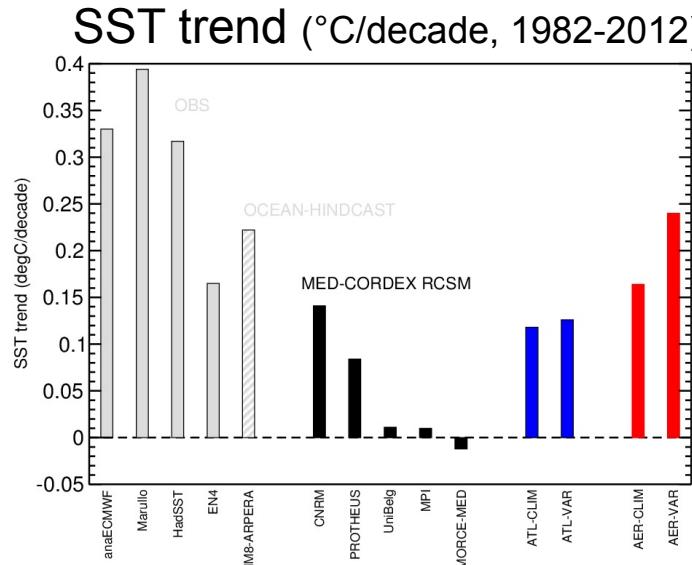
RCSM as a tool to answer scientific questions

Driving factors of the Mediterranean SST trend

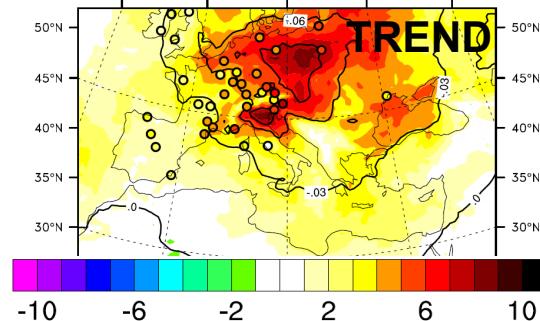
Med-CORDEX RCSMs underestimate the SST trend

Trend in the Near-Atlantic Ocean characteristics has a small impact

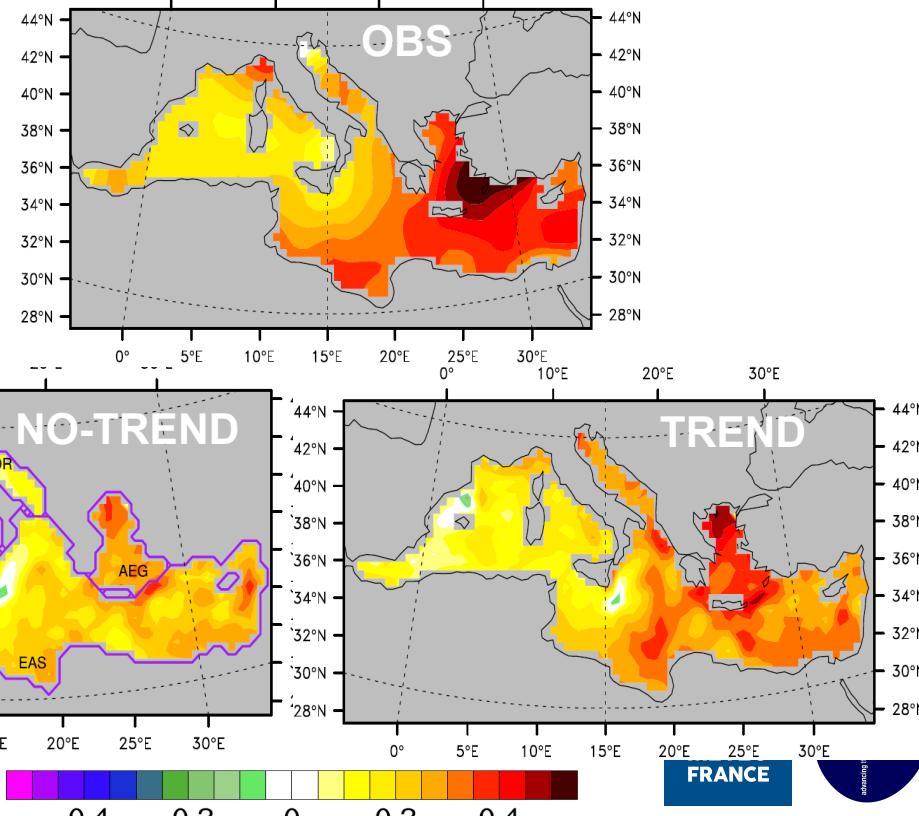
Aerosol brightening effect explains part of the missing signal



