

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.

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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**

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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°,  
10    although the HadGEM models have a refinement of the north-south grid scale close to  
11    the Equator down to 1/3°. 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).

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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).

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4 Ocean models run on horizontal grids fine enough to resolve eddies in the Southern  
5 Ocean show “eddy saturation”, where increased vertical transport of momentum and  
6 meridional transport of heat away from the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) by  
7 the eddy field in response to increases in wind stress mean that the isopycnal slopes  
8 and therefore the circumpolar transport is relatively insensitive to changes in the wind  
9 forcing (Tansley and Marshall, 2001; Hallberg and Gnanadesikan, 2006. Munday et  
10 al, 2013). This is not observed in lower resolution models where the eddy transports  
11 are parameterised by diffusive schemes. A similar insensitivity of the global  
12 overturning circulation to the Southern Ocean wind forcing (“eddy compensation”) is  
13 also seen in eddy-resolving models (Viebahn and Eden, 2010, Farneti et al, 2010)  
14 although some studies have suggested that eddy-compensation can be achieved in  
15 lower resolution models using a variable Gent-McWilliams coefficient and modified  
16 tapering scheme at the base of the mixed layer (Gent and Danabasoglu, 2011; Farneti  
17 and Gent, 2011).

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

1 component of the Forecasting Ocean Assimilation Model (FOAM, Storkey et al.,  
2 2010), which presently provides forced short-range forecasting services to MyOcean  
3 (www.myocean.eu) and other users. The global coupled model will be used in  
4 coupled short-range ocean forecasting (as future versions of FOAM evolve into  
5 coupled systems), for seasonal forecasting as part of the GloSea4 system (Arribas et  
6 al., 2011), for decadal prediction as part of the DePreSys system (Smith et al., 2007)  
7 and for climate prediction as part of the UK Earth System Model UKESM. The latter  
8 will be the UK's contribution to the upcoming IPCC Sixth Assessment Report and to  
9 the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6).

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

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

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31  
32 **2 Model description**

1 GO5.0 is based on version 3.4 (v3.4) of NEMO (Nucleus for European Models of the  
2 Ocean) (Madec, 2008), and is closely related to the global DRAKKAR ORCA025  
3 configuration (Barnier et al, 2006) sharing many of the same dynamics and physics  
4 choices. The horizontal grid, known as ORCA025, has  $1/4^\circ$  resolution ( $1442 \times 1021$   
5 grid points) at global scale decreasing poleward (an isotropic Mercator grid in the  
6 southern hemisphere, matched to a quasi-isotropic bipolar grid in the northern  
7 hemisphere with poles at  $107^\circ\text{W}$  and  $73^\circ\text{E}$ ). The effective resolution is approximately  
8  $27.75\text{ km}$  at the equator, but increases with latitude to be, for example,  $13.8\text{ km}$  at  
9  $60^\circ\text{S}$  or  $60^\circ\text{N}$ . The model has 75 vertical levels where the level thickness is a double  
10 tanh function of depth such that the level spacing increases from  $1\text{ m}$  near the surface  
11 to  $200\text{ m}$  at  $6000\text{ m}$  (Culverwell 2009). This level set was chosen to provide high  
12 resolution near the surface for short to mid range forecasting purposes while retaining  
13 reasonable resolution at mid-depths for long term climate studies.

14

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

25

26 The model uses a linear free surface and an energy and enstrophy conserving  
27 momentum advection scheme. The horizontal viscosity is bilaplacian with a value of  
28  $1.5 \times 10^{11}\text{ m}^4/\text{s}$  at the equator, reducing polewards as the cube of the maximum grid  
29 cell dimension: thus at  $60^\circ\text{N}$  the horizontal viscosity is approximately  $1/8$  of its value  
30 at the Equator. Tracer advection uses a Total Variance Dissipation (TVD) scheme  
31 (Zalesak 1979). Lateral tracer mixing is along isoneutral surfaces with a coefficient of  
32  $300\text{ m}^2/\text{s}$ . The isopycnal mixing scheme of Gent and McWilliams (1990) is not used  
33 in this configuration.

1

2 With regard to diapycnal mixing processes, the vertical mixing of tracers and  
3 momentum is parameterised using a modified version of the Gaspar et al. (1990)  
4 Turbulent Kinetic Energy (TKE) scheme (Madec, 2008). Unresolved vertical mixing  
5 processes are represented by a background vertical eddy diffusivity of  $1.2 \times 10^{-5}$   
6  $\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ , which decreases linearly from  $\pm 15^\circ$  latitude to a value of  $1.2 \times 10^{-6}$   $\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$  at  $\pm 5^\circ$   
7 latitude (Gregg et al., 2003) and a globally constant background viscosity of  $1.2 \times 10^{-4}$   
8  $\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ . A parameterisation of double diffusive mixing is included at GO5.0 (Merryfield  
9 et al, 1999).

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

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

30

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

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

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

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### 16 **3 Summary of main physics choices**

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



1 in the tropics was able to significantly alleviate an excessively diffuse mid-latitude  
2 thermocline. This was seen to result in reduced summer time mixed layer depths and a  
3 significant reduction of near-surface temperature biases at midlatitudes. Additionally,  
4 Calvert and Siddorn (2013) suggested that a small increase in the Craig and Banner  
5 (1994) wind-wave energy coefficient (controlled by the parameter *rn\_ebb*) would be  
6 more consistent with theory, but was shown to have a very small impact on model  
7 results. Similarly, a minor change in the minimum permitted surface mixing length  
8 (controlled by the parameter *rn\_mx10*) suggested by Calvert and Siddorn (2013) for  
9 consistency with other vertical mixing parameters was shown to have a negligible  
10 impact.

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

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

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

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33 **4 Experimental design**

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The GO5.0 configuration can be viewed as a set of incremental changes in the model physics relative to the GO1 configuration. In order to evaluate the GO5.0 configuration and to understand the model improvements over GO1, a series of forced ocean-sea ice integrations was performed to assess the effects of each individual change.

#### 4.1 Model initialisation and forcing

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

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

#### 4.2 Model integrations

1 A thirty-year integration of GO5.0 was carried out with the final set of modifications  
2 and parameter values, from the initial state described above. This was compared with  
3 the reference integration, from the same initial state and of the same length, of the  
4 pre-existing GO1 model based on NEMO v3.2. To estimate the effect of the code  
5 change alone, a further thirty-year integration of NEMO 3.4 was made with initial  
6 state and all parameters and physics choices identical, or as close as possible, to those  
7 of GO1. We compare annual and seasonal means from each of these three integrations  
8 and also with observations in the form of the EN3 climatology for subsurface  
9 temperature and salinity (Ingleby and Huddleston, 2007), the HadSST3 surface  
10 temperature climatology (Kennedy et al., 2011), satellite-derived sea-ice extent  
11 (Cavalieri, 1996, updated 2013), the PIOMAS reanalysis for Northern Hemisphere  
12 sea ice volume (Zhang et al, 2003), and measured transports through key straits from  
13 a variety of observational studies.

14

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

17

- 18 • The bathymetry was upgraded from the original Drakkar ORCA025 dataset as  
19 described in Section 2;
- 20 • The background vertical diffusivity  $rn_{avi0}$  and viscosity  $rn_{avm0}$  were  
21 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  $1.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  
22 respectively;
- 23 • Changes were made to the TKE scheme parameters  $rn_{ebb}$  (coefficient of the  
24 surface input of TKE),  $rn_{mxl0}$  (minimum surface mixing length scale) and  
25  $nn_{htau}$  (changing the TKE penetration depth scale from a constant 10 m to  
26 varying from 0.5m at the equator to 30m poleward of  $40^\circ \text{N}$  and  $40^\circ \text{S}$ );
- 27 • Geothermal heat flux was applied, as in Stein and Stein (1992) via the  
28 parameter  $nn_{geoflx}$ ;
- 29 • Double diffusion of tracers was added;
- 30 • A scheme for a bottom boundary layer as in Beckmann and Doescher, 1997  
31 was added;
- 32 • The ice model (CICE) was modified to include a salinity-dependent freezing  
33 point. The thermal conductivity of the ice was changed from 2.00 to 2.63 W

1  $\text{m}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$  and the fixed ice salinity was changed from 4.0 to 8.0 psu, following  
2 Rae et al (2013).

3  
4 The attribution study will compare the above experiments with one another, as well as  
5 with the v3.2 model GO1 and the original v3.4 integration with the GO1 parameter  
6 set. The strategy of adjusting parameters according to individual sensitivity studies  
7 may not be the optimal method for finding the most appropriate parameter set, since  
8 the parameters and physics choices may interact nonlinearly, but resources were  
9 insufficient for a systematic investigation of parameter space such as that carried out  
10 with HadCM3 by Williamson et al. (2013).

11  
12 Table 2 summarises the integrations carried out, including the values of the principal  
13 parameter changes at each step.

14  
15 We note that the pair of runs comparing NEMO 3.2 and 3.4 (namely GO1 and N3.4)  
16 differ further in one minor respect. The v3.4 parameter *rn\_mxl0*, the minimum  
17 permitted surface mixing length, was erroneously set to 0.001 in the latter experiment  
18 to match the value of the parameter *rn\_lmin* in v3.2. The latter is an interior minimum  
19 length scale in v3.2 but is absent in v3.4, and the equivalent parameter in v3.2 is in  
20 fact *rn\_lmin0*, which was set to 0.01. An additional ten-year integration (N3.4\_mxl0)  
21 similar to N3.4 was performed, with a value of 0.01: the consequent surface changes  
22 were not considered to be significant, with the two simulations being qualitatively the  
23 same, with mean surface temperature differences in years 6–10 less than 0.05°C  
24 everywhere.

## 25 26 **5 Results**

### 27 28 **5.1 Validation of GO5.0 against observations**

#### 29 30 **5.1.1 Surface biases and mixed layer depth**

31  
32 Figure 1 shows the surface temperature (SST) and salinity (SSS) errors in years 21-30  
33 of the GO5.0 model, relative to the mean of the Reynolds et al (2002) and EN3

1 (Ingleby and Huddleston, 2007) respective monthly climatology over the same period.  
2 There is overall a warm bias over most of the global ocean, with a global mean bias of  
3  $+0.72^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and with the largest biases (of over  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) in the tropics, the Southern Ocean,  
4 the subpolar North Atlantic and over the separated western boundary currents in the  
5 North Atlantic and North Pacific. There are cool biases of  $0.25\text{-}0.50^{\circ}\text{C}$  extending over  
6 much of the subtropical North Atlantic and North Pacific. GO5.0 is too fresh in most  
7 of the Atlantic, except in the subpolar gyre, where the salty bias of  $0.5\text{-}1.0$  PSU is co-  
8 located with the warm bias mentioned above. It is worth noting that the largest surface  
9 errors occur at high latitudes, and therefore are perhaps unduly emphasised in the  
10 cylindrical projection used in Figure 1. Generally the regions where there is a surface  
11 warm bias (especially in the Southern Ocean and the Pacific) correspond to a positive  
12 surface salinity error: these may result from forcing errors, but are not inconsistent  
13 with an excessive evaporation from surface waters with a warm bias. The exception is  
14 in the Arctic, where there is a positive surface salinity error of up to 2 psu, due to  
15 excessive autumn sea ice formation on the Siberian shelves and in the Beaufort Sea  
16 (Fig 1); the reason for this error is unclear, but is most likely to be related to the air  
17 temperature and radiative biases in the atmospheric forcing (Barnier et al., 2006). The  
18 sea ice biases are discussed further in the section 5.1.4.

