

1   **GO5.0: The joint NERC-Met Office NEMO global ocean model for use in**  
2   **coupled and forced applications.**

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1   **Abstract.** We describe a new Global Ocean standard configuration (GO5.0) at eddy-  
2   permitting resolution, developed jointly between the National Oceanography Centre  
3   and the Met Office as part of the Joint Ocean Modelling Programme (JOMP), a  
4   working group of the UK's National Centre for Ocean Forecasting (NCOF) and part  
5   of the Joint Weather and Climate Research Programme (JWCRP). The configuration  
6   has been developed with the seamless approach to modelling in mind for ocean  
7   modelling across timescales and for a range of applications, from short-range ocean  
8   forecasting through seasonal forecasting to climate predictions as well as research use.  
9   The configuration has been coupled with sea-ice (GSI5.0), atmosphere (GA5.0) and  
10   land-surface (GL5.0) configurations to form a standard coupled global model (GC1).  
11   The GO5.0 model will become the basis for the ocean model component of the  
12   Forecasting Ocean Assimilation Model, which provides forced short-range  
13   forecasting services. The global coupled model (GC1) or future releases of it will be  
14   used in coupled short-range ocean forecasting, seasonal forecasting, decadal  
15   prediction and for climate prediction as part of the UK Earth System Model.

16

17   A 30-year integration of GO5.0, run with CORE2 surface forcing from 1976 to 2005,  
18   is described, and the performance of the model in the final ten years of the integration  
19   is evaluated against observations and against a comparable integration of an existing  
20   standard configuration, GO1. An additional set of 10-year sensitivity studies, carried  
21   out to attribute changes in the model performance to individual changes in the model  
22   physics, is also analysed. GO5.0 is found to have substantially reduced subsurface  
23   drift above the depth of the thermocline relative to GO1, and also shows a significant  
24   improvement in the representation of the annual cycle of surface temperature and  
25   mixed-layer depth.

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1    **1      Introduction**

2

3    Coupled climate models developed at the UK Met Office have been at the forefront of  
4    international climate research and projections for the past fifteen years. HadCM3  
5    (Gordon et al. 2000) was used in the Third and Fourth Assessment Reports (Houghton  
6    et al. 2001; Solomon et al. 2007) and is still widely used as a standard tool in climate  
7    research, while HadGEM1 (Johns et al., 2006), HadGEM2 (Collins et al., 2008) and  
8    HadGEM3 (Hewitt et al., 2011) have offered improvements in resolution, numerics  
9    and physics. All these models have an ocean on a horizontal grid of around  $1^{\circ}$ ,  
10   although the HadGEM models have a refinement of the north-south grid scale close to  
11   the Equator down to  $1/3^{\circ}$ . In this paper we will refer to the model described by Hewitt  
12   et al. (2011) as HadGEM3, however newer versions currently in development, with a  
13   higher resolution ocean, are also commonly referred to as HadGEM3.

14

15   Global ocean models are also used at the Met Office as part of seasonal and decadal  
16   forecasting systems (Arribas et al., 2011, Smith et al., 2007) and for ocean analysis  
17   and short-range forecasting (Storkey et al, 2010). At the Met Office and elsewhere  
18   there is increasing interest in using a seamless modelling system for use at all  
19   timescales from short range forecasting to climate prediction (Brown et al 2012).

20

21   Increased horizontal resolution in the ocean has been shown to have several benefits  
22   for modelling climate. In the North Atlantic the improved path of the Gulf Stream and  
23   North Atlantic Current reduces the magnitude of a large cold bias off Grand Banks  
24   seen in many low-resolution climate models (e.g. Gnanadesikan et al., 2007;  
25   Danabasoglu et al., 2010). Reducing this bias has been shown to improve the  
26   frequency of blocking in a climate model (Scaife et al., 2011). In the tropical Pacific  
27   ocean, eddy permitting resolution in HiGEM has been shown to help reduce the  
28   equatorial cold tongue bias (Shaffrey et al., 2009, Roberts et al., 2009) and the double  
29   intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ) bias, and also to more realistically simulate the  
30   westward extent of El Niño. Furthermore, teleconnections to the North Pacific Ocean  
31   associated with ENSO were also improved as a result of increased ocean resolution  
32   (Dawson et al., 2012). Eddy permitting models have an order of magnitude more eddy  
33   kinetic energy (EKE) than low-resolution models (Delworth, 2012) and ORCA025

1 has been shown to simulate 81% of observed sea level variability on interannual  
2 timescales (Penduff et al., 2010).

3

4 Ocean models run on horizontal grids fine enough to resolve eddies in the Southern  
5 Ocean show "eddy saturation", where increased meridional transport of momentum  
6 away from the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) by the eddy field in response to  
7 increases in wind stress mean the circumpolar transport is relatively insensitive to  
8 changes in the wind forcing (Tansley and Marshall, 2001; Hallberg and  
9 Gnanadesikan, 2006). This is not observed in lower resolution models where the eddy  
10 transports are parameterised by diffusive schemes. A similar insensitivity of the  
11 global overturning circulation to the Southern Ocean wind forcing ("eddy  
12 compensation") is also seen in eddy-resolving models (Viebahn and Eden (2010),  
13 Farneti et al., 2010). This implies that important dynamical adjustment processes are  
14 not present in models that are unable to represent the Southern Ocean eddy field.

15

16 Here we describe a new Global Ocean standard configuration (GO5.0) at eddy-  
17 permitting resolution, developed jointly between the National Oceanography Centre  
18 and the Met Office as part of the Joint Ocean Modelling Programme (JOMP), a  
19 working group of the UK's National Centre for Ocean Forecasting (NCOF) and part  
20 of the Joint Weather and Climate Research Programme (JWCRP). The configuration  
21 has been developed with the seamless approach to modelling in mind and is therefore  
22 intended to be used as the basis for ocean modelling across timescales and for a range  
23 of applications, from short-range ocean forecasting, through seasonal forecasting, to  
24 climate predictions as well as research use. The configuration has been developed for  
25 use throughout the UK academic and operational modelling communities. It has been  
26 coupled with the sea-ice (GSI5.0), the atmosphere (GA5.0) and the land-surface  
27 (GL5.0) configurations to form a standard coupled global model (GC1). Additionally  
28 we take this opportunity to improve upon known deficiencies in the vertical mixing  
29 scheme and to take advantage of recent releases of NEMO and improvements in  
30 bathymetry datasets. The GO5.0 model will become the basis for the ocean model  
31 component of the Forecasting Ocean Assimilation Model (FOAM, Storkey et al.,  
32 2010), which presently provides forced short-range forecasting services to MyOcean  
33 ([www.myocean.eu](http://www.myocean.eu)) and other users. The global coupled model will be used in

1 coupled short-range ocean forecasting (as future versions of FOAM evolve into  
2 coupled systems), for seasonal forecasting as part of the GloSea4 system (Arribas et  
3 al., 2011), for decadal prediction as part of the DePreSys system (Smith et al., 2007)  
4 and for climate prediction as part of the UK Earth System Model UKESM. The latter  
5 will be the UK's contribution to the upcoming IPCC Sixth Assessment Report and to  
6 the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6).

7

8 We use the term “standard configuration” to denote all the items required to run the  
9 model, i.e. model code, input parameters and datasets, and compilation keys, and  
10 these are summarised in the Appendices.

11

12 The main aim of this paper is to introduce the ocean model constituting GO5.0, and to  
13 evaluate its performance in ocean-only configuration, according to a set of first-order  
14 metrics. We will also compare the performance of GO5.0 with the previous global  
15 ocean configuration, which we denote GO1, and attribute the salient differences  
16 between the two model implementations to specific changes in model physics and  
17 parameter sets. Documentation of the attribution of changes in model behaviour to  
18 specific choices in a configuration will allow model developers using this or other  
19 models to make informed decisions and interpret model simulations with more clarity.  
20 Section 2 describes the ocean and ice models and the surface forcing fields. Section 3  
21 summarises the main physics choices, and in Section 4 the experimental design is  
22 described. In Section 5 we present the results of the analysis: firstly the GO5.0  
23 configuration is validated against observations; then GO5.0 is compared with the  
24 previous global model GO1; and the main improvements identified in GO5.0 are  
25 attributed to specific physics choices. Finally in Section 6 we summarise the results  
26 and discuss upgrades to the model currently under development.

27

28

29 **2 Model description**

30

31 GO5.0 is based on version 3.4 (v3.4) of NEMO (Nucleus for European Models of the  
32 Ocean) (Madec, 2008), and is closely related to the global DRAKKAR ORCA025  
33 configuration (Barnier et al, 2006) sharing many of the same dynamics and physics

1 choices. The horizontal grid, known as ORCA025, has  $1/4^\circ$  resolution ( $1442 \times 1021$  grid points) at global scale decreasing poleward (an isotropic Mercator grid in the southern hemisphere, matched to a quasi-isotropic bipolar grid in the northern hemisphere with poles at  $107^\circ\text{W}$  and  $73^\circ\text{E}$ ). The effective resolution is approximately 27.75 km at the equator, but increases with latitude to be, for example, 13.8 km at  $60^\circ\text{S}$  or  $60^\circ\text{N}$ . The model has 75 vertical levels where the level thickness is a double tanh function of depth such that the level spacing increases from 1 m near the surface to 200 m at 6000 m (Culverwell 2009). This level set was chosen to provide high resolution near the surface for short to mid range forecasting purposes while retaining reasonable resolution at mid-depths for long term climate studies.

11

12 The model bathymetry (DRAKKAR v3.3) is based on the ETOPO1 dataset (Amante  
13 and Eakins, 2009) with additional data in coastal regions from GEBCO (IOC, 2008).  
14 This is a change from the GO1 configuration, which used the DRAKKAR G70  
15 bathymetry based on the lower-resolution ETOPO2 with corrections from satellite-  
16 based bathymetry and other sources (Remy et al., 2003). Bottom topography is  
17 represented as partial steps (Barnier et al., 2006). The derivation of DRAKKAR  
18 bathymetry datasets is described by Barnier et al. (2006). Initially, each model grid  
19 cell is assigned the median of all observations falling within the boundaries of that  
20 grid cell. The initial estimate is then modified by application of two passes of a  
21 uniform Shapiro filter and, finally, hand editing is performed in a few key areas.

22

23 The model uses a linear free surface and an energy and enstrophy conserving  
24 momentum advection scheme. The horizontal viscosity is bilaplacian with a value of  
25  $1.5 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$  at the equator, reducing polewards as the cube of the maximum grid  
26 cell dimension: thus at  $60^\circ\text{N}$  the horizontal viscosity is approximately 1/8 of its value  
27 at the Equator. Tracer advection uses a Total Variance Dissipation (TVD) scheme  
28 (Zalesak 1979). Lateral tracer mixing is along isoneutral surfaces with a coefficient of  
29  $300 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$ . The isopycnal mixing scheme of Gent and McWilliams (1990) is not used  
30 in this configuration.

31

32 With regard to diapycnal mixing processes, the vertical mixing of tracers and  
33 momentum is parameterised using a modified version of the Gaspar et al. (1990)

1 Turbulent Kinetic Energy (TKE) scheme (Madec, 2008). Unresolved vertical mixing  
2 processes are represented by a background vertical eddy diffusivity of  $1.2 \times 10^{-5}$   
3  $\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ , which decreases linearly from  $\pm 15^\circ$  latitude to a value of  $1.2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$  at  $\pm 5^\circ$   
4 latitude (Gregg et al., 2003) and a globally constant background viscosity of  $1.2 \times 10^{-4}$   
5  $\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ . A parameterisation of double diffusive mixing is included at GO5.0 (Merryfield  
6 et al, 1999).

7 Bottom friction is quadratic with an increased coefficient in the Indonesian  
8 Throughflow, Denmark Strait and Bab al Mandab regions. An advective and diffusive  
9 bottom boundary layer scheme is included (Beckmann and Doescher, 1997). The tidal  
10 mixing parameterisation of Simmons et al. (2004) is included with a special  
11 formulation for the Indonesian Throughflow (Koch-Larrouy et al., 2008). At GO5.0 a  
12 climatological geothermal heat flux (Stein and Stein, 1992) is added as a bottom  
13 boundary condition; this was not used at GO1.

14 The sea ice component is the latest public release of the Los Alamos National  
15 Laboratory sea ice model CICE version 4.1 (v4.1, Hunke and Lipscomb, 2010). The  
16 model includes Elastic-Viscous-Plastic ice dynamics (Hunke and Dukowicz, 1997),  
17 energy-conserving thermodynamics (Bitz and Lipscomb, 1999) and multi-category  
18 ice thickness (Bitz, et al., 2001). The setup of CICE is the same as in the lower-  
19 resolution version of HadGEM3 described by Hewitt et al. (2011) with five sea ice  
20 thickness categories. Both GO5.0 and HadGEM3 use the zero-layer Semtner  
21 thermodynamics scheme (Semtner, 1976). We also note that in both the GO5.0 and  
22 HadGEM3 configurations the sea ice model is not on the same grid as the ocean (sea  
23 ice is on the Arakawa B-grid and ocean is on the Arakawa C-grid; Arakawa, 1966)  
24 and an interpolation routine is used to couple these model components. As in  
25 HadGEM3, the ice and ocean components are combined into a single executable, so  
26 there is no need for a coupler.

27  
28 We shall also discuss the preceding version of the Met Office ocean model, GO1.  
29 This was based on NEMO version 3.2 (v3.2) and CICE v4.1, and was implemented on  
30 the same grid as GO5.0, with the same surface forcing.

31

1 The ocean and ice code are managed using the Subversion code-management  
2 software, allowing unique identification of the respective code bases using a code  
3 version number. Ocean and Ice model code version numbers, compilation keys and  
4 namelists are listed in the Appendices.

5

6 The model was run on the MonSOON supercomputer, jointly owned by NERC and  
7 the Met Office. The ocean was distributed over 480 cores with the MPI  
8 communications harness, with CICE running on a single node, and an acceptable  
9 throughput of one model year in six hours was achieved.

10

11

### 12 **3 Summary of main physics choices**

13

14 The main physics change between GO1 and GO5.0 is a set of changes to the vertical  
15 mixing parameters based on the work of Calvert and Siddorn (2013). Vertical mixing  
16 in the model is achieved using a turbulent closure scheme with an algebraic mixing  
17 length (Gaspar et al., 1990; Madec, 2008). Additionally, the NEMO implementation  
18 of the scheme includes a number of parameterisations to represent additional  
19 unresolved turbulent processes, including surface wave breaking (Craig and Banner,  
20 1994) and Langmuir turbulence (Axell, 2002). A further parameterisation represents  
21 the enhanced mixing due to breaking of near-inertial waves as an additional source of  
22 TKE exponentially decaying from the surface. Users of previous versions of the  
23 NEMO ORCA025 model have found significant biases, particularly in the mid-  
24 latitudes, and this has been highlighted as a priority bias to reduce with this  
25 configuration. Calvert and Siddorn (2013) explored the sensitivity of the model to  
26 realistic ranges of parameters in the TKE scheme using 10-year integrations of  
27 NEMO at ORCA1 ( $1^\circ$ ) lateral resolution. As a result of this work they found that  
28 altering the vertical length scale for this TKE source term (controlled by the  
29 parameter  $nn\_htau$ ) from 30m to 10m at mid to high latitudes and from 0.5m to 10m  
30 in the tropics was able to significantly alleviate an excessively diffuse mid-latitude  
31 thermocline. This was seen to result in reduced summer time mixed layer depths and a  
32 significant reduction of near-surface temperature biases at midlatitudes. Additionally,  
33 Calvert and Siddorn (2013) suggested that a small increase in the Craig and Banner

1 (1994) wind-wave energy coefficient (controlled by the parameter *rn\_ebb*) would be  
2 more consistent with theory, but was shown to have a very small impact on model  
3 results. Similarly, a minor change in the minimum permitted surface mixing length  
4 (controlled by the parameter *rn\_mxlo*) suggested by Calvert and Siddorn (2013) for  
5 consistency with other vertical mixing parameters was shown to have a negligible  
6 impact.

7

8 Convection in the model is parameterised as an enhanced vertical diffusivity of 10  
9  $\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$  for momentum and tracer fields where the water column is unstable. At NEMO  
10 v3.2 this enhanced vertical diffusivity was erroneously used in the prognostic  
11 equation for the TKE, instead of the vertical diffusivity calculated by the TKE  
12 scheme. This was shown to result in a deep bias in wintertime mixed layer depths  
13 owing to the non-conservative increase in the calculated TKE. This has since been  
14 addressed at NEMO v3.4 and therefore constitutes another difference between GO5.0  
15 and GO1.