SW trend ($\text{W/m}^2/\text{decade}$, 1982-2012)



Effect of aerosol trend on SST trend ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$, 1982-2012)

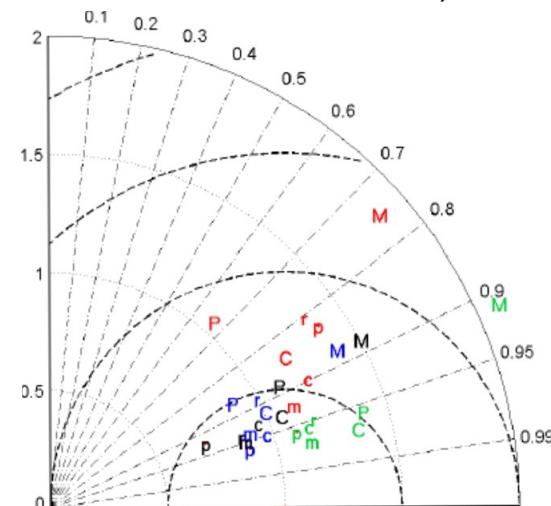


Added-value : RCSM vs AOGCM

If any, related to a better OML-SST-flux consistency at small-scale and high-frequency

SST spatial Taylor diagram (ref :

Marullo et al. 2007 dataset, 1985-2010,
Mediterranean Sea)

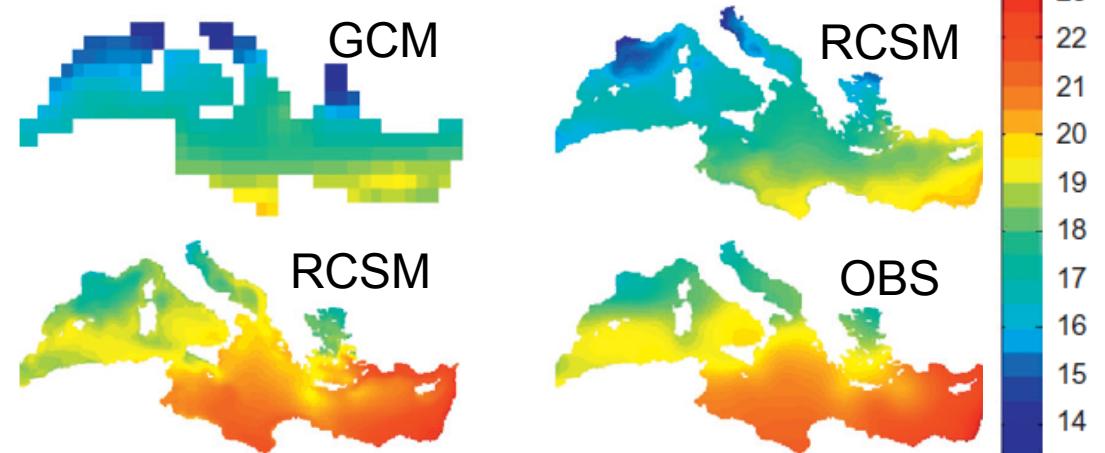


Comparison between GCM (capital letters) and AORCM (small letters) for DJF (black), MAM (green), JJA (red), SON (blue)