19

20 Figure 2 shows the annual minimum and maximum mixed-layer depth (MLD)  
21 calculated for years 1996-2005, corresponding to the shallowest depth of the mixed  
22 layer in the local hemispheric summer and the deepest mixed layer in the local  
23 hemispheric winter, alongside the same quantity from the de Boyer Montégut et al  
24 (2004) climatology. The model mixed-layer depth is calculated from 5-day data using  
25 the same criterion of a  $0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  change relative to the surface value as used in the  
26 climatology. The ocean data points masked by hatching in the model output (panels a  
27 and c) and by white in the climatology (panels b and d) represent the locations where  
28 a full annual cycle of observations was not available as a result of sea ice coverage.  
29 The GO5.0 model realistically reproduces the spatial patterns of both summer and  
30 winter surface mixing: in particular, the regions of wintertime dense water formation  
31 in the North Atlantic and Nordic Seas correspond quite closely to those in the  
32 observations, as do the near-zonal bands of deep turbulent mixing in the Southern  
33 Ocean (Figs 2c, d). There is a consistent bias, however, to an unrealistically shallow

1 summer mixed layer over the whole ocean, with maximum values of 30-50 metres in  
2 the tropics and Southern Ocean in the model, contrasting with a range of 50-70 metres  
3 in the same regions in the climatology (Figs 2a, b). This is consistent with the warm  
4 surface bias in the same regions seen in Figure 1. Also, the winter mixing in the dense  
5 water formation regions in the North Atlantic is much deeper than in the climatology,  
6 reaching to over 1000 metres in many instances. The patch of very deep mixing  
7 extending from the Weddell Sea eastwards to 50°E is also seen in HadGEM1 and  
8 HiGEM: in GO5.0 this feature develops after year 20 of the integration, but it does  
9 not occur in GO1. It seems to be associated with a gradual modification of the  
10 watermasses in the region and the development of the extensive polynya visible in  
11 Figure 6(c), which together precondition for the deep mixing, but the exact  
12 mechanisms are yet unclear. The simulated deep winter mixed layer in the eastern  
13 Weddell Sea in the 1990s and 2000s is likely to be unrealistic, although the limited  
14 winter data in the area (e.g., Sirevaag et al., 2010) prevents us from making any  
15 definitive conclusion. From the Conductivity Temperature Depth (CTD) data  
16 collected using Weddell seals, Årthun et al. (2013) surmised that the maximum MLD  
17 in the region of the Antarctic Bottom Water formation in the Southern Weddell Sea is  
18 in excess of 500 m, which is consistent with the model results (Fig 2c).

19

20

21 The surface biases of the model when forced by prescribed surface boundary  
22 conditions are to a large degree constrained by the forcing fields, but the subsurface  
23 drifts are a stronger test of the model, revealing discrepancies in diapycnal mixing and  
24 advection pathways. Figure 3 shows the zonal mean temperature and salinity  
25 anomalies in GO5.0 averaged from 1996 to 2005, with reference to the EN3  
26 climatology. The black contours show the zonal mean potential density  $\sigma_0$ , with a 0.5  
27  $\text{kg m}^3$  contour interval, to illustrate the position of the biases with respect to the main  
28 pycnocline. The largest biases are in the top 700 metres of the water column: these  
29 include a cold subsurface bias ( $\sim 2^\circ\text{C}$ ) around Antarctica; a warm salty bias ( $\sim 1.5^\circ\text{C}$   
30 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  
31 about 200m; cold, fresh biases in the main thermocline (45°S-45°N, with maximum  
32 discrepancies of  $1^\circ\text{C}$  and 0.5 psu); and a warm salty bias in the northern hemisphere  
33 subpolar gyre regions ( $\sim 1^\circ\text{C}$ , 0.25 psu).

1

## 2 5.1.2 Atlantic Meridional Overturning

3

4 Figure 4(a) shows a time series of the North Atlantic overturning strength at 26°N for  
5 the full 30-year integration of GO5.0, alongside that in GO1. Also shown is the  
6 potential density averaged over the upper 200 m in the central Labrador Sea (55°-  
7 58°N, 48°-50°W). Figure 4(b) illustrates the meridional overturning streamfunction in  
8 years 1996 to 2005 in both models. In both GO1 and GO5.0 the overturning  
9 circulation reaches a maximum in the second decade of the integration, reducing by 2-  
10 3 Sv by year 30; the run length is however not sufficient to determine whether the  
11 circulation has settled at that stage. In both runs both the MOC and the Labrador Sea  
12 density increase over the first decade and decrease later in the second decade,  
13 consistent with the hypothesis that the Labrador Sea surface density controls the  
14 overturning, although a longer time series would be required to establish a statistically  
15 robust correlation. The overturning strength at 26°N in the final decade is between 21  
16 and 22 Sv, which is significantly stronger than the value of  $18.5 \pm 1$  Sv observed  
17 between 2004 and 2008 by the RAPID WATCH/MOCHA array (McCarthy et al  
18 2012). Interestingly, the downward trend we see in the last decade of the model runs  
19 ( $\sim 2$ -3 Sv/decade) is similar to that recently reported from the RAPID array (Smeed et  
20 al 2013). The modelled annual means for two years overlapping the observations,  
21 namely 2004 (19 Sv) and 2005 (20 Sv) match well with the observations (17.8 Sv and  
22 20.1 Sv respectively), and the strength of the modelled AMOC over the latter decade  
23 of the run is entirely plausible, particularly since recent studies indicate that a  
24 substantial fraction of the variability in the strength of the AMOC originates from  
25 surface forcing (Roberts et al 2013, Blaker et al 2013). We cannot expect the model to  
26 simulate the measured AMOC perfectly, since a significant fraction of the AMOC  
27 variability is inherently unpredictable, arising as a consequence of baroclinic wave  
28 field and mesoscale eddy field (Hirschi et al 2013, Thomas and Zhai, 2013). Hirschi  
29 et al., (2013), performed forced  $1/4^\circ$  simulations similar to those described in this  
30 paper with different initial conditions: in the simulations of Hirschi et al about 70% of  
31 the AMOC variability is determined by the surface forcing, and 30% from intrinsic  
32 ocean variability. We expect this to be an underestimate, since our model  
33 configuration is eddy permitting, rather than eddy-resolving. The question of the

1 physical processes contributing to AMOC variability in models and observations (for  
2 example, Ekman transport, advection of density anomalies and Rossby waves) is  
3 complex and has been explored in a number of recent papers (e.g. Sinha et al., 2013,  
4 Roberts et al., 2013, Robson et al., 2014), but is beyond the scope of the current  
5 paper. We note that the modelled annual means quoted here are Jan-Dec, whilst the  
6 observational array figures are April-March.

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

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



1 feedback mechanism by reducing the surface salinity in the Labrador Sea. This  
2 improvement, however, comes at the expense of realistic interannual variability in the  
3 global climate.

### 4 5 5.1.3 Critical sill and strait transports

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

20  
21 The Indonesian Throughflow is too strong in both GO1 and GO5.0, which may be due  
22 to insufficient enhancement of the tidal mixing in this region (Koch-Larrouy et al.,  
23 2008).

24  
25 Comparing the model-derived and observation-based estimates of the Arctic-Atlantic  
26 exchanges across the Greenland-Scotland Ridge, through Fram and Davis Straits, and  
27 through the Barents Sea shows that in both 30-yr model runs the volume transports  
28 are within 10-20% of the long-term mean observed values and within the range of the  
29 observational uncertainties, except for the Denmark Strait overflow where the model  
30 estimates are 33% (GO1) and 45% (GO5.0) higher than the observational estimate  
31 (Table 3). Although the simulated net outflow from the Arctic Ocean, of 4.8 Sv in  
32 GO1 and 4.6 Sv in GO5.0, is very close to the observed value of 4.6 Sv, the model  
33 shows a different partitioning of the exports west and east of Greenland: the simulated

1 flow through the Canadian Archipelago is larger than the export through Fram Strait,  
2 which is opposite to the observations. The bias is stronger in summer than in winter  
3 and is due to excessive Ekman convergence in the Beaufort Sea; this in its turn is  
4 caused by the summer sea ice extent being too low (see next section). The simulated  
5 Pacific inflow in Bering Strait is higher than in the observations, even considering the  
6 recent update in the latter estimate (Woodgate et al., 2012). The simulated northward  
7 ocean velocities in the strait are about 35% higher than those observed at the long-  
8 term moorings (Clement Kinney et al, 2014). Aagaard et al (2006) suggested that the  
9 flow through the Bering Strait is partly driven by the local wind and partly by the  
10 steric height difference between the Bering and Chukchi Seas. The latter is caused by  
11 the fresher, warmer waters been present to the south of the strait and colder, more  
12 saline waters to the north of the strait (Aagaard et al., 2006). In the model the positive  
13 bias in salinity in the Chukchi Sea and the Eastern Arctic (Fig 1b) increases the steric  
14 height gradient from the North Pacific to the Arctic Ocean, increasing the northward  
15 flow through the Bering Strait. The stronger Pacific inflow brings extra heat in the  
16 Arctic Ocean, which may contribute to the excessive sea ice melting.

17

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

25

26 It should be noted that the observational estimates of the exchange transports into and  
27 out of the Arctic should be treated with caution. First, in all straits, except for the  
28 moorings in Bering Strait, the hydrographic section in Fram Strait and the one in the  
29 Barents Sea between Norway and the Bjørnøya (Barents Sea Opening), uninterrupted  
30 records from current meter moorings are no longer than two years. This aliases  
31 interannual variations and introduces large uncertainties in the observational  
32 transports estimates. Secondly, the instruments were not positioned in the top 50 m or  
33 on shallow shelves, in order to prevent the moorings being damaged by sea ice keels.