16

17 Other changes between GO1 and GO5.0 are: changes to other vertical mixing  
18 parameters between GO1 and GO5.0 as noted in Table 1; the inclusion of a double  
19 diffusive mixing parameterisation at GO5.0; the addition of the bottom boundary  
20 layer scheme of Beckmann and Doescher (1997); and the inclusion of a climatological  
21 geothermal heating parameterisation at GO5.0.

22

23 The inclusion of the particular new processes and parameter choices described above  
24 is based on a mixture of recommendations from the recent literature (from low  
25 resolution model studies), and on changes considered desirable on strong theoretical  
26 or observational grounds.

27

28

## 29 **4 Experimental design**

30

31 The GO5.0 configuration can be viewed as a set of incremental changes in the model  
32 physics relative to the GO1 configuration. In order to evaluate the GO5.0  
33 configuration and to understand the model improvements over GO1, a series of forced

1 ocean-sea ice integrations was performed to assess the effects of each individual  
2 change.

3 4.1 Model initialisation and forcing

4 All of the integrations described here are driven over the period 1976–2005 by the  
5 CORE2 surface forcing data set (Large and Yeager, 2004). CORE2 supplies monthly  
6 precipitation and daily downward shortwave and longwave radiation which are used  
7 to force the model directly, and 6-hourly 10 m wind, 2 m air humidity and 2 m air  
8 temperature which are used to compute turbulent air/sea and air/sea ice fluxes during  
9 model integration using the bulk formulae proposed by Large and Yeager (2004). The  
10 source data for precipitation and radiative fluxes are only available from 1979 and  
11 1984 onward, respectively. Prior to these dates the respective climatologies are used.  
12 Climatological monthly runoffs derived from the Dai and Trenberth, 2002  
13 climatology are applied along the land mask (Bourdalle-Badie and Treguier 2006). No  
14 diurnal cycle is imposed in the radiative forcing.

15 Initial conditions for temperature and salinity for all the integrations are obtained from  
16 an average of years 2004-2008 of the EN3 monthly objective analysis (Ingleby and  
17 Huddleston, 2007) and the model is started from a state of rest. To avoid unacceptable  
18 drifts in salinity and an excessive spin-down of the overturning circulation, the sea  
19 surface salinity (SSS) is restored toward monthly mean climatological values: the  
20 vertical velocity for restoration  $rn\_deds$  is set to  $-33.33 \text{ mm day}^{-1} \text{ psu}^{-1}$  over the open  
21 ocean, and a factor of 5 larger under sea ice. Model outputs are archived as successive  
22 5-day means throughout the whole integration and post-processed to monthly means.  
23 More details about the model configuration may be found in Storkey et al. (2010),  
24 Barnier et al. (2006) and Penduff et al. (2007).

25

26 4.2 Model integrations

27

28 A thirty-year integration of GO5.0 was carried out with the final set of modifications  
29 and parameter values, from the initial state described above. This was compared with  
30 the reference integration, from the same initial state and of the same length, of the  
31 pre-existing GO1 model based on NEMO v3.2. To estimate the effect of the code  
32 change alone, a further thirty-year integration of NEMO 3.4 was made with initial

1 state and all parameters and physics choices identical, or as close as possible, to those  
2 of GO1. We compare annual and seasonal means from each of these three integrations  
3 and also with observations in the form of the EN3 climatology for subsurface  
4 temperature and salinity (Ingleby and Huddlestone, 2007), the HadSST3 surface  
5 temperature climatology (Kennedy et al., 2011), satellite-derived sea-ice extent  
6 (Cavalieri, 1996, updated 2013), the PIOMAS reanalysis for Northern Hemisphere  
7 sea ice volume (Zhang et al, 2003), and measured transports through key straits from  
8 a variety of observational studies.

9

10 An additional set of ten-year simulations was made to attribute changes between GO1  
11 and GO5.0 to individual changes in configuration. These are summarised as follows:

12

- 13 • The bathymetry was upgraded from the original Drakkar ORCA025 dataset as  
14 described in Section 2;
- 15 • The background vertical diffusivity  $rn\_avt0$  and viscosity  $rn\_avm0$  were  
16 increased from  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  to  $1.2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$  and from  $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$  to  $1.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ ,  
17 respectively;
- 18 • Changes were made to the TKE scheme parameters  $rn\_ebb$  (coefficient of the  
19 surface input of TKE),  $rn\_mxl0$  (minimum surface mixing length scale) and  
20  $nn\_htau$  (changing the TKE penetration depth scale from a constant 10 m to  
21 varying from 0.5m at the equator to 30m poleward of 40°N and 40°S);
- 22 • Geothermal heat flux was applied, as in Stein and Stein (1992) via the  
23 parameter  $nn\_geoflx$ ;
- 24 • Double diffusion of tracers was added;
- 25 • A scheme for a bottom boundary layer as in Beckmann and Doescher, 1997  
26 was added;
- 27 • The ice model (CICE) was modified to include a salinity-dependent freezing  
28 point. The thermal conductivity of the ice was changed from 2.00 to 2.63 W  
29  $\text{m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  and the fixed ice salinity was changed from 4.0 to 8.0 psu, following  
30 Rae et al (2013).

31

32 The attribution study will compare the above experiments with one another, as well as  
33 with the v3.2 model GO1 and the original v3.4 integration with the GO1 parameter

1 set. The strategy of adjusting parameters according to individual sensitivity studies  
2 may not be the optimal method for finding the most appropriate parameter set, since  
3 the parameters and physics choices may interact nonlinearly, but resources were  
4 insufficient for a systematic investigation of parameter space such as that carried out  
5 with HadCM3 by Williamson et al. (2013).

6

7 Table 2 summarises the integrations carried out, including the values of the principal  
8 parameter changes at each step.

9

10 We note that the pair of runs comparing NEMO 3.2 and 3.4 (namely GO1 and N3.4)  
11 differ further in one minor respect. The v3.4 parameter *rn\_mx10*, the minimum  
12 permitted surface mixing length, was erroneously set to 0.001 in the latter experiment  
13 to match the value of the parameter *rn\_lmin* in v3.2. The latter is an interior minimum  
14 length scale in v3.2 but is absent in v3.4, and the equivalent parameter in v3.2 is in  
15 fact *rn\_lmin0*, which was set to 0.01. An additional ten-year integration (N3.4\_10y) similar  
16 to N3.4 was performed, with a value of 0.01: the consequent surface changes  
17 were not considered to be significant, with the two simulations being qualitatively the  
18 same, with mean surface temperature differences in years 6–10 less than 0.05°C  
19 everywhere.

20

## 21 **5 Results**

22

### 23 **5.1 Validation of GO5.0 against observations**

24

#### 25 **5.1.1 Surface biases and mixed layer depth**

26

27 Figure 1 shows the surface temperature (SST) and salinity (SSS) errors in years 21-30  
28 of the GO5.0 model, relative to the mean of the Reynolds et al (2002) and EN3  
29 (Ingleby and Huddleston, 2007) respective monthly climatology over the same period.  
30 There is overall a warm bias over most of the global ocean, with a global mean bias of  
31 +0.72°C, and with the largest biases (of over 1°C) in the tropics, the Southern Ocean,  
32 the subpolar North Atlantic and over the separated western boundary currents in the  
33 North Atlantic and North Pacific. There are cool biases of 0.25-0.50°C extending over

1 much of the subtropical North Atlantic and North Pacific. GO5.0 is too fresh in most  
2 of the Atlantic, except in the subpolar gyre, where the salty bias of 0.5-1.0 PSU is co-  
3 located with the warm bias mentioned above. It is worth noting that the largest surface  
4 errors occur at high latitudes, and therefore are perhaps unduly emphasised in the  
5 cylindrical projection used in Figure 1. Generally the regions where there is a surface  
6 warm bias (especially in the Southern Ocean and the Pacific) correspond to a positive  
7 surface salinity error: these may result from forcing errors, but are not inconsistent  
8 with an excessive evaporation from surface waters with a warm bias. The exception is  
9 in the Arctic, where there is a positive surface salinity error of up to 2 psu, due to  
10 excessive autumn sea ice formation on the Siberian shelves and in the Beaufort Sea  
11 (Fig 1); the reason for this error is unclear, but is most likely to be related to the air  
12 temperature and radiative biases in the atmospheric forcing (Barnier et al., 2006). The  
13 sea ice biases are discussed further in the section 5.1.4.

14

15 Figure 2 shows the annual minimum and maximum mixed-layer depth (MLD)  
16 calculated from monthly data for years 1996-2005, corresponding to the shallowest  
17 depth of the mixed layer in the local hemispheric summer and the deepest mixed layer  
18 in the local hemispheric winter, alongside the same quantity from the de Boyer  
19 Montégut et al (2004) climatology. The masked ocean data in panels b and  
20 d represent the locations where a full annual cycle of observations was not  
21 available as a result of sea ice coverage. The GO5.0 model realistically reproduces the  
22 spatial patterns of both summer and winter surface mixing: in particular, the regions  
23 of wintertime dense water formation in the North Atlantic and Nordic Seas  
24 correspond quite closely to those in the observations, as do the near-zonal bands of  
25 deep turbulent mixing in the Southern Ocean (Figs 2c, d). There is a consistent bias,  
26 however, to an unrealistically shallow summer mixed layer over the whole ocean,  
27 with maximum values of 30-50 metres in the tropics and Southern Ocean in the  
28 model, contrasting with a range of 50-70 metres in the same regions in the  
29 climatology (Figs 2a, b). This is consistent with the warm surface bias in the same  
30 regions seen in Figure 1. Also, the winter mixing in the dense water formation regions  
31 in the North Atlantic is much deeper than in the climatology, reaching to over 1000  
32 metres in many instances. The patch of very deep mixing extending from the Weddell  
33 Sea eastwards to 50°E is also seen in HadGEM1 and HiGEM: in GO5.0 this feature

1 develops after year 20 of the integration, but it does not occur in GO1. It seems to be  
2 associated with a gradual modification of the watermasses in the region and the  
3 development of the extensive polynya visible in Figure 6(c), which together  
4 precondition for the deep mixing, but the exact mechanisms are yet unclear. The  
5 simulated deep winter mixed layer in the eastern Weddell Sea in the 1990s and 2000s  
6 is likely to be unrealistic, although the limited winter data in the area (e.g., Sirevaag et  
7 al., 2010) prevents us from making any definitive conclusion. From the Conductivity  
8 Temperature Depth (CTD) data collected using Weddell seals, Årthun et al. (2013)  
9 surmised that the maximum MLD in the region of the Antarctic Bottom Water  
10 formation in the Southern Weddell Sea is in excess of 500 m, which is consistent with  
11 the model results (Fig 2c).

12

13

14 The surface biases of the model when forced by prescribed surface boundary  
15 conditions are to a large degree constrained by the forcing fields, but the subsurface  
16 drifts are a stronger test of the model, revealing discrepancies in diapycnal mixing and  
17 advection pathways. Figure 3 shows the zonal mean temperature and salinity  
18 anomalies in GO5.0 averaged from 1996 to 2005, with reference to the EN3  
19 climatology. The black contours show the zonal mean potential density  $\sigma_0$ , with a 0.5  
20  $\text{kg m}^3$  contour interval, to illustrate the position of the biases with respect to the main  
21 pycnocline. The largest biases are in the top 700 metres of the water column: these  
22 include a cold subsurface bias ( $\sim 2^\circ\text{C}$ ) around Antarctica; a warm salty bias ( $\sim 1.5^\circ\text{C}$   
23 and 0.25 psu) between 45 and 60°S; a warm bias in the tropics of up to  $2.5^\circ\text{C}$  down to  
24 about 200m; cold, fresh biases in the main thermocline (45°S-45°N, with maximum  
25 discrepancies of  $1^\circ\text{C}$  and 0.5 psu); and a warm salty bias in the northern hemisphere  
26 subpolar gyre regions ( $\sim 1^\circ\text{C}$ , 0.25 psu).

27

28 5.1.2 Atlantic Meridional Overturning

29

30 Figure 4(a) shows a time series of the North Atlantic overturning strength at 26°N for  
31 the full 30-year integration of GO5.0, alongside that in GO1. Also shown is the  
32 potential density averaged over the upper 200 m in the central Labrador Sea (55°-  
33 58°N, 48°-50°W). Figure 4(b) illustrates the meridional overturning streamfunction in

1 years 1996 to 2005 in both models. In both GO1 and GO5.0 the overturning  
2 circulation reaches a maximum in the second decade of the integration, reducing by 2-  
3 3 Sv by year 30; the run length is however not sufficient to determine whether the  
4 circulation has settled at that stage. In both runs both the MOC and the Labrador Sea  
5 density increase over the first decade and decrease later in the second decade,  
6 consistent with the hypothesis that the Labrador Sea surface density controls the  
7 overturning, although a longer time series would be required to establish a statistically  
8 robust correlation. The overturning strength at 26°N in the final decade is between 21  
9 and 22 Sv, which is significantly stronger than the value of  $18.5 \pm 1$  Sv observed  
10 between 2004 and 2008 by the RAPID WATCH/MOCHA array (McCarthy et al  
11 2012). Interestingly, the downward trend we see in the last decade of the model runs  
12 ( $\sim 2\text{-}3$  Sv/decade) is similar to that recently reported from the RAPID array (Smeed et  
13 al 2013). The modelled annual means for two years overlapping the observations,  
14 namely 2004 (19 Sv) and 2005 (20 Sv) match well with the observations (17.8 Sv and  
15 20.1 Sv respectively), and the strength of the modelled AMOC over latter decade of  
16 the run is entirely plausible, particularly since recent studies indicate that a substantial  
17 fraction of the variability in the strength of the AMOC originates from surface forcing  
18 (Roberts et al 2013, Blaker et al 2013). We cannot expect the model to simulate the  
19 measured AMOC perfectly, since a significant fraction of the AMOC variability is  
20 inherently unpredictable, arising as a consequence of baroclinic wave field and  
21 mesoscale eddy field (Hirschi et al 2013, Thomas and Zhai, 2013). Hirschi et al.,  
22 (2013), performed forced  $1/4^\circ$  simulations similar to those described in this paper  
23 with different initial conditions: in these simulations about 70% of the AMOC  
24 variability is determined by the surface forcing, and 30% from intrinsic ocean  
25 variability. We expect this to be an underestimate, since our model configuration is  
26 eddy permitting, rather than eddy-resolving. The question of the physical processes  
27 contributing to AMOC variability in models and observations (for example, Ekman  
28 transport, advection of density anomalies and Rossby waves) is complex and has been  
29 explored in a number of recent papers (e.g. Sinha et al., 2013, Roberts et al., 2013,  
30 Robson et al., 2014), but is beyond the scope of the current paper. We note that the  
31 modelled annual means quoted here are Jan-Dec, whilst the observational array  
32 figures are April-March.

33

1 Figure 4(b) also shows that the depth of the North Atlantic Deep Water (NADW)  
2 return flow is too shallow. At 26°N the depth of the NADW return flow (usually  
3 defined as the depth of the zero contour in the streamfunction) is around 3,500m for  
4 most of the model run compared to deeper than 4,000m in the RAPID array data. This  
5 is a common bias in many ocean GCMs using depth coordinates, and is usually  
6 attributed to spurious mixing of overflow waters as they descend from passages in the  
7 Greenland-Iceland-Scotland ridges to the deep ocean (Saunders et al., 2008,  
8 Danabasoglu, 2010). It is worth noting that substantial variation in the depth profile  
9 can arise from the method used to compute the overturning. Computing the  
10 overturning from a model using the RAPID array methodology and assuming a  
11 geostrophic reference depth of 4,740 m can yield a transport profile much more  
12 similar to the observations at 26°N than integrating the model velocities (Roberts et  
13 al, 2013).

14

15 The increase in the AMOC over the first decade of the model run is a phenomenon  
16 often seen in ocean GCMs using mixed surface boundary conditions in which the high  
17 latitude oceans become overly sensitive to salinity perturbations (Rahmstorf and  
18 Willebrand, 1995; Lohmann et al., 1996, Greatbach and Peterson, 1996; Griffies et  
19 al., 2009; Yeager & Jochum, 2009). In the GO5.0 model run an initial error in the  
20 path of the North Atlantic Current (NAC) causes warm, salty water to be advected  
21 into the subpolar gyre where it joins the Greenland current and enters the Labrador  
22 Sea. The prescribed surface air temperature causes excessive surface heat loss in the  
23 Labrador Sea, increasing the density of the surface waters and leading to excessive  
24 deep water formation in this region. The increase in the MOC causes more warm,  
25 salty water to be advected into the subpolar gyre in a positive feedback. Yeager and  
26 Jochum (2009) show that stronger sea surface salinity restoring can reduce this  
27 feedback mechanism by reducing the surface salinity in the Labrador Sea. This  
28 improvement, however, comes at the expense of realistic interannual variability in the  
29 global climate.