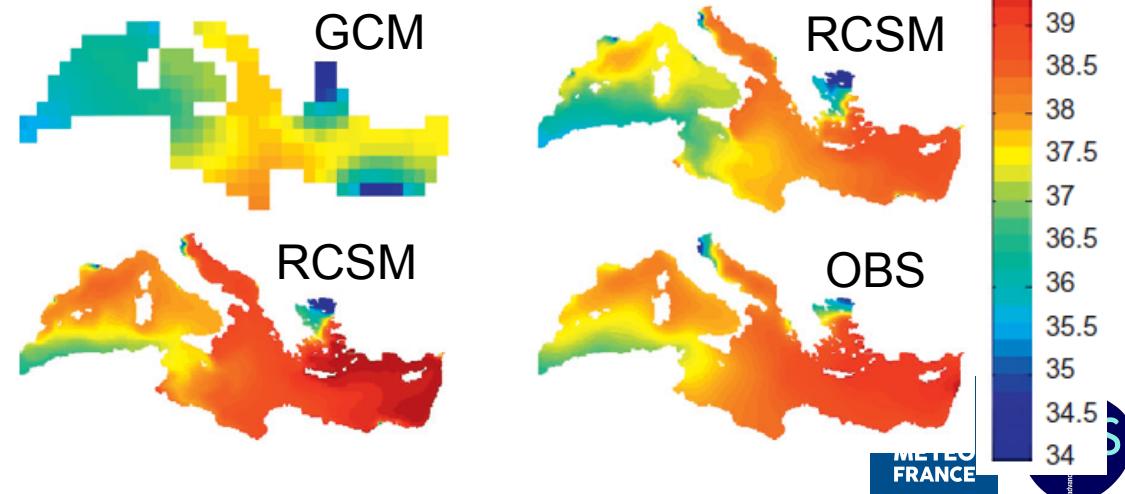
RCSM improves SST and SSS spatial variability with respect to GCM

RCSM can improve the fine-scale and high-frequency variability of the SST, leading to potential changes in air-sea fluxes, in moisture and heat transports and finally influencing the surrounding land areas

SST spatial pattern (°C)



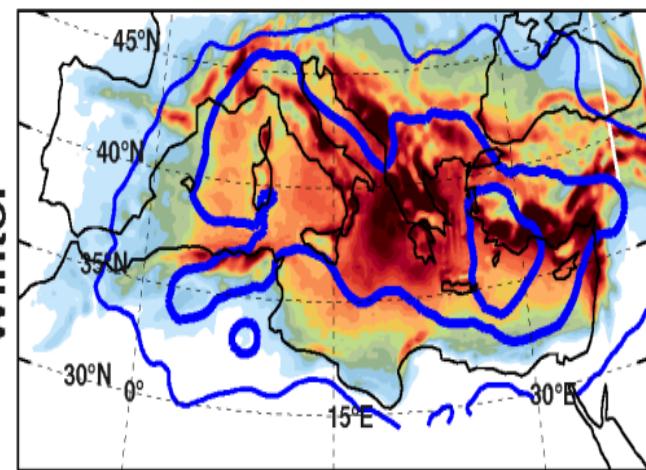
SSS spatial pattern (psu)



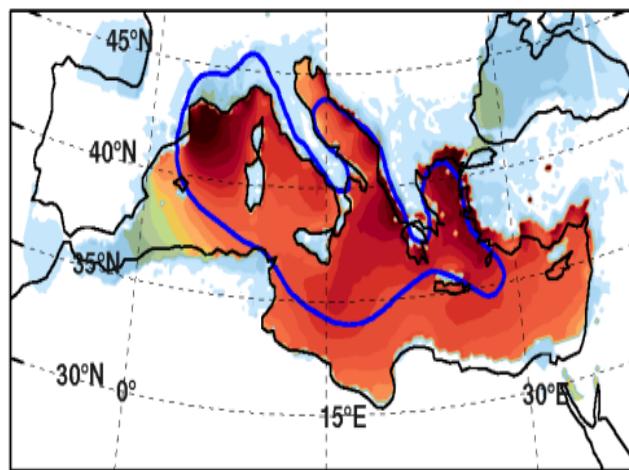
RCSM as a tool to answer scientific questions