1 Lastly, the distances between the moorings were too great to resolve mesoscale  
2 variability of the flows and in Bering Strait the transports were derived from velocity  
3 measurements obtained from three separate moorings (e.g., Woodgate et al., 2012).  
4 All this introduces spatial aliasing in the interpolating procedures and uncertainties in  
5 the transports. For detailed discussion of uncertainties in observed transports, please  
6 refer to e.g. Curry et al., 2011 and Olsen et al., 2008. It also should be noted that,  
7 while the model standard deviations in the table represent variability of the transports  
8 on synoptic to interannual timescales, the standard deviations of the observational  
9 estimates include uncertainty inherent in the estimation methods as well as the  
10 variability of the transports, thus rigorous comparison of the variability in the model  
11 and data requires additional analysis, not presented here.

12

#### 13 5.1.4 Sea ice

14

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

1 same period, we conclude that the simulations underestimate long-term mean annual  
2 sea ice thickness by about 22% (0.76 m in the model and 0.89 m for simulations and  
3 data respectively). The annual cycle in the model is in good agreement with the  
4 observations, with the maximum ice thickness (1.06 m and in the model and 1.02 m in  
5 the observations) occurring in the austral summer (DJF) and minimum ice thickness  
6 (0.58 m in the model and 0.60 m in the observations) in the austral winter (JJA). The  
7 simulated sea ice extent trend in the Southern Hemisphere is negative and around  $-58$   
8  $\times 10^3 \text{ km}^2/\text{year}$ , in contrast to the positive trend of  $13 \times 10^3 \text{ km}^2/\text{year}$  in the  
9 observations. The negative trend in Antarctic sea ice extent is a common feature of  
10 global ocean models, and is attributed by Holland and Kwok (2012) to biases in the  
11 surface winds around Antarctica in the forcing data.

12

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

30

31

## 32 **5.2 Comparison of GO1 and GO5.0**

33

1 As shown in Figure 1, GO5.0 shows large-scale surface biases, which are nevertheless  
2 not untypical of comparable forced ocean models and are in part due to forcing errors.  
3 It is worth noting that the impact on the coupled model of the vertical mixing changes  
4 is expected to be greater. We shall show in this section that, while the surface biases  
5 in the GO1 configuration are similar in most regions of the ocean to those already  
6 described in GO5.0, there are significant improvements in the subsurface drifts and  
7 the representation of the annual cycle of surface temperature in GO5.0, both of which  
8 are likely to lead to improvements in climate simulations.

9

### 10 5.2.1 Subsurface drifts

11

12 Figure 7 shows the global zonal mean temperature and salinity drifts of GO1 and  
13 GO5.0, defined as the difference between from the respective mean for each year and  
14 the corresponding mean for the first year of integration, from the surface to a depth of  
15 1,000 m. We note that the drifts in both models are an order of magnitude larger than  
16 the comparable trends in the EN3 climatology (not shown). The temperature field in  
17 the upper 300 metres reaches a quasi-equilibrium state after about five years of  
18 integration. Both models warm in the above depth range, with a maximum at about  
19 120 metres depth: in GO1 the maximum is up to 0.6°C, while in GO5.0 the warming  
20 at the same depth only reaches 0.3°C. Below 300 m both models cool, with a similar  
21 maximum rate at 600 m of around -0.12°C per decade. The salinity, by contrast, does  
22 not equilibrate, even in the upper ocean, and both GO1 and GO5.0 freshen globally,  
23 with a maximum rate at 200 m of 0.036 psu/decade in the former and 0.025  
24 psu/decade in the latter. We note that the warm error in GO5.0 is mainly in the  
25 northwest Atlantic and Southern Ocean, while this model generally is too fresh at the  
26 surface, with the exception of the Arctic (where there is a large salty surface bias of 1-  
27 2 psu), and the Southern Ocean. There is also interannual variability in the globally  
28 averaged surface temperature and salinity in the upper 200 metres: this is not well  
29 correlated with that of the surface variability, so is not likely to be a direct signature  
30 of the ENSO cycle.

31

32 It is interesting to relate the drifts in GO1 and GO5.0 to those over the first thirty  
33 years of HadGEM1 (Johns et al, 2006) and in CHIME and HadCM3 (Megann et al.,

1 2010). All these except for CHIME (which uses a hybrid isopycnic-coordinate ocean,  
2 in contrast to the depth-coordinate ocean model in the other three) have a pronounced  
3 freshening in the upper ocean that steadily penetrates into the interior, and this is  
4 likely to be a consequence of the numerical diapycnal mixing typical of this model  
5 type (Griffies et al., 2000). HadCM3 and HadGEM1 (which shared an ocean model,  
6 albeit on a slightly different grid) similarly had a negative surface temperature error  
7 over most of the ocean, offset in HadCM3 by a warm bias in the Southern Ocean,  
8 while CHIME had a warm surface error, consistent with a reduced drawdown of heat  
9 by numerical mixing.

### 10 11 5.2.2 Seasonal cycle of surface temperature and mixed layer depth

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

33

1 To illustrate the latitude dependence of the large-scale seasonal biases in GO1 and  
2 GO5.0, Figure 9 shows latitude-time plots of the zonally averaged surface  
3 temperature bias (referred to the Reynolds et al climatology) and MLD error (referred  
4 to the de Boyer Montegut et al (2004) data) in GO1 and GO5.0. This shows more  
5 clearly that the boreal summer warm bias in the tropics is reduced in GO5.0, as is also  
6 the large summer cold bias in the northern subtropics. As we have already noted,  
7 GO5.0 shows systematic biases in both the minimum and maximum MLD (Figure 2):  
8 specifically, in both hemispheres winter mixed layers are generally too deep, while  
9 summer mixed layers are generally too shallow. The main difference between GO1  
10 and GO5.0 is that mixed layer depths are generally shallower in GO5.0, leading to  
11 increased stratification and hence the warmer summer surface temperatures,  
12 especially in the Southern Ocean, seen in Figure 8(b) and 9(a). The winter MLD  
13 biases, by contrast, are generally reduced in GO5.0.

14

### 15 5.2.3 Surface heat fluxes

16

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

1 wintertime cold bias in subpolar latitudes seen in Figure 9 corresponds to a decreased  
2 heat loss over the Labrador Sea. In the Southern Ocean the increased surface flux  
3 error is larger in GO5.0 relative in GO1 is linked to the intense Weddell Polynya that  
4 develops in in GO5.0.

### 6 **5.3 Attribution of changes**

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

#### 22 5.3.1 Correction to TKE convective mixing

23  
24 The code changes from NEMO version 3.2 to 3.4 have one main physics component:  
25 which is the correction to the treatment of convective mixing in the TKE scheme  
26 described in section 3. As explained in section 3, the expected change to the solution  
27 due to this correction is an improvement in the excessively deep wintertime mixing.  
28 Figure 11 shows that the code upgrade clearly has significant effects on the surface  
29 fields: there are basin-scale changes over almost the whole ocean, with warming of  
30 0.1-0.2°C over the Arctic and the subtropical gyres, but cooling by a similar  
31 magnitude on the equator and coastal upwelling regions, in the Southern Ocean and in  
32 the North Atlantic subpolar gyre. The surface salinity changes are also predominantly  
33 in zonal bands, with the largest increases of 0.2-0.4 psu between 15°S and 30°S and



1 between 15°N and 30°N in the Atlantic and eastern Pacific and a surface freshening  
2 over much of the Southern Ocean. The code change overall, however, has little effect  
3 on the RMS surface errors of the model: the RMS SST error reduces from 0.665 to  
4 0.657°C, while the RMS surface salinity error barely changes from 0.828 to 0.825  
5 psu. There are, however, major subsurface effects resulting from the code upgrade,  
6 particularly from the correction to the treatment of convective mixing in the TKE  
7 scheme: comparing the temperature changes in the upper 700 metres with the mean  
8 isopycnal depths (Figure 12) shows that the upgrade removes much of the warm bias  
9 in the thermocline region between 50°S and 60°N, via a mean cooling of up to 1°C in  
10 the depth range from 50 to 250 metres over these latitudes. Additionally, the drastic  
11 reduction in winter MLD biases between v3.2 and v3.4 observed in Figure 9 can be  
12 directly attributed to the convective mixing correction. The crescent shape of the  
13 temperature bias with respect to the observations (and of the difference between v3.2  
14 and v3.4) in Figure 12 reflects the deepening of the thermocline with increasing  
15 latitude.

16

### 17 5.3.2 TKE parameters

18

19 As a reminder to the reader we note that the main reason for performing this  
20 sensitivity test was to investigate the effect of altering the vertical length scale for the  
21 TKE source term at 1/4° resolution. In the 1° resolution experiments of Calvert and  
22 Siddorn (2013) reducing this length scale in midlatitudes and increasing it in the  
23 tropics significantly alleviated an excessively diffuse mid-latitude thermocline,  
24 reduced summer time mixed layer depths and significantly reduced near-surface  
25 temperature biases at midlatitudes. For consistency with theory, we simultaneously  
26 made a small increase in the wind-wave energy coefficient and the minimum  
27 permitted surface mixing length (controlled by the parameter *rn\_mxl0*) but these are  
28 expected to have a negligible impact.

29

30 The changes to the TKE scheme parameters lead to a consistent surface warming of  
31 between 0.1 and 0.5°C north of 30°N and south of 30°S (Figure 13), while there is a  
32 small cooling of around 0.05°C in the tropics. The pattern of the associated salinity  
33 changes is more complex, with freshening of up to 0.2 psu in the Arctic, in the

1 subpolar North Pacific, and to a lesser extent in the tropics and along the path of the  
2 ACC; and an increase in salinity in the subtropical zones and, interestingly, in the  
3 regions dominated by the Amazon and Congo river plumes. The subtropical surface  
4 warming is balanced by a cooling down to 300 m in these latitudes (Figure 14),  
5 consistent with reduced vertical mixing.

6  
7 We conclude that changing the vertical length scale for the TKE source term has  
8 similar beneficial effects at  $1/4^\circ$  resolution as at  $1^\circ$  resolution and therefore  
9 recommend making this change to the existing scheme.