30

31 5.1.3 Critical sill and strait transports

32

1 Table 3 lists the volume transports through the major straits and across critical sills,  
2 averaged over the last 10 years of the 30-year integrations of GO1 and GO5.0,  
3 together with recent observed estimates and their sources. The sign convention is  
4 positive for northward and eastward flow. Overall, the models simulate these  
5 transports acceptably: in particular, the Drake Passage throughflow is much closer to  
6 observations than those in the lower-resolution coupled models HadCM3 and  
7 HadGEM1, both of which at  $\sim$ 200 Sv (Johns et al., 2006) are unrealistically strong.  
8 HadGEM2 (Collins et al., 2008) gave a comparable simulated Drake Passage  
9 transport of  $\sim$ 140 Sv (Meiers et al., 2012). In contrast to these aforementioned  
10 coupled models, the  $1/4^\circ$  resolution of the ORCA025 grid allows the present model to  
11 at least approach an explicit resolution of the narrower passages: in particular, it can  
12 be seen that both GO1 and GO5.0 have transports through the Bering Strait of well  
13 within a factor of two of the observed values.

14

15 The Indonesian Throughflow is too strong in both GO1 and GO5.0, which may be due  
16 to insufficient enhancement of the tidal mixing in this region (Koch-Larrouy et al.,  
17 2008).

18

19 Comparing the model-derived and observation-based estimates of the Arctic-Atlantic  
20 exchanges across the Greenland-Scotland Ridge, through Fram and Davis Straits, and  
21 through the Barents Sea shows that in both 30-yr model runs the volume transports  
22 are within 10-20% of the long-term mean observed values and within the range of the  
23 observational uncertainties, except for the Denmark Strait overflow where the model  
24 estimates are 33% (GO1) and 45% (GO5.0) higher than the observational estimate  
25 (Table 3). Although the simulated net outflow from the Arctic Ocean, of 4.8 Sv in  
26 GO1 and 4.6 Sv in GO5.0, is very close to the observed value of 4.6 Sv, the model  
27 shows a different partitioning of the exports west and east of Greenland: the simulated  
28 flow through the Canadian Archipelago is larger than the export through Fram Strait,  
29 which is opposite to the observations. The bias is stronger in summer than in winter  
30 and is due to excessive Ekman convergence in the Beaufort Sea; this in its turn is  
31 caused by the summer sea ice extent being too low (see next section). The simulated  
32 Pacific inflow in Bering Strait is higher than in the observations, even considering the  
33 recent update in the latter estimate (Woodgate et al., 2012). The simulated northward

1 ocean velocities in the strait are about 35% higher than those observed at the long-  
2 term moorings (Clement Kinney et al, 2014). Aagaard et al (2006) suggested that the  
3 flow through the Bering Strait is partly driven by the local wind and partly by the  
4 steric height difference between the Bering and Chukchi Seas. The latter is caused by  
5 the fresher, warmer waters present to the south of the strait and colder, more  
6 saline waters to the north of the strait (Aagaard et al., 2006). In the model the positive  
7 bias in salinity in the Chukchi Sea and the Eastern Arctic (Fig 1b) increases the steric  
8 height gradient from the North Pacific to the Arctic Ocean, increasing the northward  
9 flow through the Bering Strait. The stronger Pacific inflow brings extra heat in the  
10 Arctic Ocean, which may contribute to the excessive sea ice melting.

11

12 Overall, both runs, GO1 and GO5.0, present more vigorous northward flow of the  
13 Atlantic water than is observed (“Total Greenland-Scotland inflow” in Table 3 is a  
14 proxy for this) and stronger than observed return overflows across the Greenland  
15 Scotland Ridge: the combined overflows in Denmark Strait and in the opening  
16 between Iceland and the Faeroes and between the Faeroes and Scotland are 6.3 Sv  
17 from the data, 9.3 Sv in GO1 and 8.3 Sv in GO5.0. This is also evident in the stronger  
18 simulated AMOC compared to observations.

19

20 It should be noted that the observational estimates of the exchange transports into and  
21 out of the Arctic should be treated with caution. First, in all straits, except for the  
22 moorings in Bering Strait, the hydrographic section in Fram Strait and the one in the  
23 Barents Sea between Norway and the Bjørnøya (Barents Sea Opening), uninterrupted  
24 records from current meter moorings are no longer than two years. This aliases  
25 interannual variations and introduces large uncertainties in the observational  
26 transports estimates. Secondly, the instruments were not positioned in the top 50 m or  
27 on shallow shelves, in order to prevent the moorings being damaged by sea ice keels.  
28 Lastly, the distances between the moorings were too great to resolve mesoscale  
29 variability of the flows and in Bering Strait the transports were derived from velocity  
30 measurements obtained from three separate moorings (e.g., Woodgate et al., 2012).  
31 All this introduces spatial aliasing in the interpolating procedures and uncertainties in  
32 the transports. For detailed discussion of uncertainties in observed transports, please  
33 refer to e.g. Curry et al., 2011 and Olsen et al., 2008. It also should be noted that,

1 while the model standard deviations in the table represent variability of the transports  
2 on synoptic to interannual timescales, the standard deviations of the observational  
3 estimates include uncertainty inherent in the estimation methods as well as the  
4 variability of the transports, thus rigorous comparison of the variability in the model  
5 and data requires additional analysis, not presented here.

6

7 5.1.4 Sea ice

8

9 In Figure 5 timeseries of the sea ice extent and ice concentration in the Northern and  
10 Southern hemispheres are compared with products from passive microwave satellites  
11 SSMR/I and AVHRR (Cavalieri, 1996, updated 2013). In the Northern Hemisphere  
12 the simulated annual mean of  $11.2 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$  and the amplitude of the seasonal cycle  
13 of  $7 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$  are in good agreement with the data ( $12.4 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$  and  $5.8 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$ ,  
14 respectively), suggesting good model skill in simulating sea ice extent (Figure 5(a)),  
15 although the model underestimates summer sea ice extent. The simulated and  
16 observed interannual trends also agree. Figure 5(b) compares the modelled Arctic sea  
17 ice volumes with those derived from the PIOMAS reanalysis (Zhang et al., 2003).  
18 Simulated sea ice volumes are about 60% of those observed through the annual cycle,  
19 with winter (DJF) biases of around 30% and in summer (JJA) of around 50%. Despite  
20 this bias, the multidecadal trends in the modelled and observed sea ice extents are  
21 comparable, showing sea ice extent decline at a rate of  $-44 \times 10^3 \text{ km}^2$  per year and  $-45$   
22  $\times 10^3 \text{ km}^2$  per year, respectively. In the Southern Hemisphere the modelled sea ice  
23 extent is again in good agreement with observations (Figure 5(c)), but with a  
24 moderate negative summer bias. At present no published sea ice volume timeseries  
25 are available for Antarctica, rendering formal validation of the model skills in  
26 simulating sea ice volumes in the Southern Hemisphere impossible. However,  
27 comparing simulated sea ice thicknesses around Antarctica for 1996-2005 with the  
28 Antarctic Sea Ice Processes and Climate (ASPeCt) data (Worby et al., 2008) for the  
29 same period, we conclude that the simulations underestimate long-term mean annual  
30 sea ice thickness by about 22% (0.76 m in the model and 0.89 m for simulations and  
31 data respectively). The annual cycle in the model is in good agreement with the  
32 observations, with the maximum ice thickness (1.06 m and in the model and 1.02 m in  
33 the observations) occurring in the austral summer (DJF) and minimum ice thickness  
34 (0.58 m in the model and 0.60 m in the observations) in the austral winter (JJA). The

1 simulated sea ice extent trend in the Southern Hemisphere is negative and around  $-58$   
2  $\times 10^3$  km $^2$ /year, in contrast to the positive trend of  $13 \times 10^3$  km $^2$ /year in the  
3 observations. The negative trend in Antarctic sea ice extent is a common feature of  
4 global ocean models, and is attributed by Holland and Kwok (2012) to biases in the  
5 surface winds around Antarctica in the forcing data.

6

7 Comparison between the simulated sea ice concentration fields and those from the  
8 HadISST observational dataset (Rayner et al., 2002) show that the simulated winter  
9 sea ice distribution in both hemispheres is realistic (Figure 6a, b, c, d), although we  
10 note that there is a tongue of reduced ice cover extending eastward from the central  
11 Weddell Sea, which has also been seen in HadGEM1 and the higher-resolution  
12 HiGEM (Shaffrey et al., 2009), and which corresponds to the very deep winter mixing  
13 described in Section 5.1.1. The summer sea ice concentration in the model is lower  
14 than in the data (e, f, g, h). In the Arctic Ocean this is likely to be caused by the  
15 negative bias in the sea ice thickness, which in turn results in lower ice strength, faster  
16 ice drift toward the Canadian Arctic Archipelago and thus increased divergence of sea  
17 ice in the Central Arctic Ocean. This, combined with the increased sea ice melting in  
18 summer due to exposure of the ocean surface to the atmospheric heat, could sustain  
19 the lower thicknesses in the Arctic throughout the year. In the present forced  
20 simulations, the summer sea ice bias primarily affects polar regions and has a  
21 moderate effect on the global ocean circulation. However, in a fully coupled model  
22 atmospheric dynamics might cause a significant effect on regions remote from the ice-  
23 covered oceans.

24

25

26 **5.2 Comparison of GO1 and GO5.0**

27

28 As shown in Figure 1, GO5.0 shows large-scale surface biases, which are nevertheless  
29 not untypical of comparable forced ocean models and are in part due to forcing errors.  
30 It is worth noting that the impact on the coupled model of the vertical mixing changes  
31 is expected to be greater. We shall show in this section that, while the surface biases  
32 in the GO1 configuration are similar in most regions of the ocean to those already  
33 described in GO5.0, there are significant improvements in the subsurface drifts and

1 the representation of the annual cycle of surface temperature in GO5.0, both of which  
2 are likely to lead to improvements in climate simulations.

3

4 5.2.1 Subsurface drifts

5

6 Figure 7 shows the global zonal mean temperature and salinity drifts of GO1 and  
7 GO5.0, defined as the difference between from the respective mean for each year and  
8 the corresponding mean for the first year of integration, from the surface to a depth of  
9 1,000 m. We note that the drifts in both models are an order of magnitude larger than  
10 the comparable trends in the EN3 climatology (not shown). The temperature field in  
11 the upper 300 metres reaches a quasi-equilibrium state after about five years of  
12 integration. Both models warm in the above depth range, with a maximum at about  
13 120 metres depth: in GO1 the maximum is up to 0.6°C, while in GO5.0 the warming  
14 at the same depth only reaches 0.3°C. Below 300 m both models cool, with a similar  
15 maximum rate at 600 m of around -0.12°C per decade. The salinity, by contrast, does  
16 not equilibrate, even in the upper ocean, and both GO1 and GO5.0 freshen globally,  
17 with a maximum rate at 200 m of 0.036 psu/decade in the former and 0.025  
18 psu/decade in the latter. We note that the warm error in GO5.0 is mainly in the  
19 northwest Atlantic and Southern Ocean, while this model generally is too fresh at the  
20 surface, with the exception of the Arctic (where there is a large salty surface bias of 1-  
21 2 psu), and the Southern Ocean. There is also interannual variability in the globally  
22 averaged surface temperature and salinity in the upper 200 metres: this is not well  
23 correlated with that of the surface variability, so is not likely to be a direct signature  
24 of the ENSO cycle.

25

26 It is interesting to relate the drifts in GO1 and GO5.0 to those over the first thirty  
27 years of HadGEM1 (Johns et al, 2006) and in CHIME and HadCM3 (Megann et al.,  
28 2010). All these except for CHIME (which uses a hybrid isopycnic-coordinate ocean,  
29 in contrast to the depth-coordinate ocean model in the other three) have a pronounced  
30 freshening in the upper ocean that steadily penetrates into the interior, and this is  
31 likely to be a consequence of the numerical diapycnal mixing typical of this model  
32 type (Griffies et al., 2000). HadCM3 and HadGEM1 (which shared an ocean model,  
33 albeit on a slightly different grid) similarly had a negative surface temperature error

1 over most of the ocean, offset in HadCM3 by a warm bias in the Southern Ocean,  
2 while CHIME had a warm surface error, consistent with a reduced drawdown of heat  
3 by numerical mixing.

4

#### 5 5.2.2 Seasonal cycle of surface temperature and mixed layer depth

6

7 Figure 8 shows the mean biases of the sea surface temperature in GO1 and GO5.0  
8 with respect to the Reynolds et al climatology in the boreal winter and boreal summer  
9 seasons, defined as December/January/February (DJF) and June/July/August (JJA)  
10 periods respectively. It is clear that both configurations have substantial biases in the  
11 time-averaged surface fields, and as with the 10-year mean fields discussed in Section  
12 5.1.1, in many regions these biases are very similar: for example, the tropics and  
13 Southern Ocean are generally too warm in both configurations, while the northern  
14 high latitudes are generally too cold, and there is a warm error in the subpolar North  
15 Atlantic with maximum values of 3-4°C in the boreal winter. There are regions where  
16 the seasonal biases in GO1 are smaller than in GO5.0: for example, the cold boreal  
17 winter error in the subtropical North Atlantic is larger in GO5.0 south of the separated  
18 Gulf Stream (Figures 8(a) and (b)), and in the Southern Ocean there is a substantial  
19 coherent warm error in GO5.0 in the austral summer that is not present to the same  
20 extent in GO1. Overall, however, there are large-scale reductions in seasonal bias,  
21 particularly in the northern summer (JJA) season: the cold errors in the North Atlantic  
22 and North Pacific are substantially reduced in GO5.0, as are the warm biases in the  
23 tropics and the Southern Ocean. To quantify the improvements, the global RMS SST  
24 error in the boreal summer (JJA) is reduced from 0.93°C in GO1 to 0.65°C in GO5.0,  
25 while the global mean boreal winter (DJF) error is reduced from 0.79°C to 0.67°C.

26

27 To illustrate the latitude dependence of the large-scale seasonal biases in GO1 and  
28 GO5.0, Figure 9 shows latitude-time plots of the zonally averaged surface  
29 temperature bias (referred to the Reynolds et al climatology) and MLD error (referred  
30 to the de Boyer Montegut et al (2004) data) in GO1 and GO5.0. This shows more  
31 clearly that the boreal summer warm bias in the tropics is reduced in GO5.0, as is also  
32 the large summer cold bias in the northern subtropics. As we have already noted,  
33 GO5.0 shows systematic biases in both the minimum and maximum MLD (Figure 2):

1 specifically, in both hemispheres winter mixed layers are generally too deep, while  
2 summer mixed layers are generally too shallow. The main difference between GO1  
3 and GO5.0 is that mixed layer depths are generally shallower in GO5.0, leading to  
4 increased stratification and hence the warmer summer surface temperatures,  
5 especially in the Southern Ocean, seen in Figure 8(b) and 9(a). The winter MLD  
6 biases, by contrast, are generally reduced in GO5.0.

7

### 8 5.2.3 Surface heat fluxes

9

10 Although the model uses the CORE2 forcing dataset, the use of bulk formulae to  
11 calculate some of the components of the heat flux means that the actual heat input to  
12 the ocean will be slightly different from the climatological field, and will reflect the  
13 surface temperature biases of the model. Figure 10(a) shows the zonal mean net  
14 downward surface heat flux in GO5.0 and GO1, alongside the corresponding mean  
15 from the CORE2 dataset, while Figure 10(b) shows the difference in the surface heat  
16 flux between the two model configurations. The physics changes between GO1 and  
17 GO5.0 can be seen to lead to changes in the heat flux that are generally small  
18 compared with the difference between the models and the climatology. In tropical and  
19 subtropical latitudes the zonal mean surface flux in both model integrations is within  
20 5-10  $\text{W m}^{-2}$  of the observations, while the excessive heat loss of up to 20  $\text{W m}^{-2}$   
21 between 60°N and 70°N and south of 60°S in both cases may be linked with the warm  
22 biases described in Section 5.1.1 in these latitude ranges. The regional differences in  
23 heat flux between the model versions correspond closely to differences in surface  
24 temperature, with the reduction in the warm bias in the tropical Atlantic and Pacific  
25 from GO1 to GO5.0 (visible in Figure 9(a) and (b)) leading to an increase of up to 25  
26  $\text{W m}^{-2}$  in the heat flux into the ocean in these regions, and similarly the reduction in  
27 wintertime cold bias in subpolar latitudes seen in Figure 9 corresponds to a decreased  
28 heat loss over the Labrador Sea. In the Southern Ocean the increased surface flux  
29 error is larger in GO5.0 relative in GO1 is linked to the intense Weddell Polynya that  
30 develops in in GO5.0.