Contribution of Mediterranean cyclones to Med Sea Water Budget

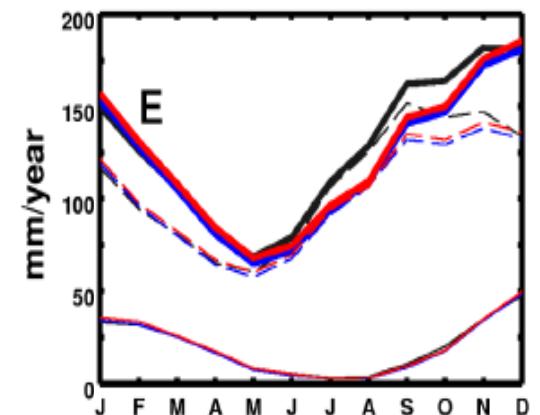
Precipitation



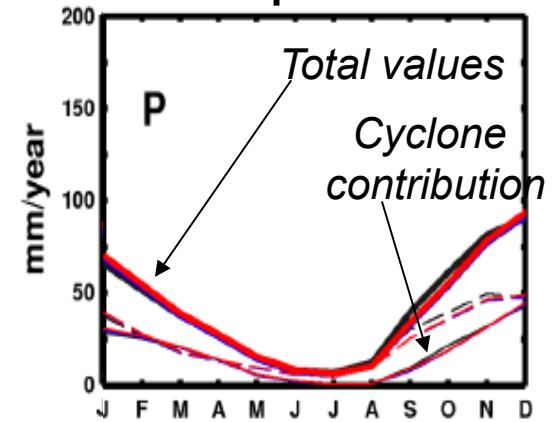
Evaporation



Evaporation



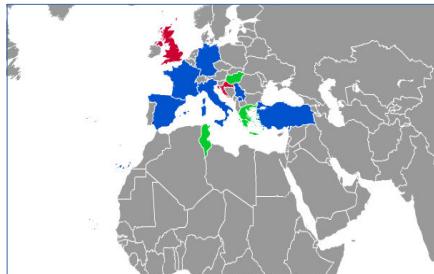
Precipitation



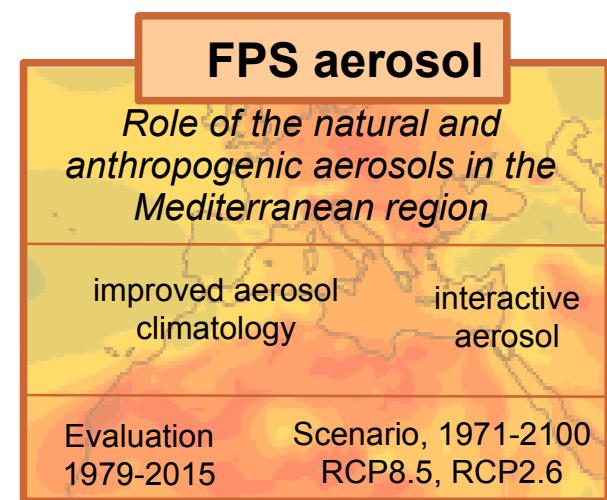
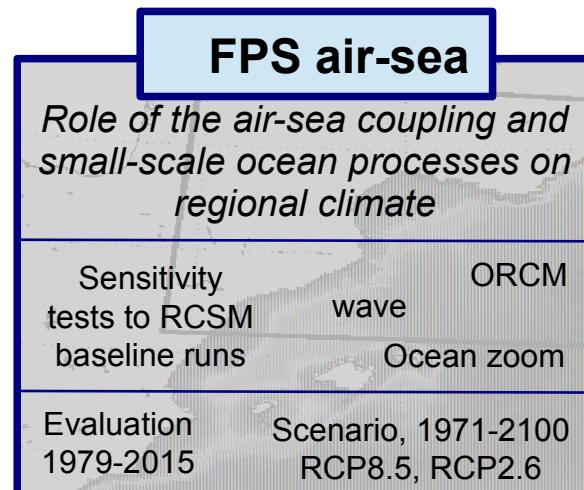
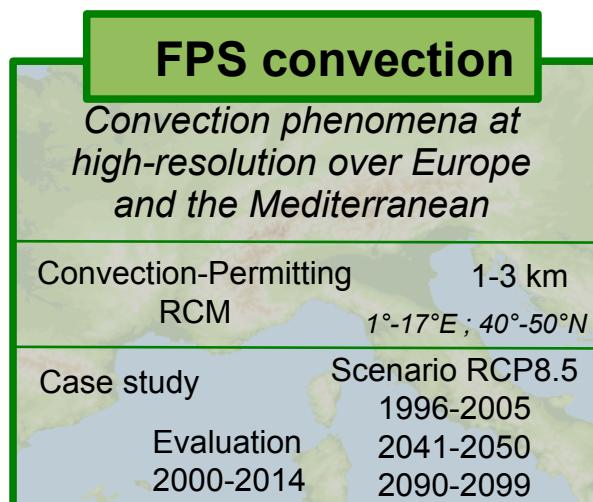
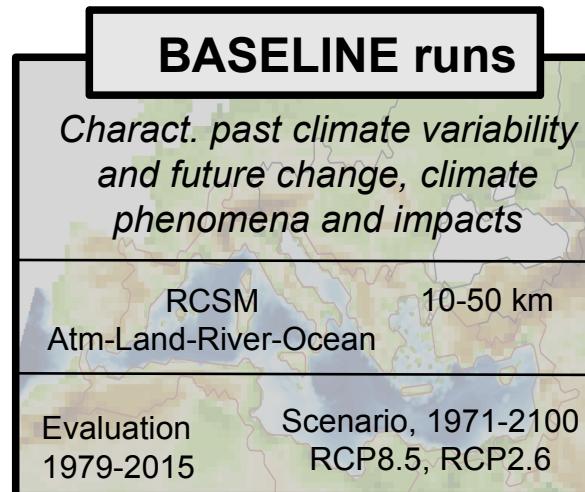
Mediterranean cyclones strongly impact the Evaporation over the sea and the Precipitation over the sea and surrounding land area