### 10 11 5.3.3 Bathymetry and background diffusivity and viscosity

12  
13 The rationale for upgrading the bathymetry is that the new bathymetry is based on  
14 higher resolution data (ETOPO1 instead of ETOPO2) and therefore more accurate.  
15 Upgrading the bathymetry (not shown) leads to small changes in the temperature and  
16 salinity in the Arctic, which overall cools by  $0.05^\circ\text{C}$  or less and freshen by around  
17  $0.05$  psu: this is likely to be a consequence of minor modifications to the North  
18 Atlantic sill topography. There are southwards displacements of the path of the  
19 topographically-steered ACC, north of the Kerguelen Plateau and north of the Pacific  
20 Antarctic Ridge at  $140^\circ$ - $150^\circ\text{W}$ , along with a depression of the surface elevation in  
21 the Southern Ocean by 3-5 cm (not shown), which may be associated with alterations  
22 in the path and strength of the northward-flowing Antarctic Bottom Water.

23  
24 The current consensus within the NEMO community is that background diffusivity  
25 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  
26 and since these increases do not degrade the model simulation we argue that these are  
27 appropriate values to employ. Increasing the background vertical diffusivity and  
28 viscosity parameters (*rn\_avt0* and *rn\_avm0* respectively) by 20% (not shown) has a  
29 small effect on the surface fields, relative to the other parameter changes. There is a  
30 general surface freshening in the Arctic by 0.02-0.04 psu, and a hint of warming north  
31 of the ACC, but elsewhere any signal is small compared with the mesoscale noise. In  
32 the upper ocean the explicit representation of mixing processes by the TKE scheme,  
33 dominates the background term, while it is also likely that over much of the ocean the

1 numerical mixing in the model's advection scheme is at least as large as that  
2 associated with the  $1.2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$  explicit background diffusivity, as discussed in  
3 Griffies et al (2000) and Lee et al (2002).

4  
5 We conclude that changing the bathymetry and the background vertical mixing  
6 parameters does not result in significant global effects on the solution. However we  
7 note that the more realistic bathymetry is likely to be important for local circulation,  
8 particularly in the Southern Ocean.

#### 9 10 5.3.4 Geothermal heating, double diffusion, bottom boundary layer and ice model 11 changes

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

26  
27 The rationale for inclusion of the bottom boundary layer scheme was to improve the  
28 representation of overflows, which are known to be a weak point of z-coordinate  
29 models such as NEMO. The bottom boundary layer scheme leads to a surface cooling  
30 of ~0.2°C north of the separated Gulf Stream, while larger modifications of up to 1°C  
31 to the temperature are seen near the sea floor in the region downstream of the  
32 Denmark Strait overflow, but the relationship of the surface signal to the deep

1 temperature signal and associated changes to the deep western boundary current are  
2 complex and require further analysis beyond the scope of the present paper.

3  
4 As explained in Section 4, the ice model changes consisted of salinity dependence for  
5 the freezing point of water, and increases in ice thermal conductivity and salinity, in  
6 line with the latest observations. The addition of salinity dependence is justified on  
7 the grounds that it is more realistic, whilst the changes to the ice salinity and thermal  
8 conductivity are based on the work of Rae et al (2013) where the ice model  
9 parameters were tuned to provide agreement with the observed seasonal cycle of ice  
10 extent. The changes to the ice model (not shown) give a surface cooling (of  $\sim 0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ )  
11 and freshening (of  $\sim 0.1$  psu) in the Southern Ocean and a similar cooling in the  
12 Arctic. The change in salinity is consistent with increased salt export from the polar  
13 regions (both polar regions are associated with net ice export). The increased thermal  
14 conductivity is expected to increase ice formation and overall ice cover and hence to  
15 reduce the annual mean surface water temperature (since at a given location there will  
16 be a longer ice-covered period annually compared to the previous model  
17 configuration, GO1).

### 18 19 5.3.5 Attribution study summary

20  
21 In summary, we find that the largest changes result firstly from the ocean code  
22 version upgrade from NEMO v3.2 to v3.4, due to an improvement in handling of  
23 diffusion of TKE when convection occurs; and secondly from the changes to the  
24 parameters of the TKE scheme: namely, the parameters *rn\_ebb*, *rn\_mxl0* and *nn\_htau*.  
25 These have only a small effect on the surface errors, but in combination the two  
26 changes result in much more substantial improvement of the subsurface temperature  
27 field and the seasonal cycle, as described in Section 5.2.

## 28 29 30 **6 Summary and discussion**

31  
32 We have introduced a new ocean model configuration, GO5.0, developed jointly  
33 between the Met Office and NERC. This is an implementation of version 3.4 of the

1 NEMO model, on the ORCA025 grid, with horizontal resolution of at least  
2  $\frac{1}{4}^\circ$  everywhere, together with the CICE sea ice model on the same grid. The GO5.0  
3 model configuration is derived from the previous GO1 through an upgrade of the  
4 NEMO code version from version 3.2, and a set of parameter changes. A 30-year  
5 integration of GO5.0, run with CORE2 surface forcing from 1976 to 2005, has been  
6 compared with GO1 with the same forcing. We have additionally described a set of  
7 10-year sensitivity studies carried out to attribute changes in the model performance  
8 to individual changes in the model physics.

9

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

18

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

31

32 Comparison of the sea ice in the Northern Hemisphere in GO5.0 and observations  
33 show that the model simulates the annual means, the interannual trend and the

1 seasonal cycle well, although the model underestimates summer sea ice extent. In the  
2 Southern Hemisphere the sea ice extent again compares well with observations,  
3 although the recent rising trend in sea ice cover is not simulated in GO5.0, as is also  
4 the case in several other comparable models. Both GO1 and GO5.0 underestimate sea  
5 ice volume in the Northern Hemisphere with biases larger in summer than in winter.  
6 In the Southern Hemisphere the seasonal cycle of sea ice thickness is simulated  
7 correctly, with a moderate underestimation (of 22% for GO5.0) of the hemisphere-  
8 averaged sea ice thickness.

9

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

19

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

1

2 We conclude that GO5.0 represents a significant improvement in realism over the  
3 previous configuration of the Met Office ocean model, GO1. In particular, the  
4 improvements in the representation of vertical mixing (associated both with the code  
5 upgrade from the NEMO v3.2 and in the modifications to the TKE vertical mixing  
6 scheme in v3.4) lead to a more faithful simulation of the annual cycle in surface  
7 temperature and mixed layer depth, as well as to reduced subsurface drifts in the  
8 depth range 200-400 metres.

9

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

16

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

26

27

## 28 **Appendix A**

29

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

31

32 The model code for NEMO v3.4 is available from the NEMO website ([www.nemo-](http://www.nemo-ocean.eu)  
33 [ocean.eu](http://www.nemo-ocean.eu)). On registering, individuals can access the FORTRAN code using the open

1 source subversion software (<http://subversion.apache.org/>). The revision number of  
2 the base NEMO code (trunk) used for this paper is 3424. In addition we apply some  
3 modifications to the base code (branches). Please contact the authors for more  
4 information on these branches and how to obtain them.

5

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

12

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

16

17

## 18 **Appendix B**

19

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

21

|    |                |   |
|----|----------------|---|
| 22 | key_dynspgflt  | Filtered free surface                                       |
| 23 | key_ldfslp     | Rotate diffusion operators (for tracer isopycnal diffusion) |
| 24 | key_traldf_c2d | Geographically varying lateral tracer diffusion             |
| 25 | key_dynldf_c2d | Geographically varying lateral momentum diffusion           |
| 26 | key_zdftke     | TKE scheme for vertical mixing                              |
| 27 | key_zdftmx     | Include tidal mixing scheme                                 |
| 28 | key_zdfddm     | Include double diffusive mixing parameterisation            |
| 29 | key_trabbl     | Include bottom boundary layer scheme                        |

30

31

## 32 **Appendix C**

33



1 **Ocean and ice namelists for GO5.0**

2

3 These are included as supplementary material.

4

5

6 **Appendix D**

7

8 **Surface Forcing**

9

10 These are the CORE-2 forcing dataset (Large and Yeager 2008), available at

11 <http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds260.2/>.

12

13

14 **Appendix E**

15

16 **Other input files.**

17

18 Other files such as bathymetry, river runoff mask and interpolation weights for the

19 surface forcing are required to run GO5.0. These can be obtained on request from the

20 authors.

21

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2

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9

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. The hatching in  
11 panels a and b correspond to the areas of missing ocean data in panels c and d, where  
12 a full annual cycle of MLD is not observed in the de Boyer Montégut climatology.

13

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

17

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

23

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

27

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

33



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

5

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

9

10 Figure 9 Monthly sea surface temperature (SST) and mixed layer depth (MLD) biases  
11 against Reynolds et al and de Boyer Montégut et al climatology, respectively, in years  
12 1996-2005 as a function of latitude: (a) GO1 SST; (b) GO5.0 SST; (c) GO1 MLD;  
13 and (d) GO5.0 (monthly) MLD.

14

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

19

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

23

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

28

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

33

1 Figure 14 Effect on zonal mean temperature in years 1981-1985 of TKE scheme  
2 changes (from experiment N3.4\_vmix to N3.4\_tke). (a) bias in N3.4\_vmix; (b) bias in  
3 N3.4\_tke; and (c) difference N3.4\_tke minus N3.4\_vmix. The solid contours are of  
4 the zonal mean potential density  $\sigma_0$  in N3.4\_tke, with a spacing of  $0.5 \text{ kg m}^3$ .  
5

| <b>Parameter</b>  | <b>GO1 (where different from GO5)</b>            | <b>GO5</b>                                       |
|---|--|--|
| Horizontal bilaplacian viscosity  | Same as in GO5.0                                 | $-1.5 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$ |
| Isonutral 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<br>id | NEMO<br>vn. | $rn\_avt0$<br>$\times 10^{-5}$ | bathy | $rn\_mxl$<br>0 | $rn\_ebb$ | $nn\_htau$ | $nn\_geoflx$ | Run<br>(years) |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| GO1       | xexoc        | 3.2         | 1.0                            | G70   | n/a            | 60.0      | 1          | 0            | 30             |
| N3.4      | xhiml        | 3.4         | 1.0                            | G70   | 0.001          | 60.0      | 1          | 0            | 30             |
| N3.4_mxl0 | xhimq        | 3.4         | 1.0                            | G70   | 0.01           | 60.0      | 1          | 0            | 30             |
| N3.4_bath | xhimj        | 3.4         | 1.0                            | GO5   | 0.001          | 60.0      | 1          | 0            | 10             |
| N3.4_vmix | xhkfg        | 3.4         | 1.2                            | GO5   | 0.001          | 60.0      | 1          | 0            | 10             |
| N3.4_tke  | xhkfi        | 3.4         | 1.2                            | GO5   | 0.04           | 67.83     | 0          | 0            | 10             |
| N3.4_geo  | xhimt        | 3.4         | 1.2                            | GO5   | 0.04           | 67.83     | 0          | 2            | 10             |
| N3.4_DD   | xhimp        | 3.4         | 1.2                            | GO5   | 0.04           | 67.83     | 0          | 2            | 10             |
| N3.4_ice  | xhimm        | 3.4         | 1.2                            | GO5   | 0.04           | 67.83     | 0          | 2            | 10             |
| N3.4_bbl  | xhimn        | 3.4         | 1.2                            | GO5   | 0.04           | 67.83     | 0          | 2            | 10             |
| GO5.0     | xhimo        | 3.4         | 1.2                            | GO5   | 0.04           | 67.83     | 0          | 2            | 30             |