31

### 32 5.3 Attribution of changes

33

1 In this section we refer to the experimental design described in Section 4, where a  
2 series of shorter (10-year) integrations are made. The model code is first upgraded  
3 from NEMO v3.2 to v3.4, then other changes are progressively made within v3.4, to  
4 attribute the most significant changes in model fields to specific changes in the model  
5 physics. These changes are summarised in Table 2. We compare the mean fields in  
6 the final five years (1981-1985) of each ten-year integration; the main comparison  
7 will be of the surface fields, but the global subsurface biases down to 700 m will also  
8 be compared. We use an empirical criterion for the significance of the changes, since  
9 the variance of the fields discussed here was not available in the model output: we  
10 judge a modification to have a negligible effect if it leads only to differences in the 5-  
11 year mean field with the characteristic signature of the mesoscale eddy field, while  
12 modifications which lead to coherent large-scale changes in temperature or salinity  
13 are deemed to have a significant effect.

14

### 15 5.3.1 Correction to TKE convective mixing

16

17 The code changes from NEMO version 3.2 to 3.4 have one main physics component:  
18 which is the correction to the treatment of convective mixing in the TKE scheme  
19 described in section 3. As explained in section 3, the expected change to the solution  
20 due to this correction is an improvement in the excessively deep wintertime mixing.  
21 Figure 11 shows that the code upgrade clearly has significant effects on the surface  
22 fields: there are basin-scale changes over almost the whole ocean, with warming of  
23 0.1-0.2°C over the Arctic and the subtropical gyres, but cooling by a similar  
24 magnitude on the equator and coastal upwelling regions, in the Southern Ocean and in  
25 the North Atlantic subpolar gyre. The surface salinity changes are also predominantly  
26 in zonal bands, with the largest increases of 0.2-0.4 psu between 15°S and 30°S and  
27 between 15°N and 30°N in the Atlantic and eastern Pacific and a surface freshening  
28 over much of the Southern Ocean. The code change overall, however, has little effect  
29 on the RMS surface errors of the model: the RMS SST error reduces from 0.665 to  
30 0.657°C, while the RMS surface salinity error barely changes from 0.828 to 0.825  
31 psu. There are, however, major subsurface effects resulting from the code upgrade,  
32 particularly from the correction to the treatment of convective mixing in the TKE  
33 scheme: comparing the temperature changes in the upper 700 metres with the mean

1 isopycnal depths (Figure 12) shows that the upgrade removes much of the warm bias  
2 in the thermocline region between 50°S and 60°N, via a mean cooling of up to 1°C in  
3 the depth range from 50 to 250 metres over these latitudes. Additionally, the drastic  
4 reduction in winter MLD biases between v3.2 and v3.4 observed in Figure 9 can be  
5 directly attributed to the convective mixing correction. The crescent shape of the  
6 temperature bias with respect to the observations (and of the difference between v3.2  
7 and v3.4) in Figure 12 reflects the deepening of the thermocline with increasing  
8 latitude.

9

#### 10 5.3.2 TKE parameters

11

12 As a reminder to the reader we note that the main reason for performing this  
13 sensitivity test was to investigate the effect of altering the vertical length scale for the  
14 TKE source term at 1/4° resolution. In the 1° resolution experiments of Calvert and  
15 Siddorn (2013) reducing this length scale in midlatitudes and increasing it in the  
16 tropics significantly alleviated an excessively diffuse mid-latitude thermocline,  
17 reduced summer time mixed layer depths and significantly reduced near-surface  
18 temperature biases at midlatitudes. For consistency with theory, we simultaneously  
19 made a small increase in the wind-wave energy coefficient and the minimum  
20 permitted surface mixing length (controlled by the parameter *rn\_mxL0*) but these are  
21 expected to have a negligible impact.

22

23 The changes to the TKE scheme parameters lead to a consistent surface warming of  
24 between 0.1 and 0.5°C north of 30°N and south of 30°S (Figure 13), while there is a  
25 small cooling of around 0.05°C in the tropics. The pattern of the associated salinity  
26 changes is more complex, with freshening of up to 0.2 psu in the Arctic, in the  
27 subpolar North Pacific, and to a lesser extent in the tropics and along the path of the  
28 ACC; and an increase in salinity in the subtropical zones and, interestingly, in the  
29 regions dominated by the Amazon and Congo river plumes. The subtropical surface  
30 warming is balanced by a cooling down to 300 m in these latitudes (Figure 14),  
31 consistent with reduced vertical mixing.

32

1 We conclude that changing the vertical lengthscale for the TKE source term has  
2 similar beneficial effects at  $1/4^\circ$  resolution as at  $1^\circ$  resolution and therefore  
3 recommend making this change to the existing scheme.

4

5 5.3.3 Bathymetry and background diffusivity and viscosity

6

7 The rationale for upgrading the bathymetry is that the new bathymetry is based on  
8 higher resolution data (ETOPO1 instead of ETOPO2) and therefore more accurate.  
9 Upgrading the bathymetry (not shown) leads to small changes in the temperature and  
10 salinity in the Arctic, which overall cools by  $0.05^\circ\text{C}$  or less and freshen by around  
11 0.05 psu: this is likely to be a consequence of minor modifications to the North  
12 Atlantic sill topography. There are southwards displacements of the path of the  
13 topographically-steered ACC, north of the Kerguelen Plateau and north of the Pacific  
14 Antarctic Ridge at  $140^\circ$ - $150^\circ\text{W}$ , along with a depression of the surface elevation in  
15 the Southern Ocean by 3-5 cm (not shown), which may be associated with alterations  
16 in the path and strength of the northward-flowing Antarctic Bottom Water.

17

18 The current consensus within the NEMO community is that background diffusivity  
19 and viscosity should be of the order of  $1.2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$  and  $1.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$  respectively  
20 and since these increases do not degrade the model simulation we argue that these are  
21 appropriate values to employ. Increasing the background vertical diffusivity and  
22 viscosity parameters (*rn\_avt0* and *rn\_avm0* respectively) by 20% (not shown) has a  
23 small effect on the surface fields, relative to the other parameter changes. There is a  
24 general surface freshening in the Arctic by 0.02-0.04 psu, and a hint of warming north  
25 of the ACC, but elsewhere any signal is small compared with the mesoscale noise. In  
26 the upper ocean the explicit representation of mixing processes by the TKE scheme,  
27 dominates the background term, while it is also likely that over much of the ocean the  
28 numerical mixing in the model's advection scheme is at least as large as that  
29 associated with the  $1.2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$  explicit background diffusivity, as discussed in  
30 Griffies et al (2000) and Lee et al (2002).

31

32 We conclude that changing the bathymetry and the background vertical mixing  
33 parameters does not result in significant global effects on the solution. However we

1 note that the more realistic bathymetry is likely to be important for local circulation,  
2 particularly in the Southern Ocean.

3

4 5.3.4 Geothermal heating, double diffusion, bottom boundary layer and ice model  
5 changes

6

7 Geothermal heating and double diffusion are physically present in the real ocean, but  
8 on the relatively short time scales discussed in this paper, their effects are expected to  
9 be small. Nevertheless, in order to make our model as complete as possible, and  
10 bearing in mind potential future applications, we explicitly perform sensitivity  
11 experiments to evaluate their significance. The addition of benthic geothermal heat  
12 input (not shown) leads to a surface freshening of 0.1-0.2 psu between 40° and 50°S  
13 in the southwest Atlantic by the end of the 10-year integration, but little large-scale  
14 surface effects elsewhere. Adding double diffusion (also not shown) again has  
15 relatively little effect on the surface temperature, apart from a small localised cooling  
16 along the path of the ACC by 0.05°C, but does produce a freshening of 0.05 psu over  
17 much of the Atlantic and the subtropical Pacific. Neither change was expected to  
18 have a large subsurface effect over the time scale discussed here, and this is  
19 confirmed by our experiments.

20

21 The rationale for inclusion of the bottom boundary layer scheme was to improve the  
22 representation of overflows, which are known to be a weak point of z-coordinate  
23 models such as NEMO. The bottom boundary layer scheme leads to a surface cooling  
24 of  $\sim 0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  north of the separated Gulf Stream, while larger modifications of up to  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$   
25 to the temperature are seen near the sea floor in the region downstream of the  
26 Denmark Strait overflow, but the relationship of the surface signal to the deep  
27 temperature signal and associated changes to the deep western boundary current are  
28 complex and require further analysis beyond the scope of the present paper.

29

30 As explained in Section 4, the ice model changes consisted of salinity dependence for  
31 the freezing point of water, and increases in ice thermal conductivity and salinity, in  
32 line with the latest observations. The addition of salinity dependence is justified on  
33 the grounds that it is more realistic, whilst the changes to the ice salinity and thermal

1 conductivity are based on the work of Rae et al (2013) where the ice model  
2 parameters were tuned to provide agreement with the observed seasonal cycle of ice  
3 extent. The changes to the ice model (not shown) give a surface cooling (of  $\sim 0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ )  
4 and freshening (of  $\sim 0.1$  psu) in the Southern Ocean and a similar cooling in the  
5 Arctic. The change in salinity is consistent with increased salt export from the polar  
6 regions (both polar regions are associated with net ice export). The increased thermal  
7 conductivity is expected to increase ice formation and overall ice cover and hence to  
8 reduce the annual mean surface water temperature (since at a given location there will  
9 be a longer ice-covered period annually compared to the previous model  
10 configuration, GO1).

11

### 12 5.3.5 Attribution study summary

13

14 In summary, we find that the largest changes result firstly from the ocean code  
15 version upgrade from NEMO v3.2 to v3.4, due to an improvement in handling of  
16 diffusion of TKE when convection occurs; and secondly from the changes to the  
17 parameters of the TKE scheme: namely, the parameters *rn\_ebb*, *rn\_mx10* and *nn\_htau*.  
18 These have only a small effect on the surface errors, but in combination the two  
19 changes result in much more substantial improvement of the subsurface temperature  
20 field and the seasonal cycle, as described in Section 5.2.

21

22

## 23 **6 Summary and discussion**

24

25 We have introduced a new ocean model configuration, GO5.0, developed jointly  
26 between the Met Office and NERC. This is an implementation of version 3.4 of the  
27 NEMO model, on the ORCA025 grid, with horizontal resolution of at least  
28  $1/4^{\circ}$  everywhere, together with the CICE sea ice model on the same grid. The GO5.0  
29 model configuration is derived from the previous GO1 through an upgrade of the  
30 NEMO code version from version 3.2, and a set of parameter changes. A 30-year  
31 integration of GO5.0, run with CORE2 surface forcing from 1976 to 2005, has been  
32 compared with GO1 with the same forcing. We have additionally described a set of

1 10-year sensitivity studies carried out to attribute changes in the model performance  
2 to individual changes in the model physics.

3

4 The GO5.0 configuration was validated against observations during the final ten years  
5 of the 30-year integration. It was found to have a generally warm surface bias, with  
6 respect to the EN3 climatological dataset, of 0.5°-1°C in the tropics, a cool bias of  
7 similar magnitude in the extra-tropics and a warm bias of around 2°C in much of the  
8 Southern Ocean. The surface salinity biases were again predominantly zonal, being up  
9 to 0.2 psu too salty close to the Equator and in subpolar regions and the Arctic, and  
10 too fresh in the subtropics. In the Labrador Sea and in the North Atlantic subpolar  
11 gyre the surface waters are between 2° and 4°C too warm, and around 1 psu too salty.

12

13 Both GO1 and GO5.0 model configurations showed good skill in simulating oceanic  
14 exchanges between North Atlantic, North Pacific and Arctic Oceans. The net oceanic  
15 exports from the Arctic Ocean and the contributions from the individual straits are  
16 within the uncertainties of the observational estimates. The main model bias is a more  
17 vigorous exchange between the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans manifesting itself in too  
18 strong (compared to observations) a northward flow of the buoyant warm Atlantic  
19 water and too strong a return flow of the dense Arctic water as the overflows across  
20 the Greenland-Scotland Ridge. The overturning circulation at 26°N in the Atlantic  
21 was correspondingly stronger than that observed, at 21 Sv, The transport in the  
22 Antarctic Circumpolar Current was 124 Sv, close to observed estimates, while the  
23 Indonesian Throughflow was significantly higher than observations, most likely  
24 because of insufficient mixing at the critical straits.

25

26 Comparison of the sea ice in the Northern Hemisphere in GO5.0 and observations  
27 show that the model simulates the annual means, the interannual trend and the  
28 seasonal cycle well, although the model underestimates summer sea ice extent. In the  
29 Southern Hemisphere the sea ice extent again compares well with observations,  
30 although the recent rising trend in sea ice cover is not simulated in GO5.0, as is also  
31 the case in several other comparable models. Both GO1 and GO5.0 underestimate sea  
32 ice volume in the Northern Hemisphere with biases larger in summer than in winter.  
33 In the Southern Hemisphere the seasonal cycle of sea ice thickness is simulated

1 correctly, with a moderate underestimation (of 22% for GO5.0) of the hemisphere-  
2 averaged sea ice thickness.

3

4 The main differences between GO5.0 and GO1 were seen in the penetration of heat  
5 and salt into the interior ocean above the thermocline and in the representation of the  
6 seasonal cycle. The global mean warming, with a maximum at 200 metres depth, was  
7 reduced from 0.7° to 0.3°C, while the steady freshening trend at the same depth was  
8 also reduced by 10-20%. Although the overall reduction in mixed layer depth from  
9 GO1 to GO5.0 did not lead to unequivocal improvements in surface biases,  
10 wintertime mixed layers were consistently better represented in GO5.0, while the  
11 shallow bias in MLD and consequent warm surface bias in GO1 in tropical latitudes  
12 were significantly ameliorated in GO5.0.

13

14 To attribute the changes seen between GO1 and GO5.0, the physics modifications  
15 were applied incrementally (in most cases individually but some in pairs) starting  
16 from the original GO1 configuration. First of all the NEMO source code was  
17 upgraded from v3.2 to v3.4; then the model bathymetry was upgraded; the  
18 background vertical diffusivity and viscosity were increased; some of the TKE  
19 scheme parameters were adjusted; geothermal heat flux and double diffusion of  
20 tracers were added; a scheme was added to represent a bottom boundary layer; and  
21 finally modifications were made to the ice model. It was found that several of the  
22 modifications led to changes with large spatial scales in the model surface and  
23 subsurface fields that were distinguishable from the eddy variability, but the dominant  
24 effects were traced to the code upgrade and to the TKE changes. These two changes,  
25 which both affect mainly vertical mixing in the upper few hundred metres, were found  
26 to produce most of the reduction of the subsurface temperature and salinity biases of  
27 the model, along with the reduced errors in the seasonal cycle.

28

29 We conclude that GO5.0 represents a significant improvement in realism over the  
30 previous configuration of the Met Office ocean model, GO1. In particular, the  
31 improvements in the representation of vertical mixing (associated both with the code  
32 upgrade from the NEMO v3.2 and in the modifications to the TKE vertical mixing  
33 scheme in v3.4) lead to a more faithful simulation of the annual cycle in surface

1 temperature and mixed layer depth, as well as to reduced subsurface drifts in the  
2 depth range 200-400 metres.

3

4 There are clearly aspects of the GO5.0 configuration that need to be improved further.  
5 In particular, the subpolar North Atlantic and the Southern Ocean show substantial  
6 errors in both surface and subsurface fields that may be at least partly ascribed to  
7 deficiencies in model physics. Process Evaluation Groups (PEGs) have been set up  
8 within the JOMP programme specifically to address issues relating to the two  
9 aforementioned regions, and work is ongoing in both cases.

10

11 In addition, GO5.0 does not contain several physics upgrades which are currently  
12 either available or under development in NEMO, and which offer potentially  
13 significant improvements in model realism. These include embedded sea ice (in which  
14 the base of the sea ice lies beneath the ocean surface and the ice displaces a non-zero  
15 volume of sea water); and the z-tilde modification to the vertical coordinate to reduce  
16 numerical mixing from high-frequency vertical motions (Leclair and Madec, 2011).  
17 The full nonlinear free surface physics is available in NEMO v3.4, but not  
18 implemented in GO5.0; it is expected that this, along with z-tilde and the embedded  
19 ice, will be included in future implementations of the Global Ocean Model.

20

21

## 22 **Appendix A**

23

### 24 **Code availability and model trunk and branches**

25

26 The model code for NEMO v3.4 is available from the NEMO website ([www.nemo-ocean.eu](http://www.nemo-ocean.eu)). On registering, individuals can access the FORTRAN code using the open  
27 source subversion software (<http://subversion.apache.org/>). The revision number of  
28 the base NEMO code (trunk) used for this paper is 3424. In addition we apply some  
29 modifications to the base code (branches). Please contact the authors for more  
30 information on these branches and how to obtain them.

