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Validation of Ocean Colour Products

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The Service
Brockmann Consult is running different services in the framework of the GSE project MarCoast. Products dedicated to the user requirements are generated in automated processing chains and delivered routinely to the users. Products comprise water quality parameters derived from satellite data such as chlorophyll concentration, suspended matter concentration, transparency and yellow substance absorption. Value added products such as temporal averages or time series plots are derived from the above mentioned parameters and complete our portfolio. Validation is a central part of the service, as it demonstrates how the products fit to the in-situ or model data of the user.

Comparison with Model data
The Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institute (BAW) in Germany is one Brockmann Consult GmbH user within MarCoast. The Institute receives MERIS data products of total suspended matter (TSM) and transparency for the German Bight and the North Sea. Within the project AufMod (http://www.kibi.de/prj-aufmod/en), the BAW develops a model for long-term morphodynamic processes in the German Bight. The MarCoast products are used for the validation of the modelled sediment transport. The presented figures show exemplary the data sets, the availability of MERIS data for 2006 as well as preliminary validation results.

Conclusion
The different validation methods provide a unique insight into the relationship between in-situ/model and EO-data. Considering that point data are compared to 300m or 1.2km pixels and the high patchiness in the water, the results are very convincing and users have expressed their confidence in the data based on these analyses. The comparison with the BAW model data is an ongoing process and helps in understanding and learning more about the processes in the water body and the models. Validation will always be an important part of the services we provide and part of the results communicated to the users.

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