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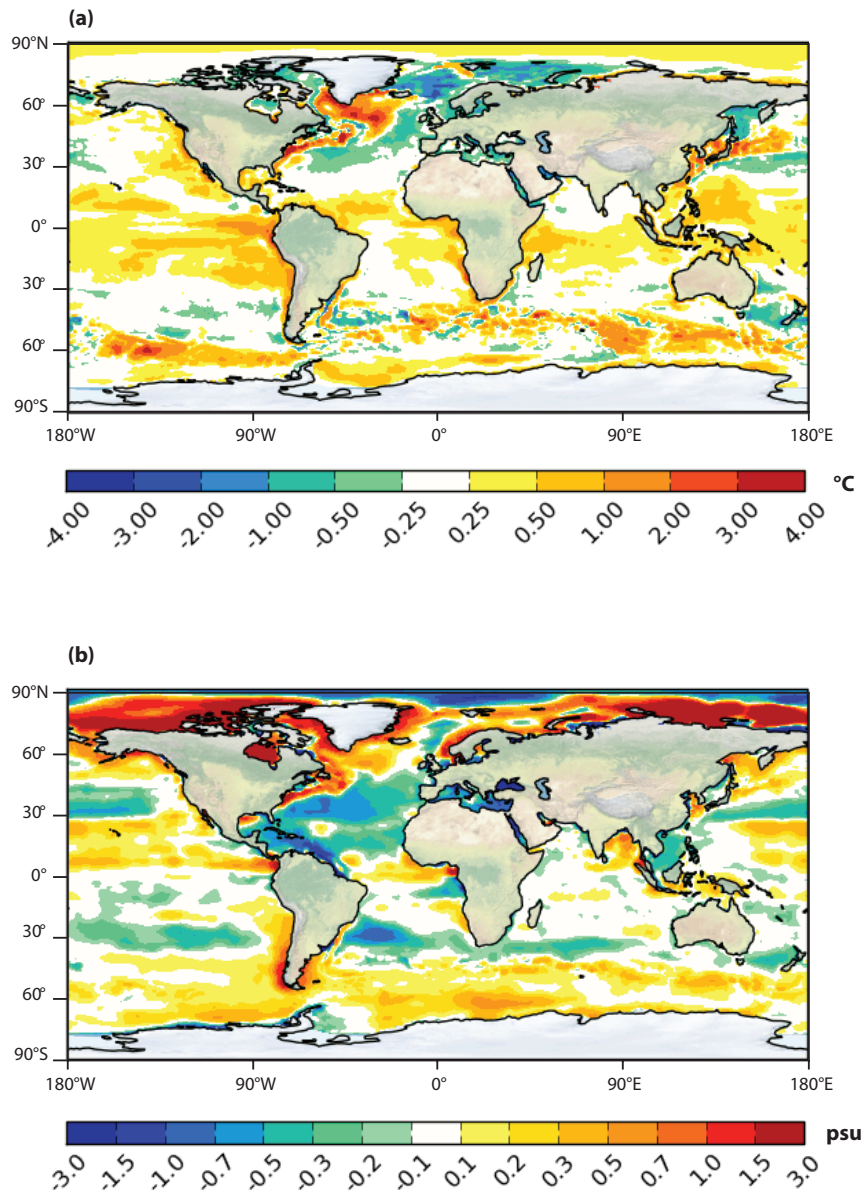
**Table 2** Summary of integrations carried out. The UM job id is a unique identifier for each run within the Met Office Unified Model system, and allows any configuration to be replicated by another user. The parameters listed are:  $rn\_avt0$  (background vertical tracer diffusivity);  $rn\_mxl0$  (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.

| 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>                         | $-15 \pm 4^{(11)}$                              | $-19.7 \pm 5.4$ | $-19.8 \pm 5.5$ |

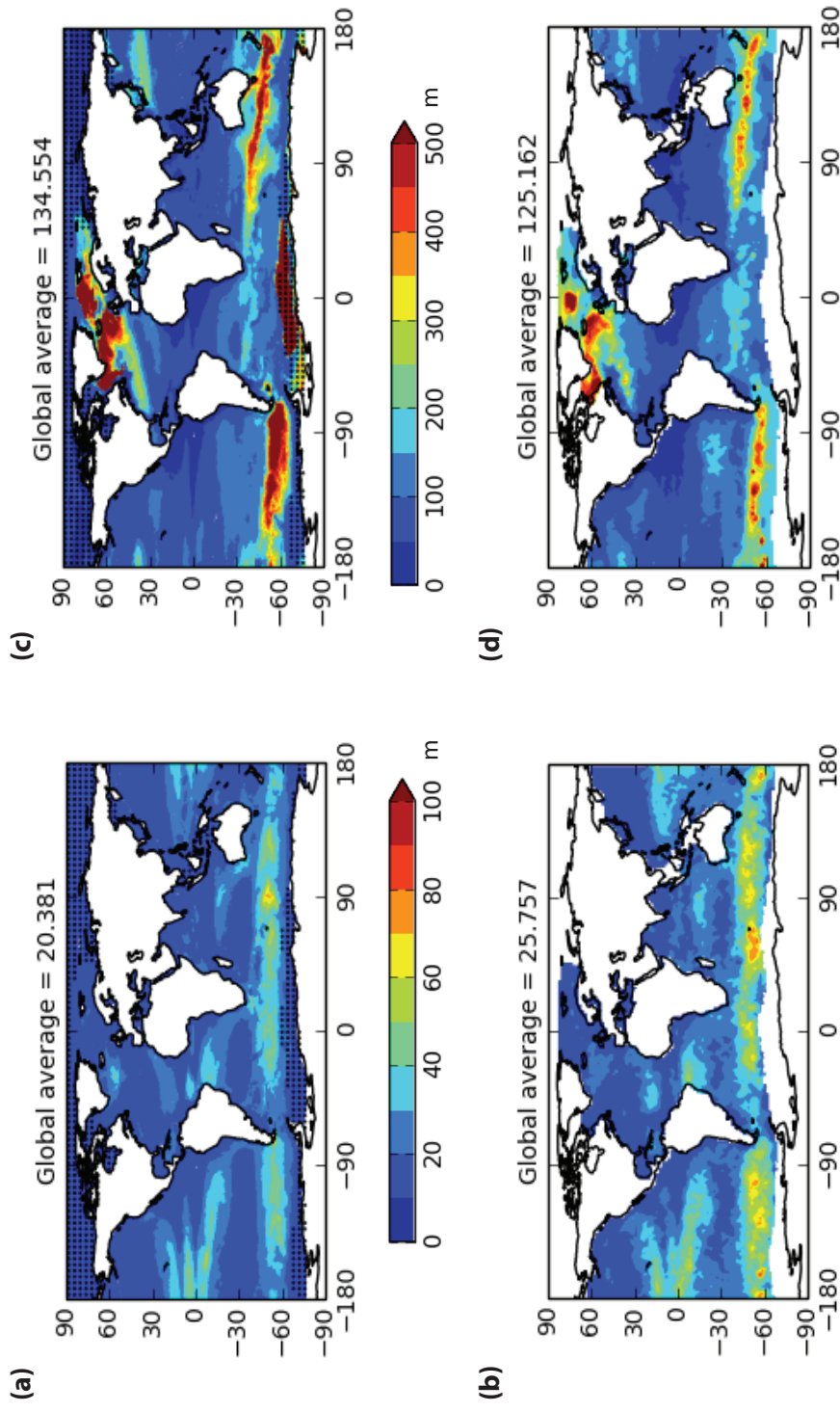
2

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  $\sigma_{\theta} > 27.8$ , <sup>(\*\*)</sup>Atlantic inflow derived as the residual flow after  
12 subtracting the southward transport of waters with  $\sigma_{\theta} > 27.8$ , <sup>(\*\*\*)</sup>including transports on  
13 the West Greenland Shelf.