31

1 The model code for CICE is freely available from the United States Los Alamos  
2 National Laboratory (<http://oceans11.lanl.gov/trac/CICE/wiki/SourceCode>), again  
3 using subversion. The revision number for the version used for this paper is 430  
4 (trunk). Once again there are some additional modifications (branches) made for the  
5 purposes of this paper, and interested readers are requested to contact the authors for  
6 details.

7

8 UK users with access to PUMA ([cms.ncas.ac.uk/wiki/PumaService](http://cms.ncas.ac.uk/wiki/PumaService)) can copy the job  
9 details (job id xhimo) and submit a duplicate job using the Met Office Unified Model  
10 User Interface (UMUI).

11

12

## 13 **Appendix B**

14

### 15 **FPP keys used in GO5.0 (NEMO and CICE)**

16

17	key_dynspg_flt	Filtered free surface
18	key_ldfslp	Rotate diffusion operators (for tracer isopycnal diffusion)
19	key_traldf_c2d	Geographically varying lateral tracer diffusion
20	key_dynldf_c2d	Geographically varying lateral momentum diffusion
21	key_zdftke	TKE scheme for vertical mixing
22	key_zdftmx	Include tidal mixing scheme
23	key_zdfddm	Include double diffusive mixing parameterisation
24	key_trabbl	Include bottom boundary layer scheme

25

26

## 27 **Appendix C**

28

### 29 **Ocean and ice namelists for GO5.0**

30

31 These are included as supplementary material.

32

33

1    **Appendix D**

2

3    **Surface Forcing**

4

5    These are the CORE-2 forcing dataset (Large and Yeager 2008), available at  
6    <http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds260.2/>.

7

8

9    **Appendix E**

10

11    **Other input files.**

12

13    Other files such as bathymetry, river runoff mask and interpolation weights for the  
14    surface forcing are required to run GO5.0. These can be obtained on request from the  
15    authors.

16

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2

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25

1    **Figure captions**

2

3    Figure 1 Surface biases in years 1996-2005 of GO5.0: (a) mean surface temperature  
4    bias with respect to the Reynolds et al climatology; and (b) mean surface salinity bias  
5    with respect to the EN3 climatology.

6

7    Figure 2 Seasonal cycle of mixed-layer depth (MLD) in GO5.0: (a) minimum  
8    monthly MLD in years 1996-2005; (b) minimum monthly MLD in the deBoyer  
9    Montegut et al. climatology; (c) maximum monthly MLD in years 1996-2005; and (d)  
10   maximum monthly MLD in the deBoyer Montégut et al climatology.

11

12   Figure 3 Zonal mean (a) temperature and (b) salinity biases in years 1996-2005 of  
13   GO5.0. The solid contours are of the zonal mean potential density  $\sigma_0$ , with a spacing  
14   of  $0.5 \text{ kg m}^3$ .

15

16   Figure 4 (a) Time series of annual mean Atlantic meridional overturning circulation  
17   (AMOC) at  $26^\circ\text{N}$  in GO1 and GO5.0, with the potential density  $\sigma_0$  in the upper 200  
18   metres in the central Labrador Sea; and (b) mean Atlantic overturning streamfunction  
19   in years 1996-2005 of GO1 (left) and GO5.0 (right). Note that velocity data are  
20   missing in years 1986-1990 of GO1 .

21

22   Figure 5 Time series of integrated sea ice properties in GO5.0 (red) and from  
23   observational estimates (blue): (a) Arctic mean ice extent; (b) Arctic mean ice  
24   volume; (c) Antarctic mean ice extent; and (d) Antarctic mean ice volume.

25

26   Figure 6 High-latitude sea ice extent in GO5.0 and in the HadISST observational  
27   dataset: Arctic winter (DJF) ice extent in (a) GO5.0 and (b) observations; Antarctic  
28   winter (JJA) ice extent in (c) GO5.0 and (d) observations; Arctic summer (JJA) ice  
29   extent in (e) GO5.0 and (f) observations; and Antarctic summer (DJF) ice extent in (g)  
30   GO5.0 and (h) observations.

31

32   Figure 7 Subsurface drifts, defined as the difference of the horizontally-averaged  
33   annual mean in any year from that in the first year of integration, as function of depth:

1 (a) GO1 temperature drift; (b) GO5.0 temperature drift; (c) GO1 salinity drift; and (d)  
2 GO5.0 salinity drift.

3

4 [Figure 8](#) Seasonal sea surface temperature (SST) biases against Reynolds et al  
5 climatology: boreal winter (DJF) biases in (a) GO1 and (b) GO5.0; and boreal  
6 summer (JJA) biases in (c) GO1 and (d) GO5.0.

7

8 [Figure 9](#) Monthly sea surface temperature (SST) and mixed layer depth (MLD) biases  
9 against Reynolds et al and de Boyer Montégut et al climatology, respectively, in years  
10 1996-2005 as a function of latitude: (a) GO1 SST; (b) GO5.0 SST; (c) GO1 MLD;  
11 and (d) GO5.0 (monthly) MLD.

12

13 [Figure 10.](#) (a) Zonal mean net air-sea heat flux in GO1 (black); GO5.0 (red) and  
14 CORE2 data (dashed blue line) in years 1996-2005; and (b) surface net downward  
15 heat flux difference GO5.0 minus GO1. This figure is adapted from Fig 5.10 of Josey  
16 et al, 2013

17

18 [Figure 11](#) Effect on sea surface fields in years 1981-1985 of ocean code upgrade from  
19 v3.2 (GO1) to v3.4 (N3.4): (a) GO1 SST bias; (b) N3.4 SST bias; (c) N3.4 minus  
20 GO1 SST; (d) GO1 SSS bias; (e) N3.4 SSS bias; and (f) N3.4 minus GO1 SSS.

21

22 [Figure 12](#) Effect on zonal mean temperature in years 1981-1985 of code upgrade from  
23 NEMO v3.2 (GO1) and v3.4 (experiment N3.4) in years 1981-1985. (a) bias in GO1;  
24 (b) bias in N3.4; and (c) difference N3.4 minus GO1. The solid contours are of the  
25 zonal mean potential density  $\sigma_0$  in N3.4, with a spacing of  $0.5 \text{ kg m}^3$ .

26

27 [Figure 13](#) Effect on sea surface fields in years 1981-1985 of TKE scheme changes  
28 (from experiment N3.4\_vmix to N3.4\_tke): (a) N3.4\_vmix SST bias; (b) N3.4\_tke  
29 SST bias; (c) N3.4\_tke minus N3.4\_vmixSST; (d) N3.4\_vmix SSS bias; (e) N3.4\_tke  
30 SSS bias; and (f) N3.4\_tke minus N3.4\_vmix SSS.

31

32 [Figure 14](#) Effect on zonal mean temperature in years 1981-1985 of TKE scheme  
33 changes (from experiment N3.4\_vmix to N3.4\_tke). (a) bias in N3.4\_vmix; (b) bias in

1 N3.4\_tke; and (c) difference N3.4\_tke minus N3.4\_vmix. The solid contours are of  
2 the zonal mean potential density  $\sigma_0$  in N3.4\_tke, with a spacing of 0.5 kg m<sup>3</sup>.  
3

Parameter	GO1 (where different from GO5)	GO5
Horizontal bilapacian viscosity	Same as in GO5.0	$-1.5 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}^4 \text{s}^{-1}$
Isoneutral laplacian tracer diffusion	Same as in GO5.0	$300 \text{ m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$
Background vertical viscosity	$1.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$	$1.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$
Background vertical diffusivity	$1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$	$1.2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$
Energy coefficient for Craig and Banner (1994) surface wave breaking parameterisation	60.0	67.83
Length scale for near-inertial wave breaking parameterisation	0.5 m in tropics, rising to 30 m at midlatitudes	10 m everywhere
Minimum value of surface mixing length scale	0.01 m	0.04 m
Minimum value of interior mixing length scale	0.001 m	0.01 m

1

2 **Table 1.** Parameter changes between GO1 and GO5.0.

3

1

Run name	UM job	NEMO	rn_avt0	bathy	rn_mx1	rn_ebb	nn_htau	nn_geoflx	Run
	id	vn.	x10 <sup>-5</sup>		0				(years)
<b>GO1</b>	xexoc	3.2	1.0	G70	n/a	60.0	1	0	30
<b>N3.4</b>	xhiml	3.4	1.0	G70	0.001	60.0	1	0	30
<b>N3.4_mx10</b>	xhimq	3.4	1.0	G70	0.01	60.0	1	0	30
<b>N3.4_bath</b>	xhimj	3.4	1.0	GO5	0.001	60.0	1	0	10
<b>N3.4_vmix</b>	xhkfg	3.4	1.2	GO5	0.001	60.0	1	0	10
<b>N3.4_tke</b>	xhkfi	3.4	1.2	GO5	0.04	67.83	0	0	10
<b>N3.4_geo</b>	xhimt	3.4	1.2	GO5	0.04	67.83	0	2	10
<b>N3.4_DD</b>	xhimp	3.4	1.2	GO5	0.04	67.83	0	2	10
<b>N3.4_ice</b>	xhimm	3.4	1.2	GO5	0.04	67.83	0	2	10
<b>N3.4_bbl</b>	xhimn	3.4	1.2	GO5	0.04	67.83	0	2	10
<b>GO5.0</b>	xhimo	3.4	1.2	GO5	0.04	67.83	0	2	30

2

3

**Table 2** Summary of integrations carried out. The UM job id is a unique identifier for each run within the Met Office Unified Model system, and allows any configuration to be replicated by another user. The parameters listed are: *rn\_avt0* (background vertical tracer diffusivity); *rn\_mx10* (minimum surface mixing length scale); and *rn\_ebb* (coefficient of the surface input of TKE). The switch *nn\_htau* enables a spatially varying TKE penetration depth scale, while *nn\_geoflx* applies an abyssal geothermal heat flux.

10

11

1

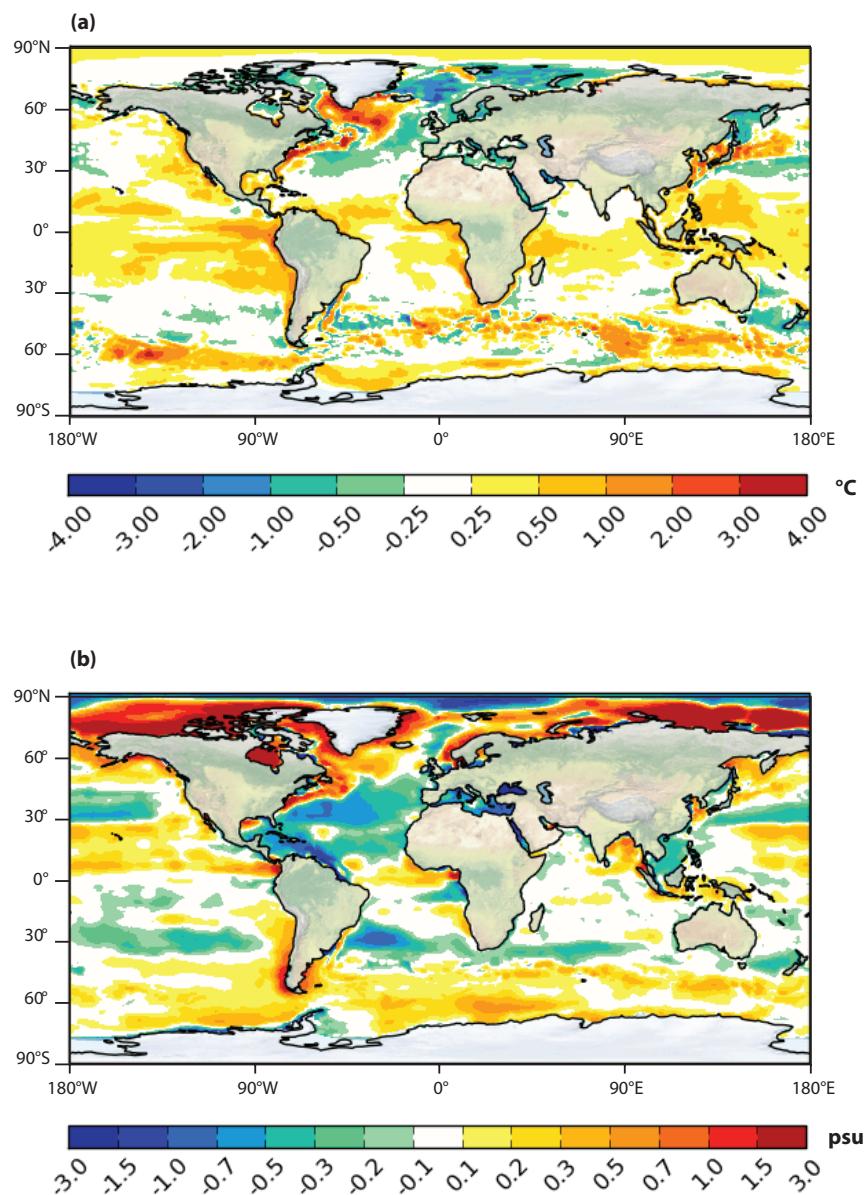
Location	Observed value	GO1	GO5.0
<b>AMOC at 26°N</b>	$18.5 \pm 1^{(1)}$	$21.0 \pm 4.2$	$22.0 \pm 4.2$
<b>Barents Sea Opening net</b>	$2.8 \pm 0.6^{(2,3,4)}$	$3.3 \pm 2.0$	$3.0 \pm 2.0$
<b>Fram Strait net</b>	$-2.3 \pm 4.3^{(5)}$	$-1.9 \pm 2.4$	$-1.6 \pm 2.3$
<b>Denmark Strait net</b>	$(-6.0 \text{ to } -3.6)^{(4)}$	$-3.4 \pm 3.3$	$-3.3 \pm 3.3$
<b>Denmark Strait overflow<sup>(*)</sup></b>	$-2.9 \pm 0.6^{(6)}$	$-5.3 \pm 2.9$	$-4.34 \pm 2.1$
<b>Iceland-Faeroes net</b>	$2.8 \pm 0.5^{(7)}$	$2.72 \pm 1.2$	$2.6 \pm 1.2$
<b>Iceland-Faeroes overflow<sup>(*)</sup></b>	$-1.0 \pm 0.5^{(6)}$	$-0.9 \pm 0.5$	$-0.9 \pm 0.5$
<b>Faeroes-Scotland net</b>	$1.8 \pm 0.5^{(7)}$	$1.4 \pm 2.3$	$1.7 \pm 2.3$
<b>Faeroes-Scotland overflow<sup>(*)</sup></b>	$-2.4 \pm 0.4^{(6)}$	$-3.1 \pm 0.8$	$-3.1 \pm 0.9$
<b>Total Greenland-Scotland inflow<sup>(**)</sup></b>	$8.5 \pm 1.0^{(7)}$	$9.3 \pm 1.8$	$10.0 \pm 1.7$
<b>Bering Strait net</b>	$0.8 [1.1^{(+)}] \pm 0.2^{(9)}$	$1.3 \pm 0.9$	$1.4 \pm 0.9$
<b>Davis Strait net<sup>(***)</sup></b>	$-2.6 \pm 1.0 \text{ to } -2.3 \pm 0.7^{(5,8)}$	$-2.9 \pm 1.2$	$-3.0 \pm 1.1$
<b>Drake Passage</b>	$135 \pm 20^{(10)}$	$119 \pm 8$	$124 \pm 8$
<b>Indonesian Throughflow</b>	$-15 \pm 4^{(11)}$	$-19.7 \pm 5.4$	$-19.8 \pm 5.5$