Rare and intense events (5% of the days) represent 15-17 % of the annual Evaporation budget and 22-30% of the annual Precipitation budget over the sea

Med-CORDEX, phase 2 : the modelling exercise



Baseline runs
Other modelling groups
Other contributions



Baseline runs : 11 (12) participating modelling groups so far: CNRM, ENEA, GUF, LMD, IPSL, CMCC-UnivSalento, Univ of Belgrade, ITU, AWI-GERICS, UCLM, ICTP, BSC ?

History of CNRM-RCSM development for the Mediterranean

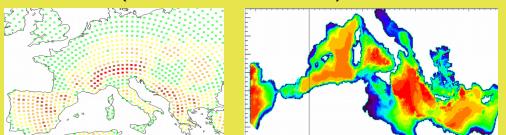
The first AORCMs :

Baltique (Döscher et al. 2002), Arctique (Rinke et al. 2003,
Mikolajewicz et al. 2005), Indonésie (Aldrian et al. 2005)

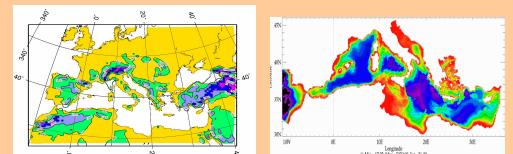
(*) RCSM : Regional Climate System Model

2001 2000s 2009 2011 2012 2014 2017 →

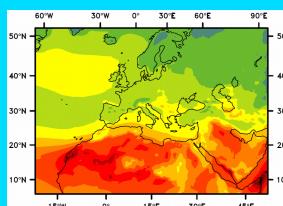
1er AORCM au CNRM
CNRM-RCSM1
ARPEGE-stretched/OPAMED8
(Somot et al. 2008)



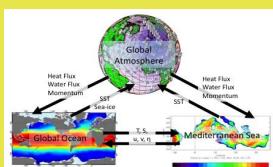
CNRM-RCSM3:
ALADIN/NEMOMED8
(Herrmann et al. 2011)



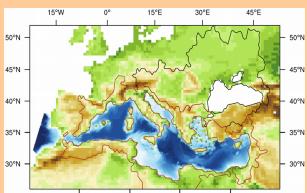
CNRM-RCSM5: Atm-Aero-Land-Sea,
ALADIN/TACTIC/ISBA/NEMOMED8
(Nabat et al., 2015b)



CNRM-RCSM2 - tri-couplé
ARPEGE étiré/OPA/NEMOMED8
(Somot et al. 2009, Dubois et al. 2012)



CNRM-RCSM4 :
Atm-Land-River-Sea
ALADIN/ISBA/TRIP/NEMOMED8
(Sevault et al. 2014, Nabat et al. 2015a)



CNRM-RCSM6: Atm-Aero-Land-City-
Lake-River-Sea,
ALADIN/TACTIC/SURFEX-ISBA-TEB-
FLAKE/CTRIP/NEMOMED12-AGRIF
(Volodioire et al., 2017)