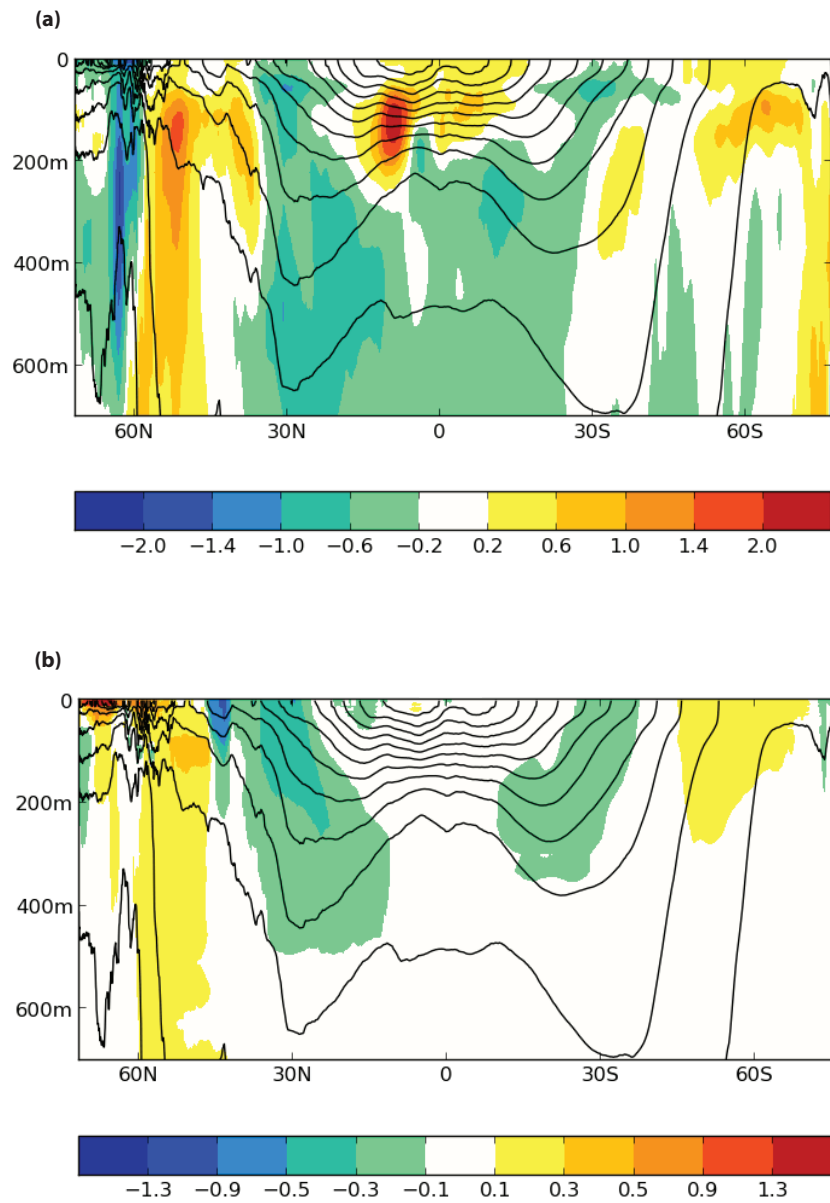
14



**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.

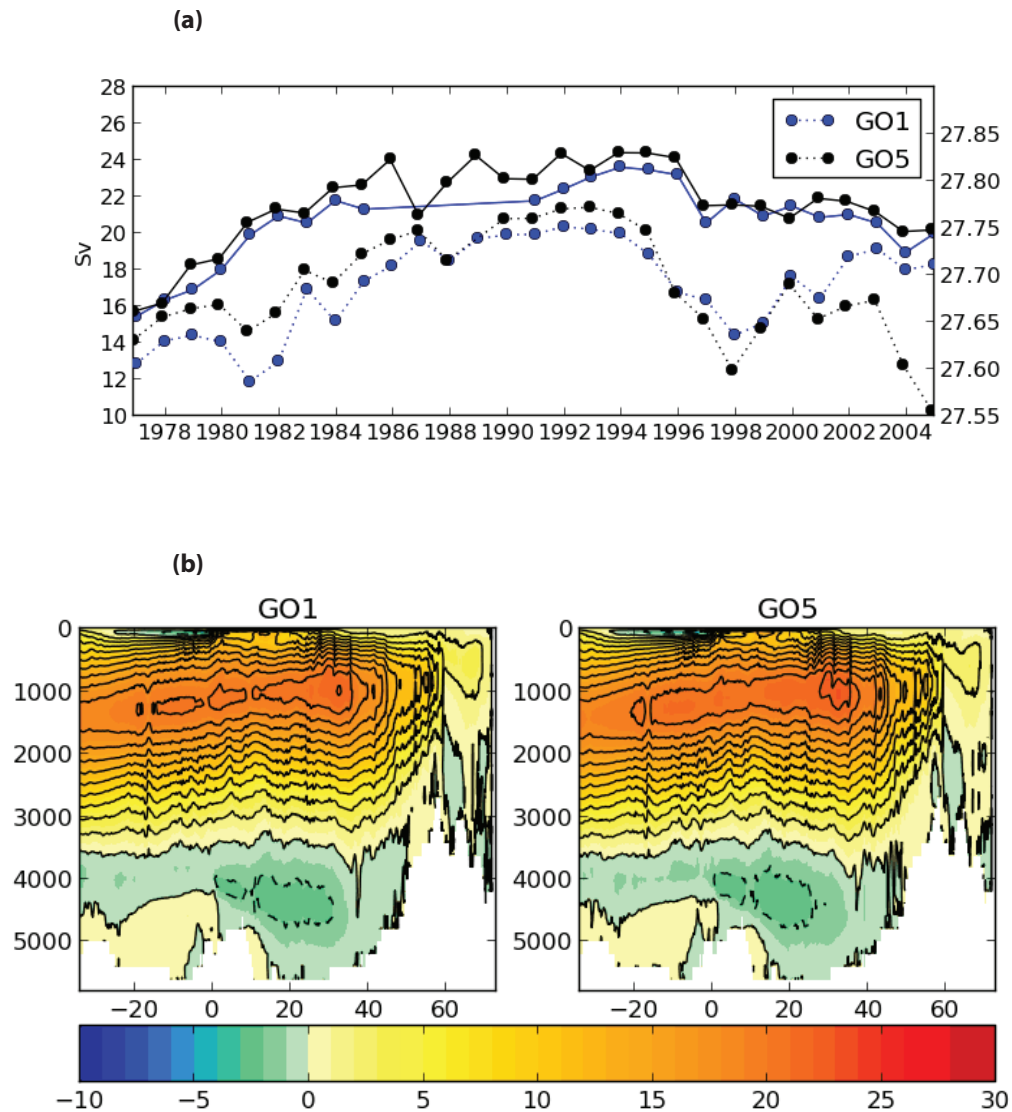


**Figure 2** Seasonal cycle of mixed-layer depth (MLD) in GO5.0: (a) minimum monthly MLD in years 1996-2005; (b) minimum monthly MLD in the deBoyet Montégut et al. climatology; (c) maximum monthly MLD in years 1996-2005; and (d) maximum monthly MLD in the deBoyet Montégut et al. climatology. The hatching in panels a and b correspond to the areas of missing ocean data in panels c and d, where a full annual cycle of MLD is not observed in the deBoyet Montégut climatology.

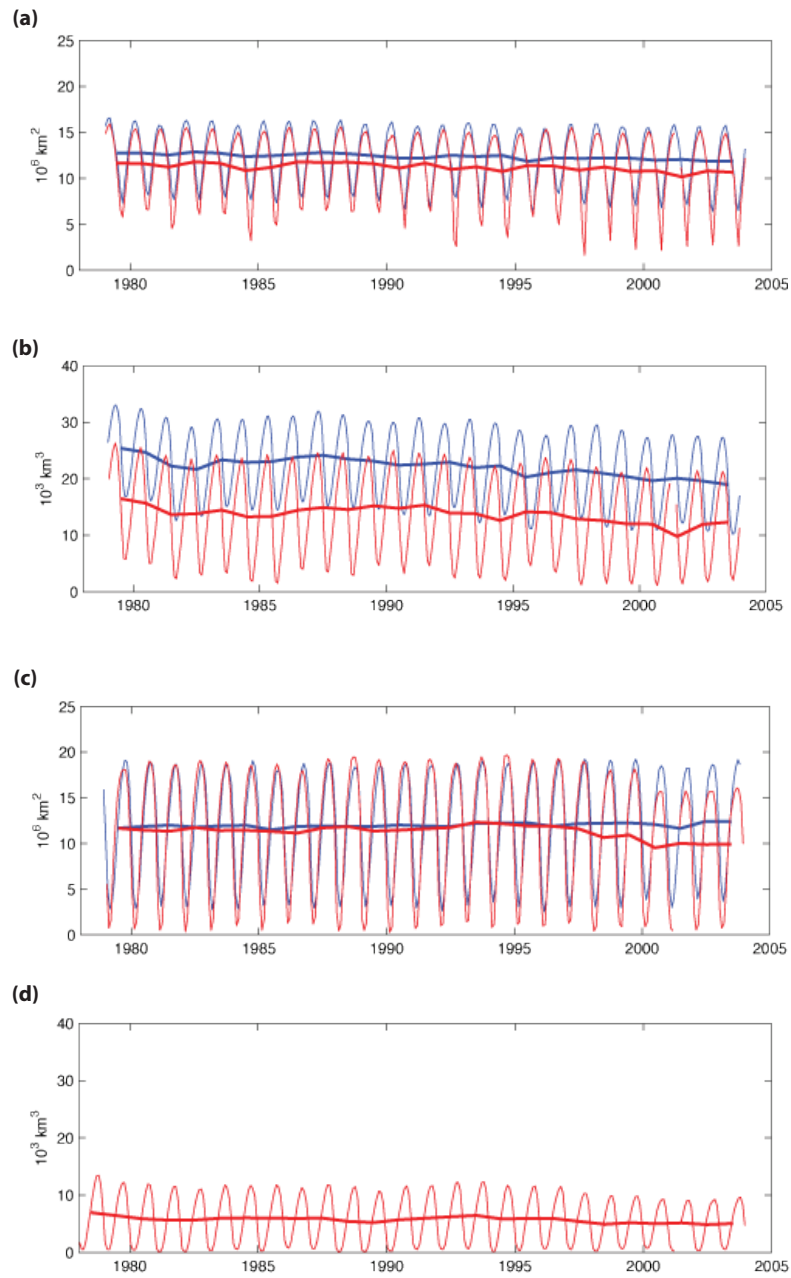


**Figure 3.** Zonal mean (a) temperature and (b) salinity biases in years 1996-2005 of GO5.0. The solid contours are of the zonal mean potential density  $\sigma_0$ , with a spacing of  $0.5 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ .

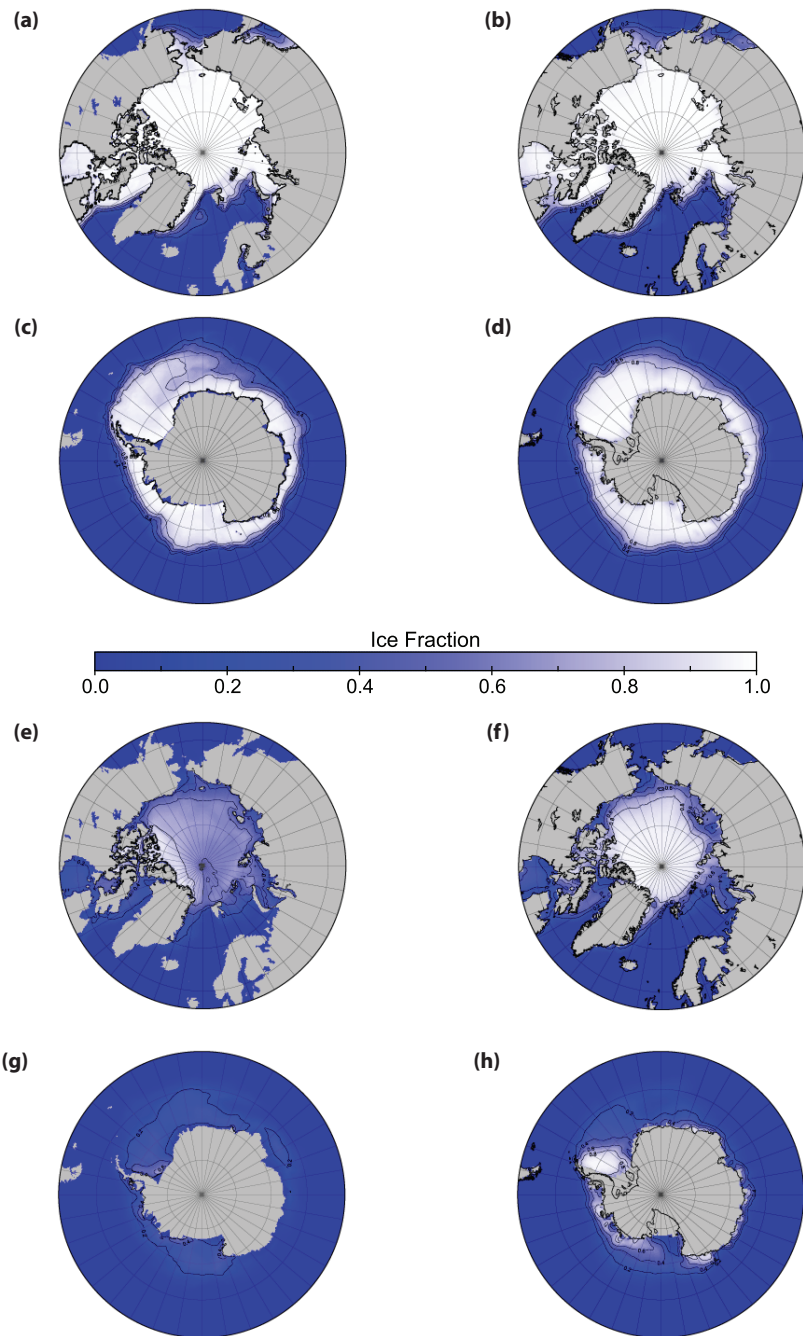




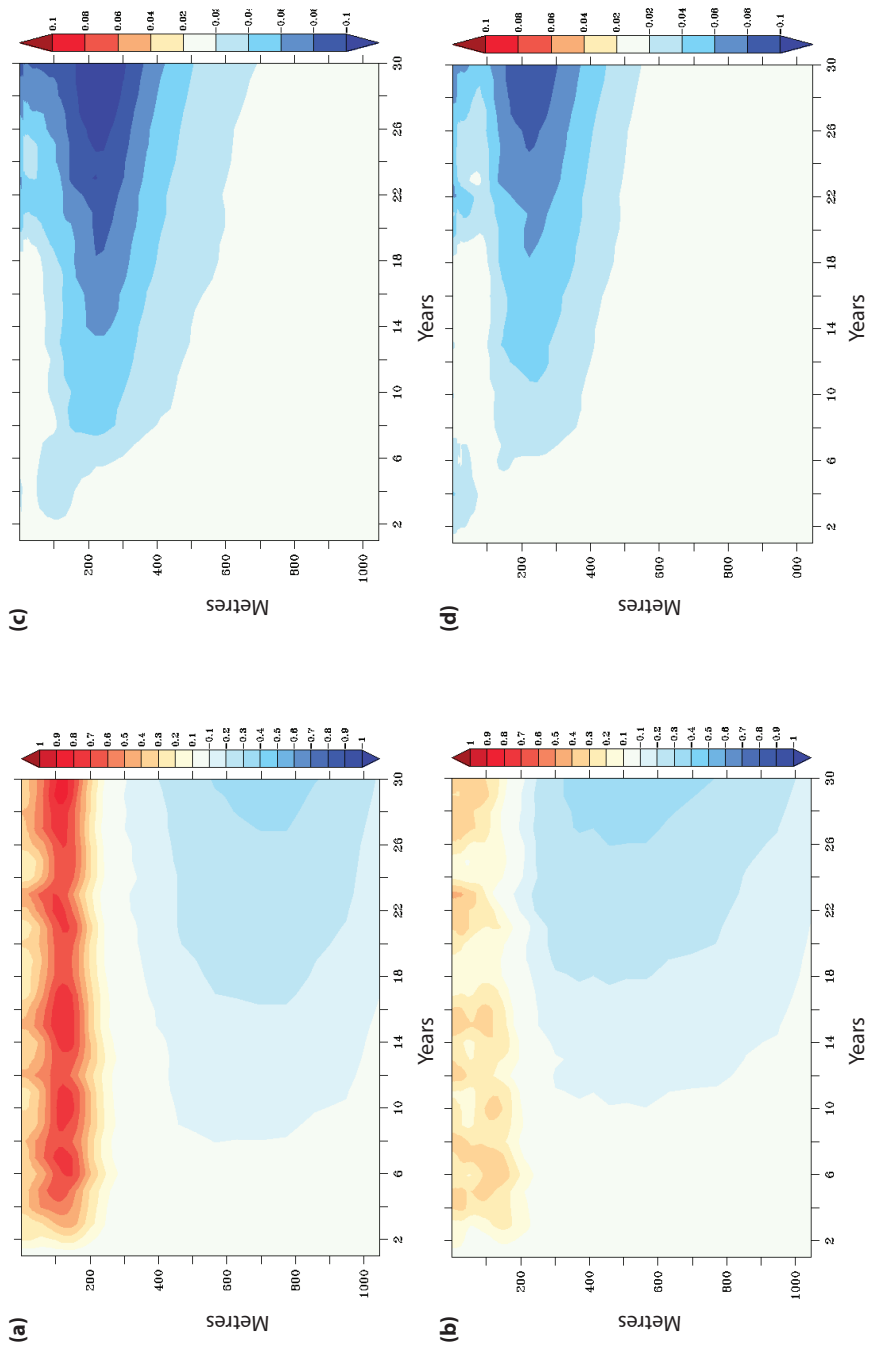
**Figure 4.** (a) Time series of the annual mean Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) at 26°N in years 1996-2005 of GO1 and GO5.0, with the potential density  $\sigma_0$  in the upper 200 metres in the central Labrador Sea; and (b) mean Atlantic overturning streamfunction in GO1 (left)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



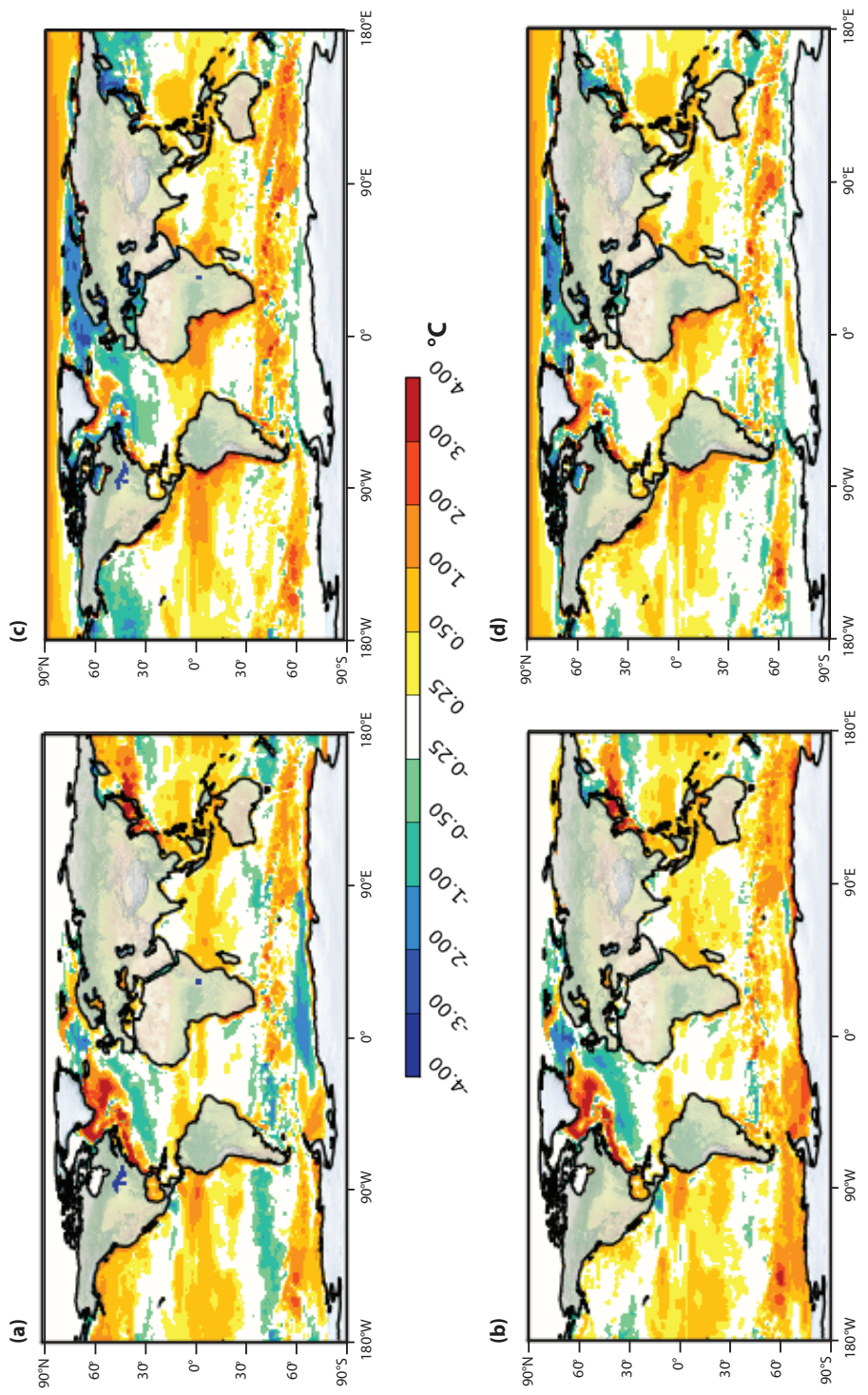
**Figure 5** Time series of integrated sea ice properties in GO5.0 (red) and from observational estimates (blue): (a) Arctic mean ice extent; (b) Arctic mean ice volume; (c) Antarctic mean ice extent; and (d) Antarctic mean ice volume.