2

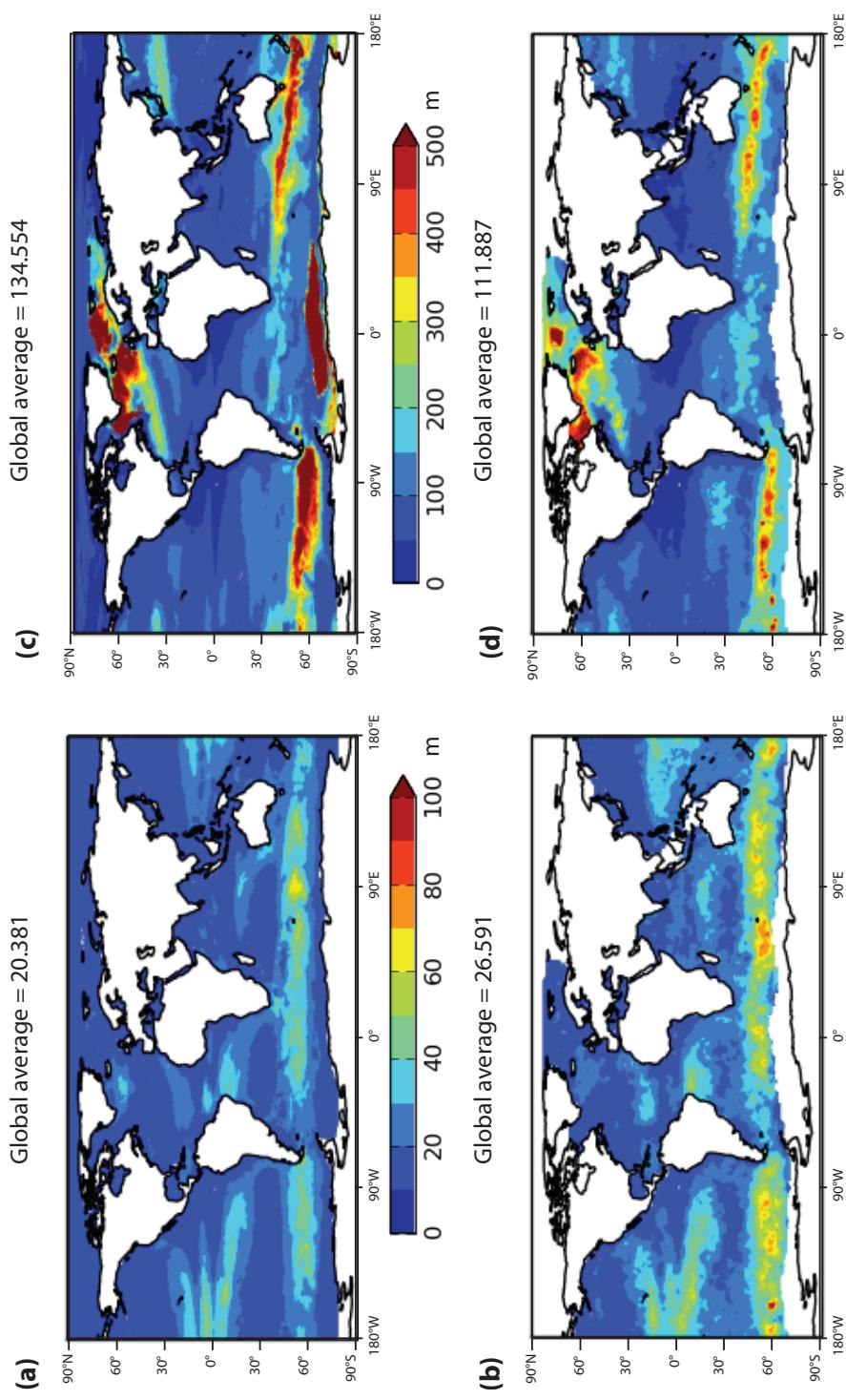
3 **Table 3** Volume transports (Sv), observed and model mean values and their standard  
4 deviations. Model values are means over the last 10 years of the 30 years spin up.  
5 Model standard deviations are obtained from the 5-day averages. Sign convention is  
6 positive northwards and eastwards, and is negative southwards and westwards. Key:

7 <sup>(1)</sup> McCarthy et al 2012, <sup>(2)</sup>Gammelsrod et al., 2009, <sup>(3)</sup>Skagseth, et al., 2008, <sup>(4)</sup>Aksenov  
8 et al., 2010, <sup>(5)</sup>Curry et al., 2011, <sup>(6)</sup>Olsen et al., 2008, <sup>(7)</sup>Østerhus et al., 2005, <sup>(8)</sup>Cuny et  
9 al., 2005, <sup>(9)</sup>Woodgate et al., 2012, <sup>(10)</sup>Cunningham et al., 2003, <sup>(11)</sup>Sprintall et al., 2009,  
10 <sup>(+)</sup>climatological transport with the estimate for 2011 in parenthesis, <sup>(\*)</sup>southward  
11 transport of waters with  $\sigma > 27.8$ , <sup>(\*\*)</sup>Atlantic inflow derived as the residual flow after  
12 subtracting the southward transport of waters with  $\sigma > 27.8$ , <sup>(\*\*\*)</sup>including transports on  
13 the West Greenland Shelf.

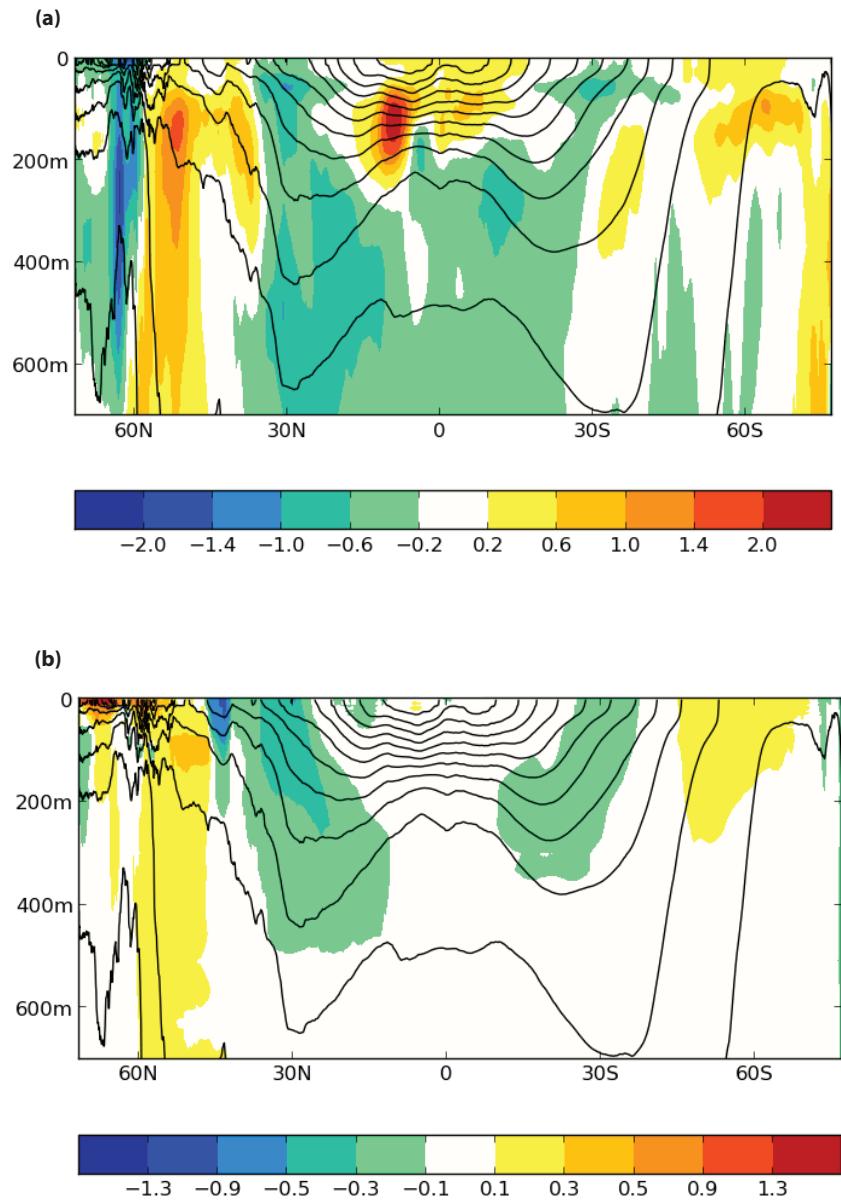
14



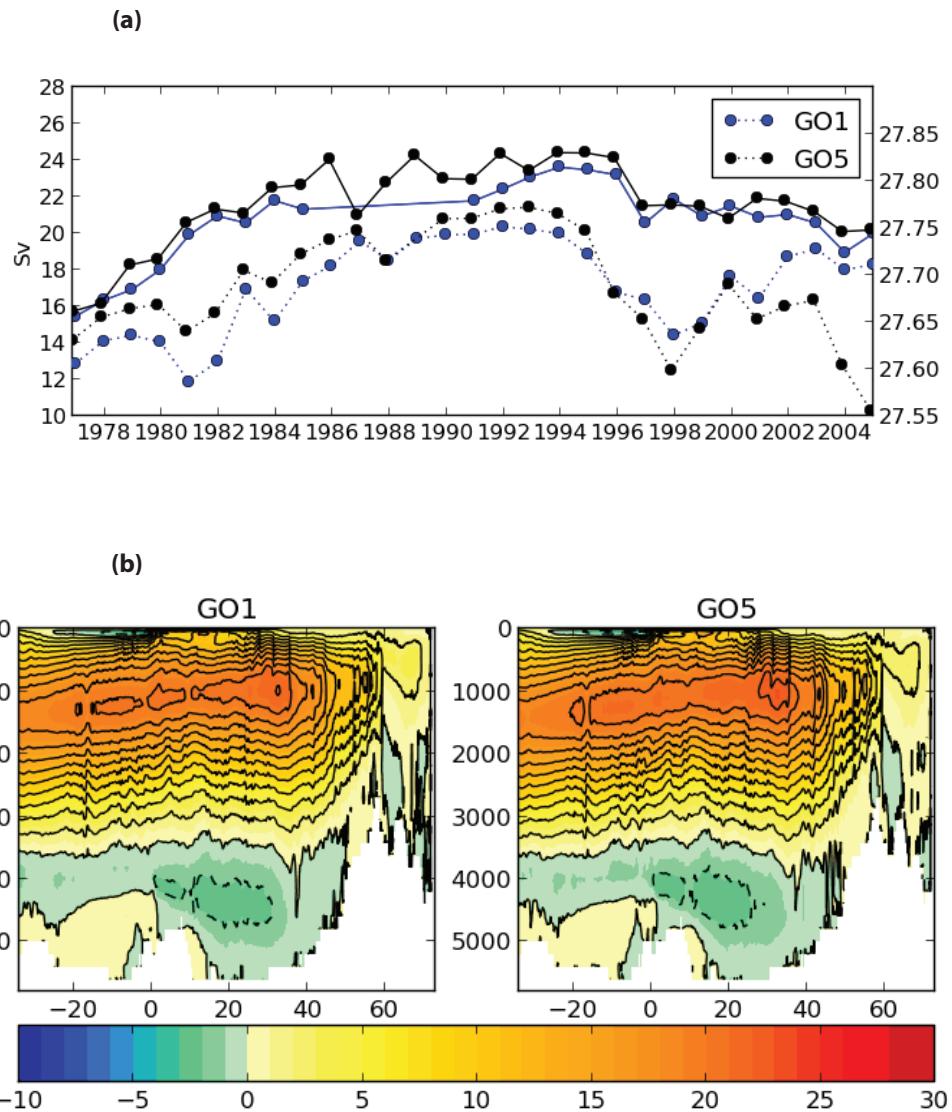
**Figure 1.** Surface biases in years 1996-2005 of GO5.0: (a) mean surface temperature bias with respect to the Pathfinder climatology; and (b) mean surface salinity bias with respect to the EN3 climatology.



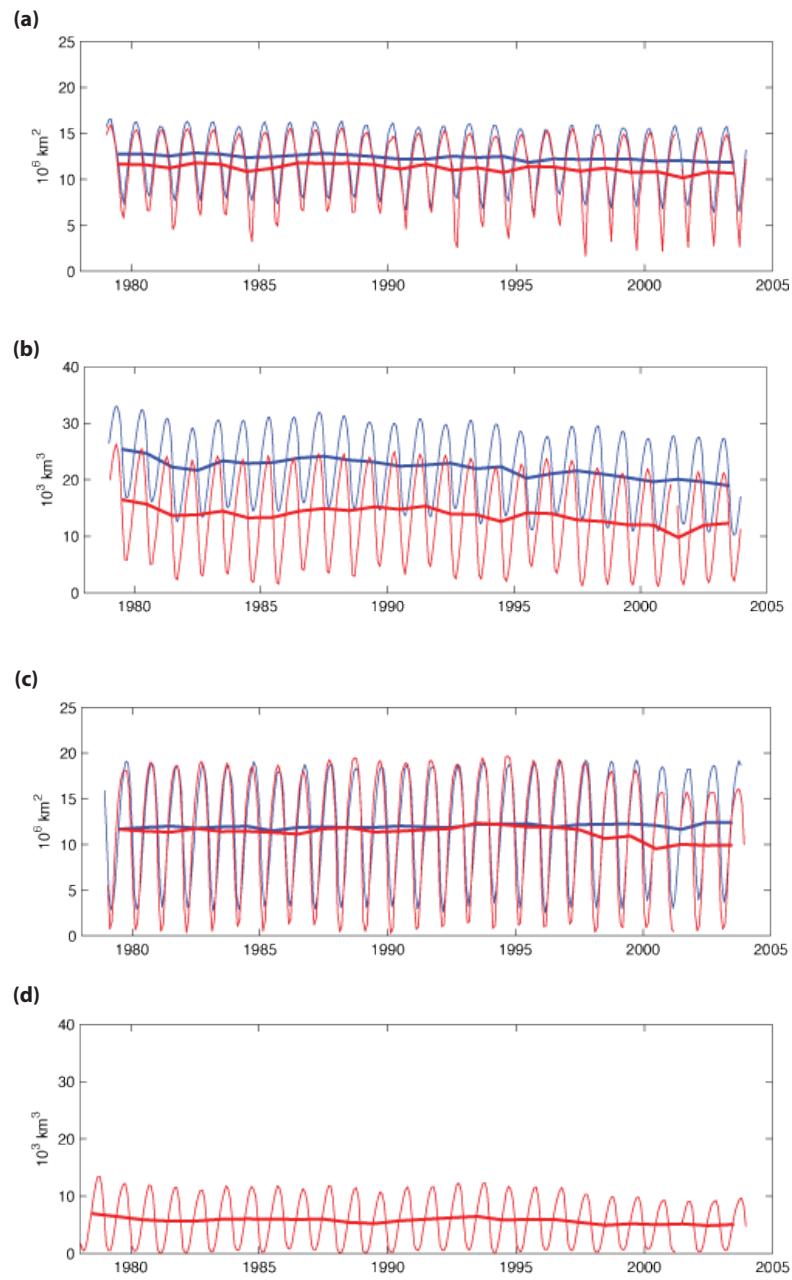
**Figure 2** Seasonal cycle of mixed-layer depth (MLD) in GO5.0: (a) minimum monthly MLD in years 1996-2005; (b) minimum monthly MLD in the deBoyet Montégut et al climatology; (c) maximum monthly MLD in years 1996-2005; and (d) maximum monthly MLD in the deBoyet Montégut et al climatology. The masked areas in the climatological field correspond to regions where seasonal ice cover means a full annual cycle is unavailable.



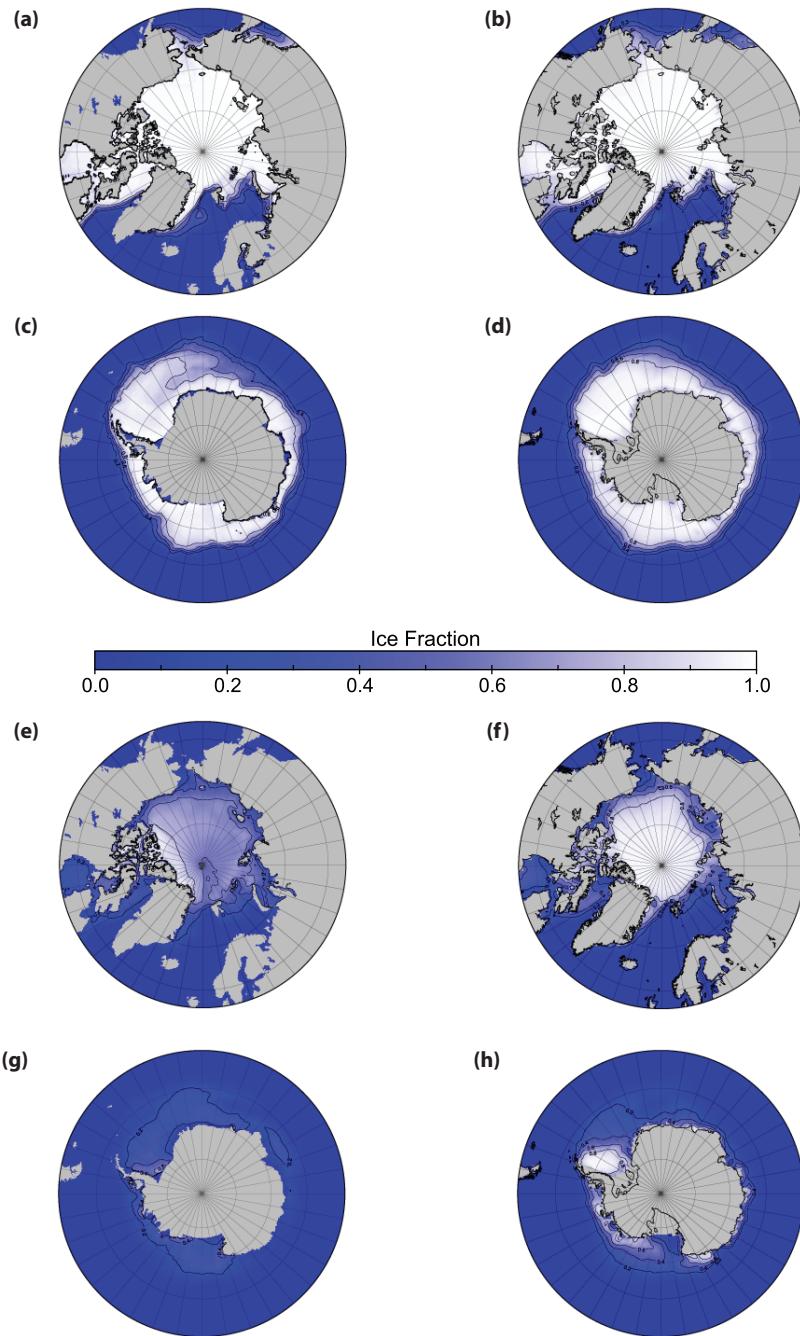
**Figure 3.** Zonal mean (a) temperature and (b) salinity biases in years 1996-2005 of GO5.0. The solid contours are of the zonal mean potential density  $\sigma_0$ , with a spacing of  $0.5 \text{ kg m}^3$ .



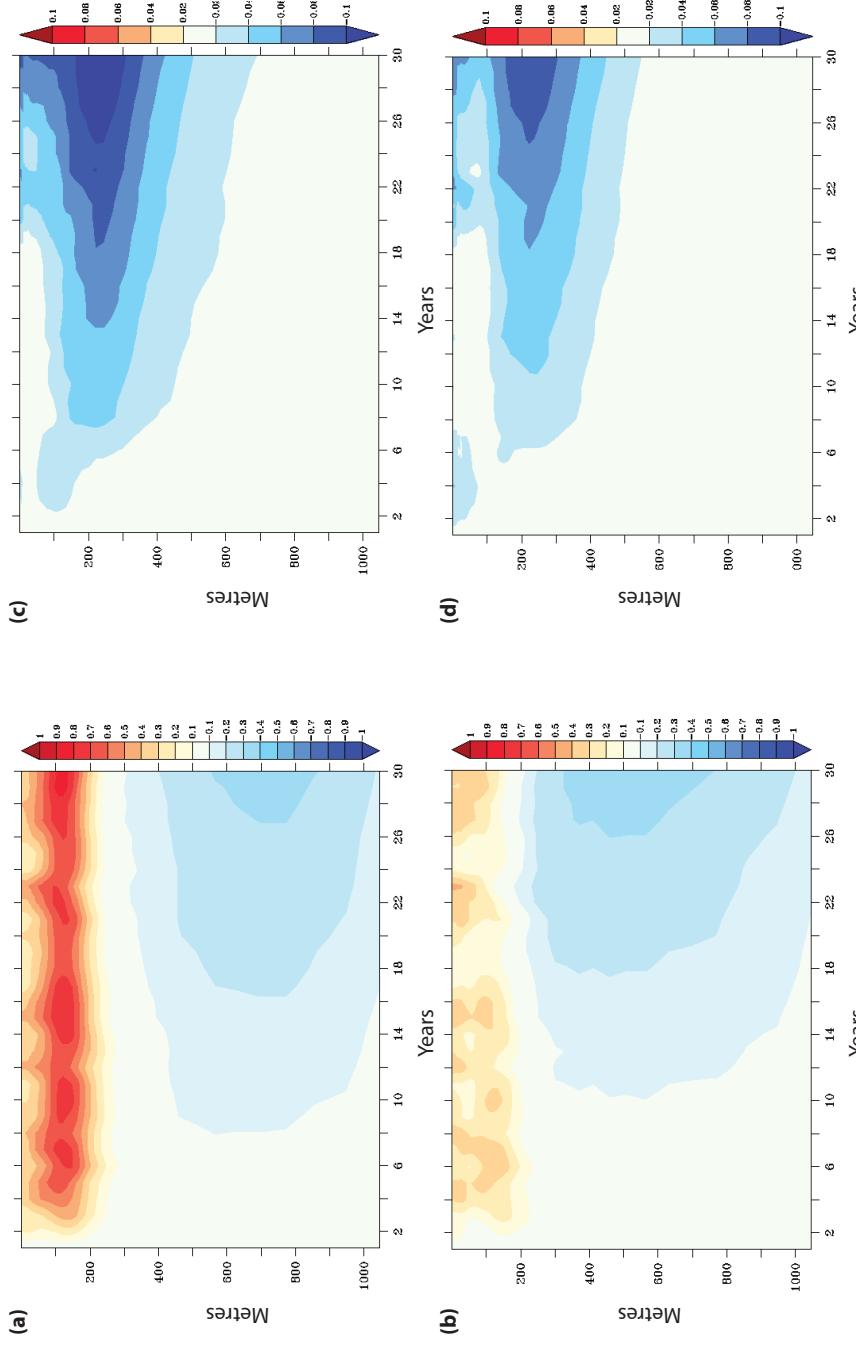
**Figure 4.** (a) Time series of the annual mean Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) at  $26^{\circ}\text{N}$  in years 1996-2005 of GO1 and GO5.0, with the potential density  $\sigma_0$  in the upper 200 metres in the central Labrador Sea; and (b) mean Atlantic overturning streamfunction in GO1 (left) and GO5.0 (right). Note that velocity data are missing in years 1986-1990 of GO1 .



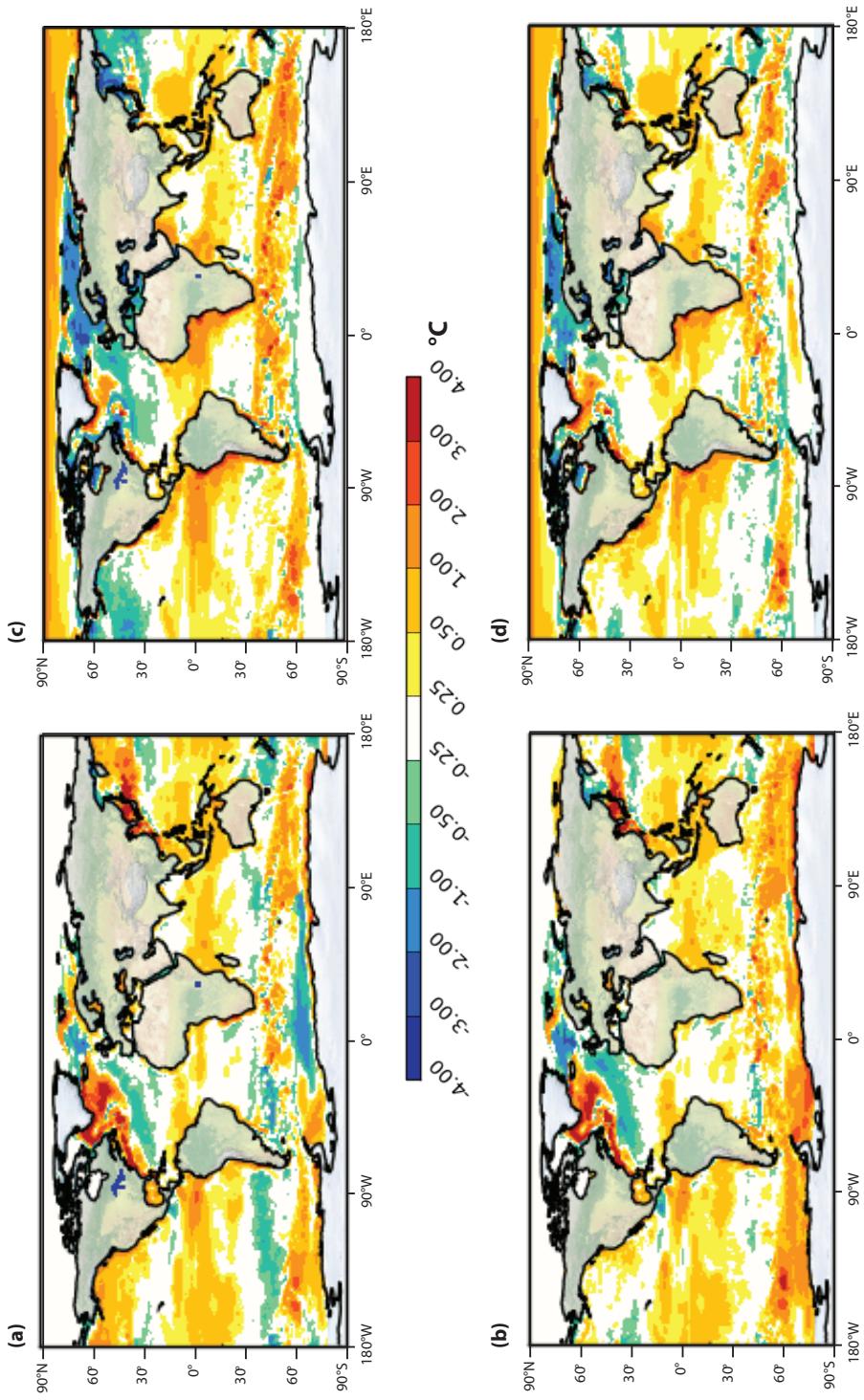
**Figure 5** Time series of integrated sea ice properties in GO5.0 (red) and from observational estimates (blue): (a) Arctic mean ice extent; (b) Arctic mean ice volume; (c) Antarctic mean ice extent; and (d) Antarctic mean ice volume.



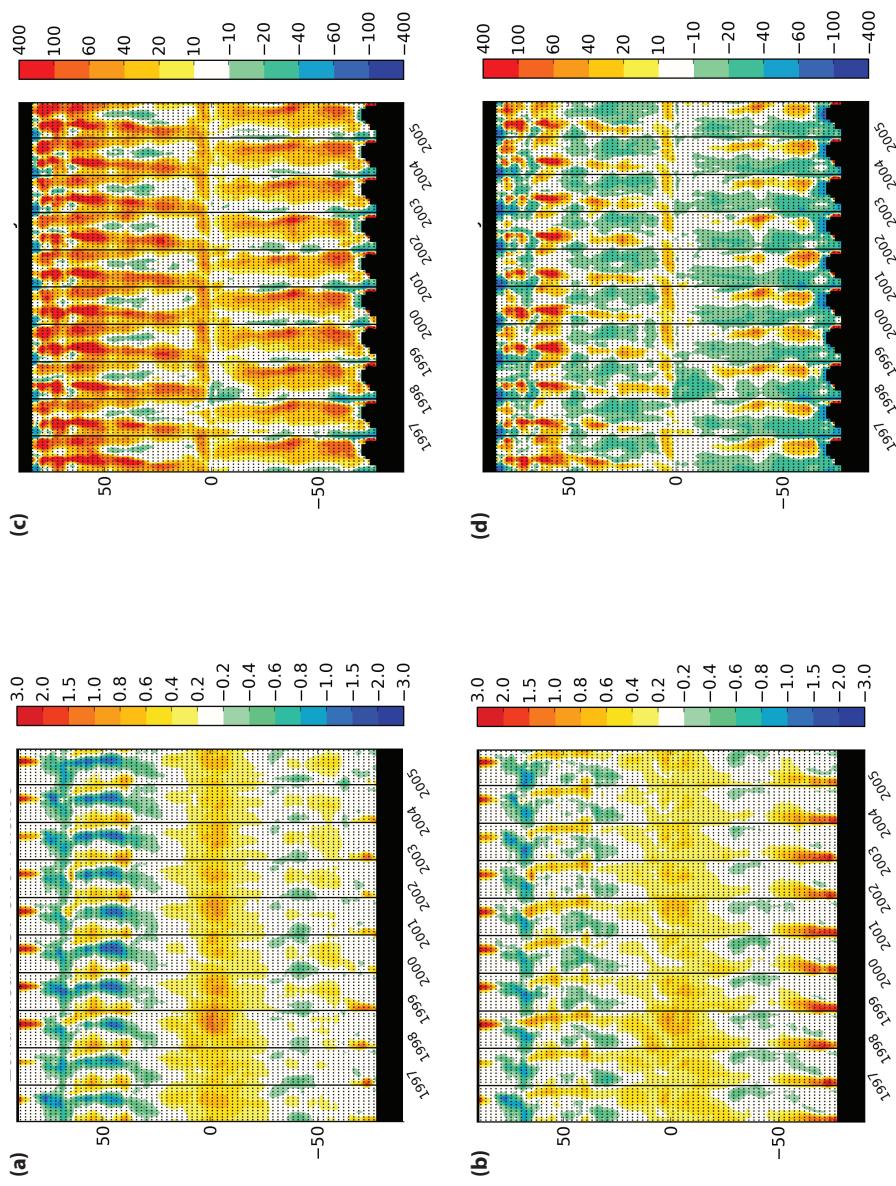
**Figure 6** High-latitude sea ice extent in GO5.0 and in the HadISST observational dataset: Arctic winter (DJF) ice extent in (a) GO5.0 and (b) observations; Antarctic winter (JJA) ice extent in (c) GO5.0 and (d) observations; Arctic summer (JJA) ice extent in (e) GO5.0 and (f) observations; and Antarctic summer (DJF) ice extent in (g) GO5.0 and (h) observations.



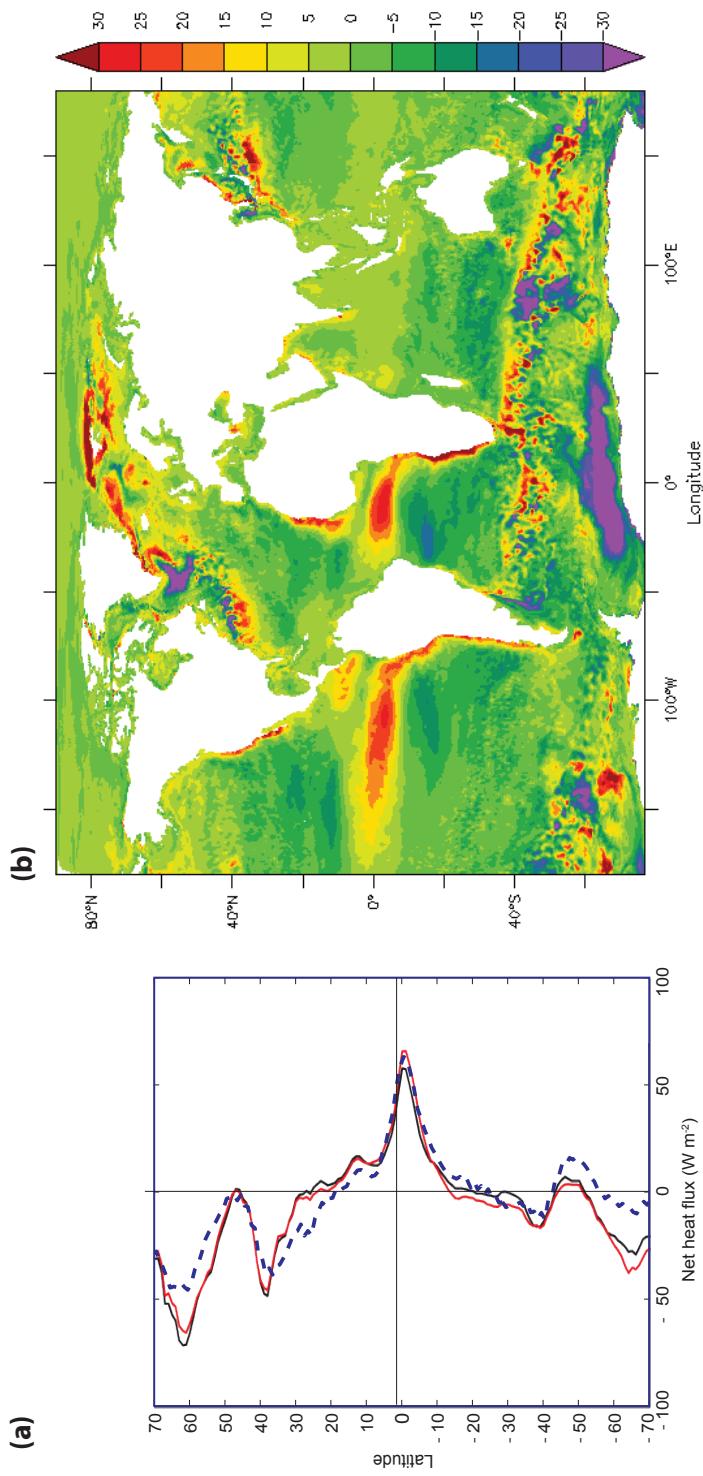
**Figure 7.** Subsurface drifts, defined as the difference of the horizontally-averaged annual mean in any year from that in the first year of integration, as a function of depth: (a) GO1 temperature drift; (b) GO5.0 temperature drift; (c) GO1 salinity drift; and (d) GO5.0 salinity drift.



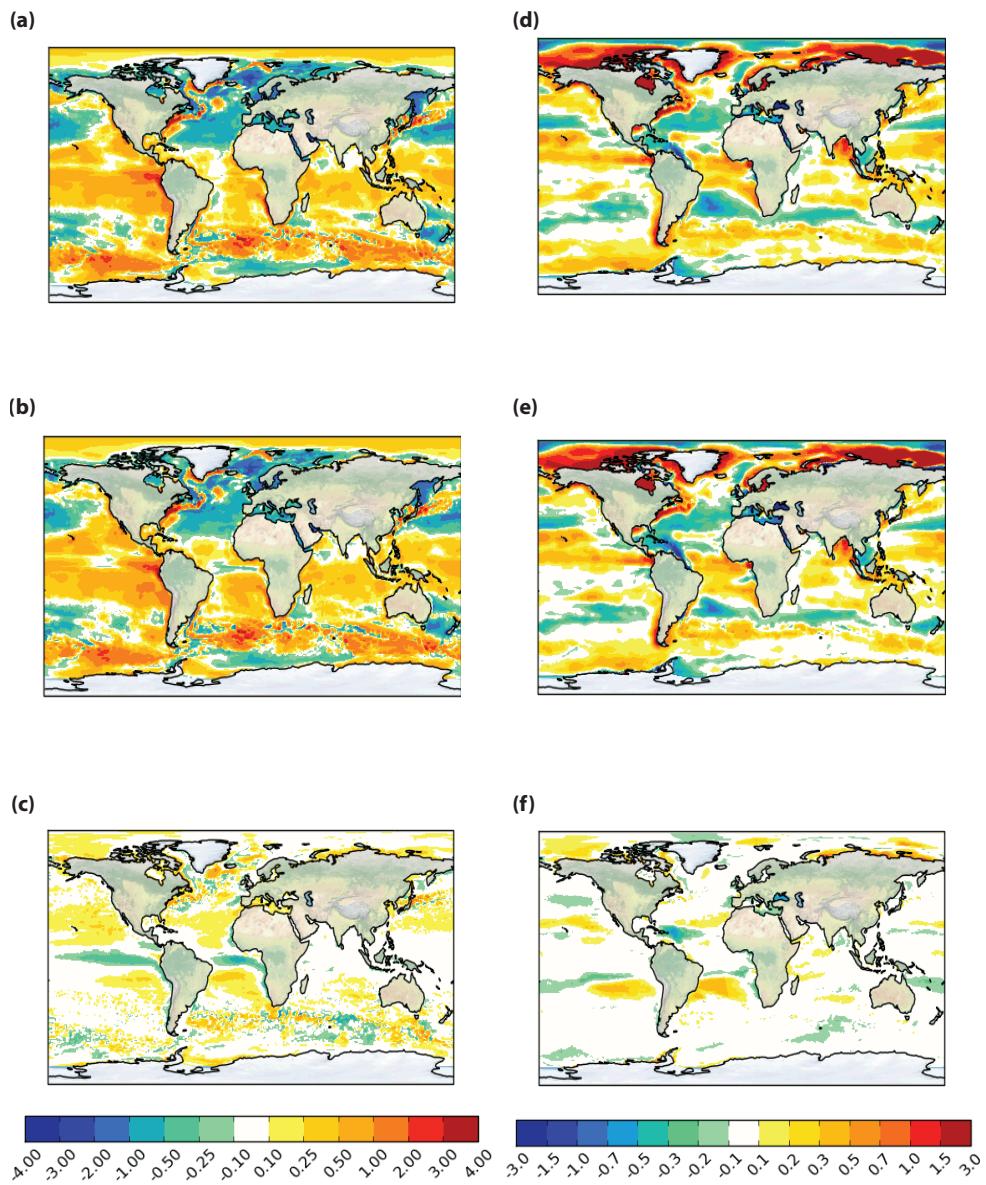
**Figure 8.** Seasonal sea surface temperature (SST) biases against Reynolds/Pathfinder climatology: boreal winter (DJF) biases in (a) GO1 and (b) GO5.0; and boreal summer (JJAS) biases in (c) GO1 and (d) GO5.0.



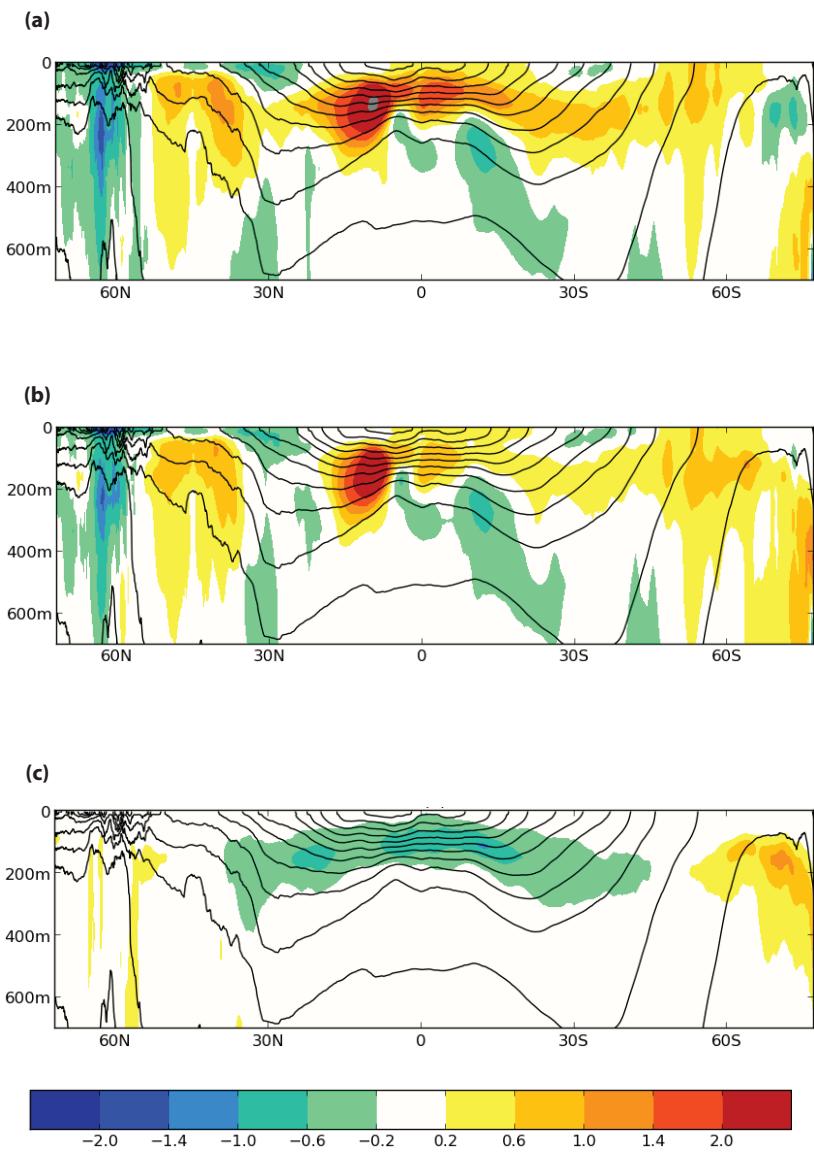
**Figure 9** Monthly sea surface temperature (SST) and mixed layer depth (MLD) biases against Reynolds et al. and de Boyet Montégut et al. climatology, respectively, in years 1996-2005 as a function of latitude: (a) GO1 SST; (b) GO5.0 SST; (c) GO1 MLD; and (d) GO5.0 (monthly) MLD.



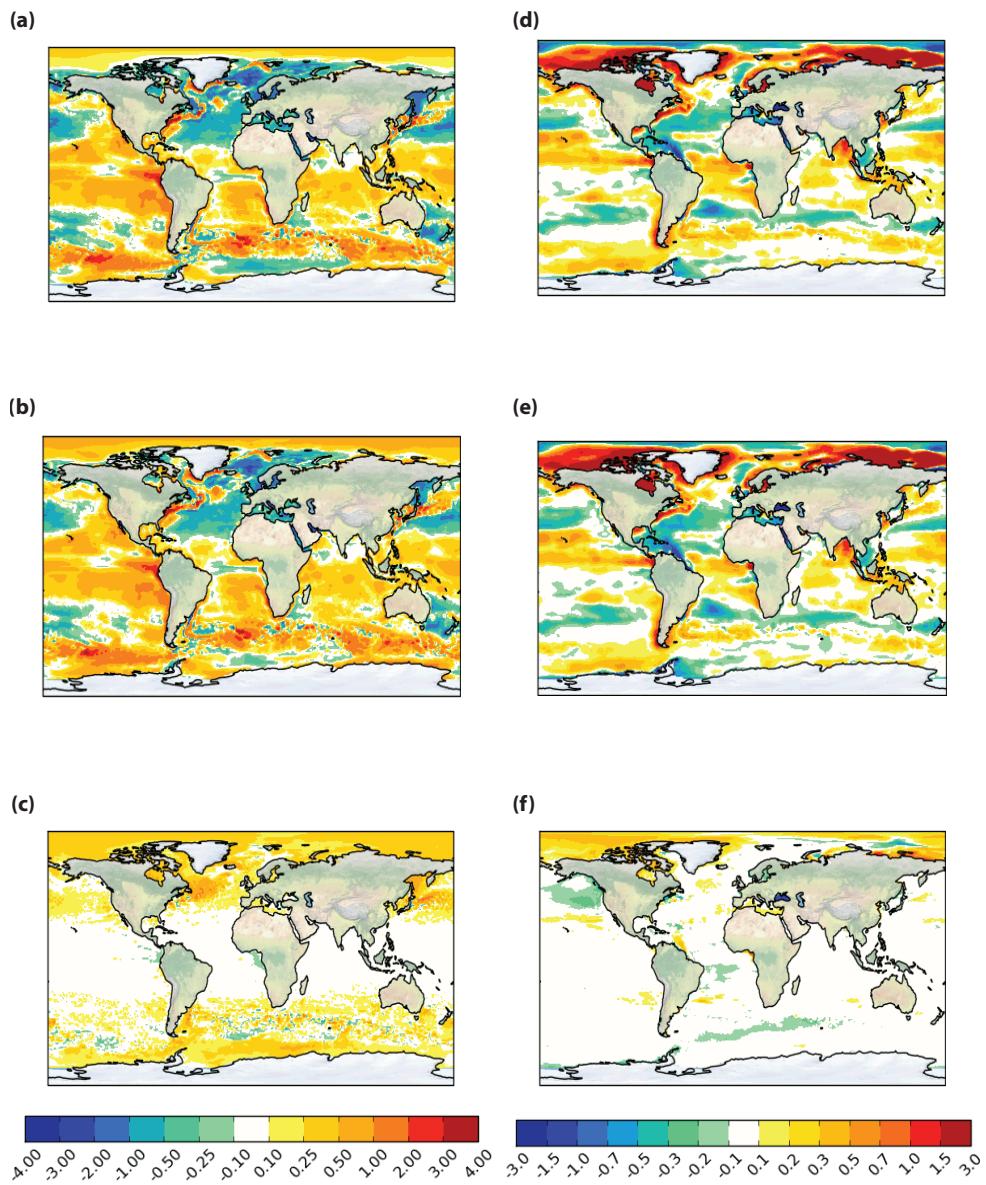
**Figure 10.** (a) Zonal mean net air-sea heat flux in GO1 (black); GO5.0 (red) and CORE2 data (dashed blue line) in years 1996-2005; and (b) surface net downward heat flux difference GO5.0 minus GO1.



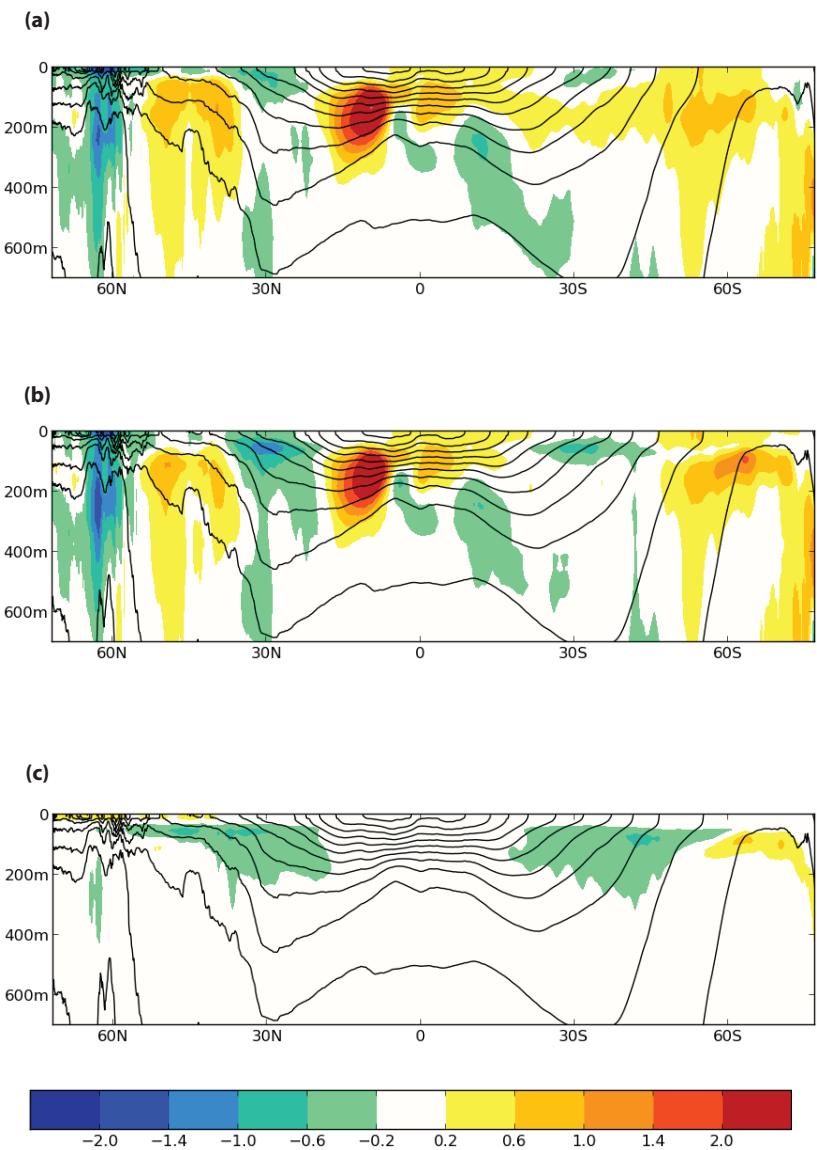
**Figure 11** Effect on sea surface fields in years 1981-1985 of ocean code upgrade from v3.2 (GO1) to v3.4 (N3.4): (a) GO1 SST bias; (b) N3.4 SST bias; (c) N3.4 minus GO1 SST; (d) GO1 SSS bias; (e) N3.4 SSS bias; and (f) N3.4 minus GO1 SSS.



**Figure 12.** Effect on zonal mean temperature in years 1981-1985 of code upgrade from NEMO v3.2 (GO1) and v3.4 (experiment N3.4) in years 1981-1985: (a) bias in GO1; (b) bias in N3.4; and (c) difference N3.4 minus GO1. The black contours are of the mean isopycnals of the potential density  $\sigma_0$  in N3.4 to show the position of the main pycnocline.



**Figure 13** Effect on sea surface fields in years 1981-1985 of TKE scheme changes (from experiment N3.4\_vmix to N3.4\_tke): (a) N3.4\_vmix SST bias; (b) N3.4\_tke SST bias; (c) N3.4\_tke minus N3.4\_vmixSST; (d) N3.4\_vmix SSS bias; (e) N3.4\_tke SSS bias; and (f) N3.4\_tke minus N3.4\_vmix SSS.



**Figure 14.** Effect on zonal mean temperature in years 1981-1985 of TKE scheme changes (from experiment N3.4\_vmix to N3.4\_tke): (a) bias in N3.4\_vmix; (b) bias in N3.4\_tke; and (c) difference N3.4\_tke minus N3.4\_vmix. The black contours are of the mean isopycnals of the potential density  $\sigma_0$  in N3.4\_tke to show the position of the main pycnocline.