**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.

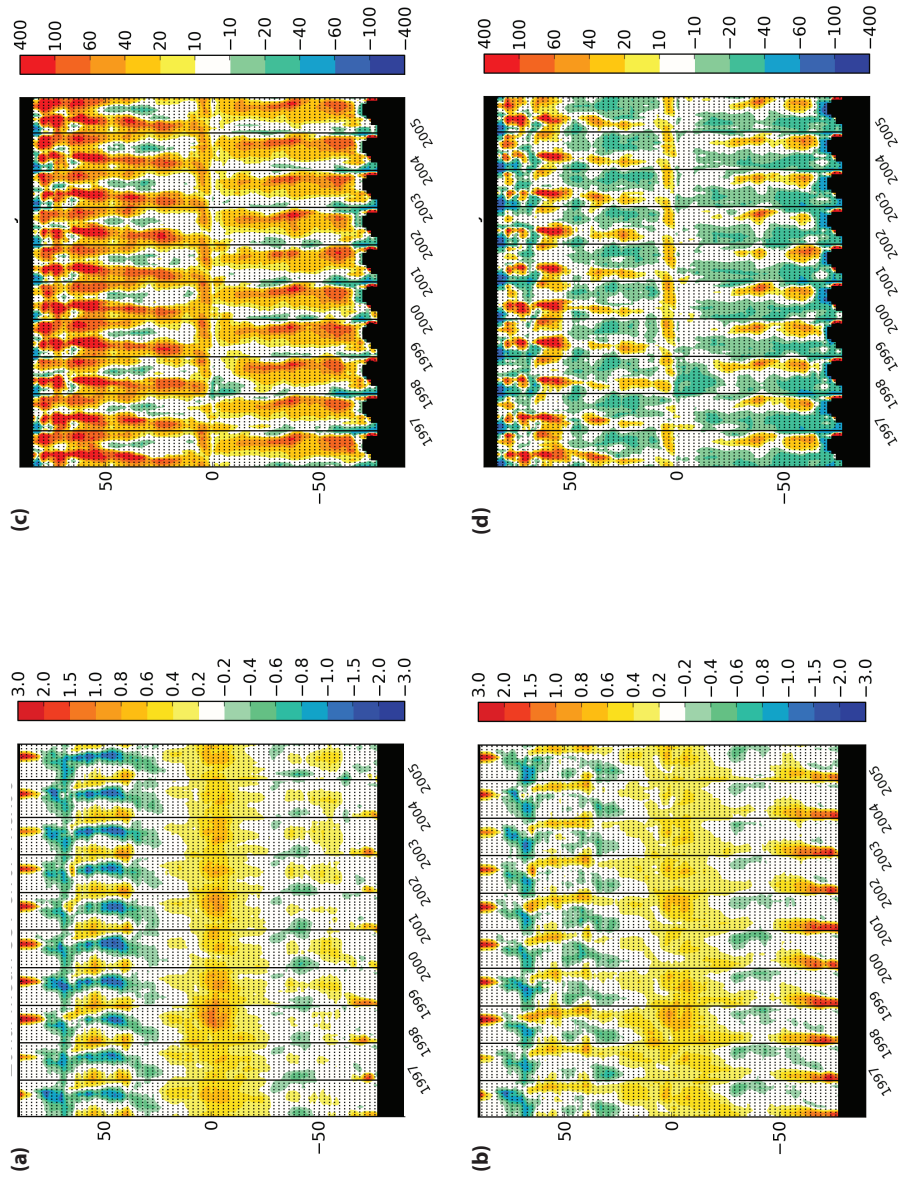


**Figure 7.** Subsurface drifts, defined as the difference of the horizontally-averaged annual mean in any year from that in the first year of integration, as a function of depth: (a) GO1 temperature drift; (b) GO5.0 temperature drift; (c) GO1 salinity drift; and (d) GO5.0 salinity drift.

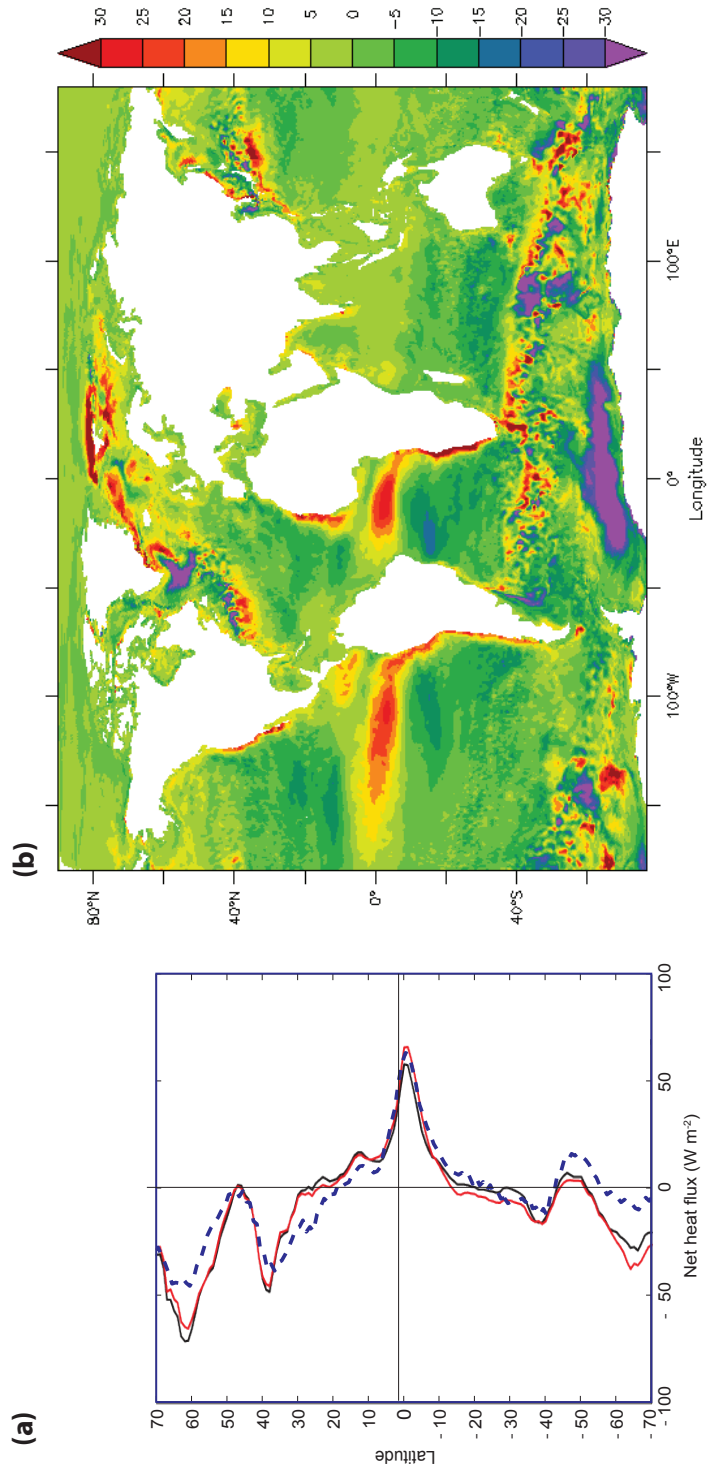


**Figure 8.** Seasonal sea surface temperature (SST) biases against Reynolds/Pathfinder climatology: boreal winter (DJF) biases in (a) G01 and (b) G05.0; and boreal summer (JJA) biases in (c) G01 and (d) G05.0.

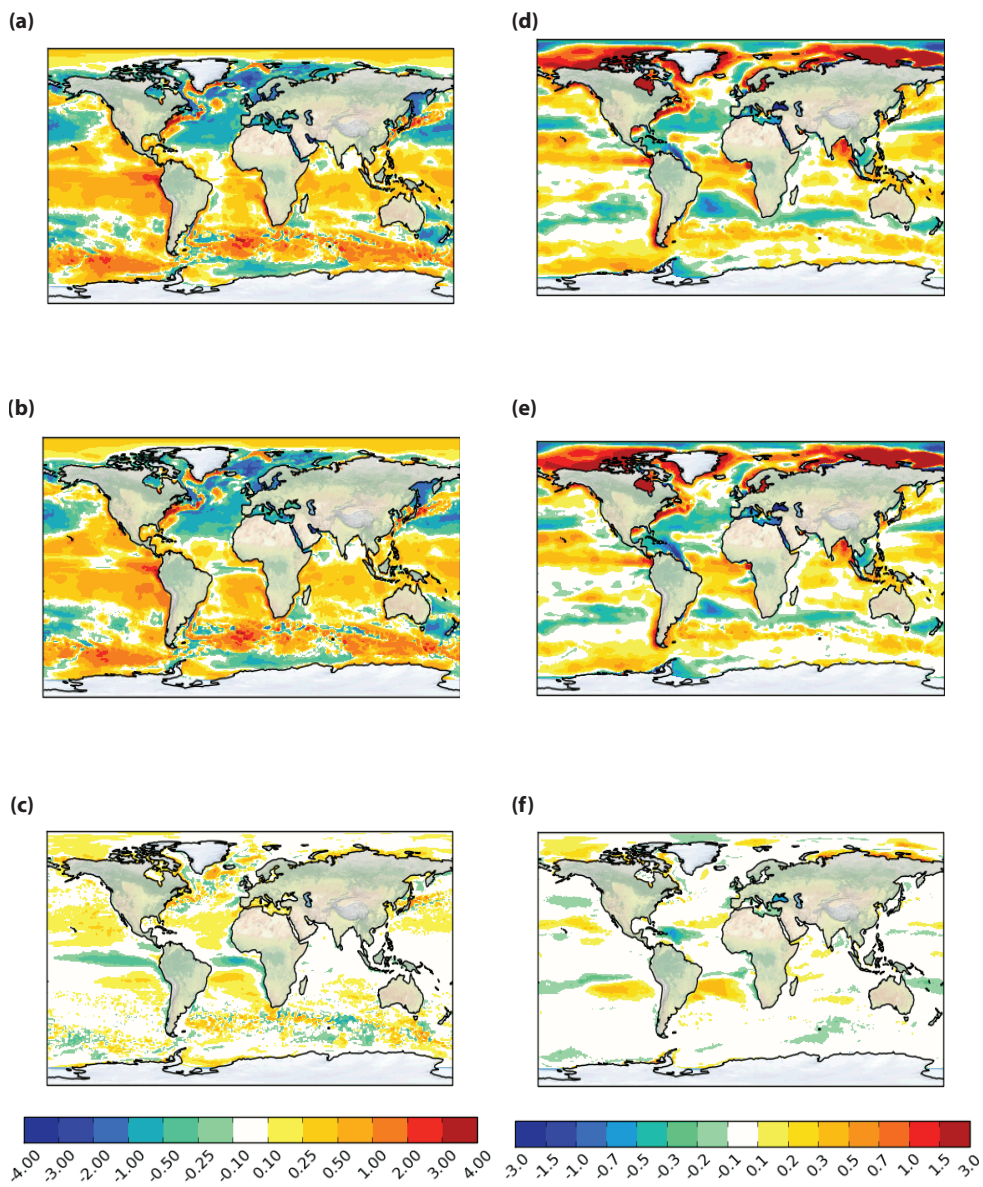




**Figure 9** Monthly sea surface temperature (SST) and mixed layer depth (MLD) biases against Reynolds et al and Boyet Montégut et al climatology, respectively, in years 1996-2005 as a function of latitude: (a) GO1 SST; (b) GO5.0 SST; (c) GO1 MLD; and (d) GO5.0 (monthly) MLD.

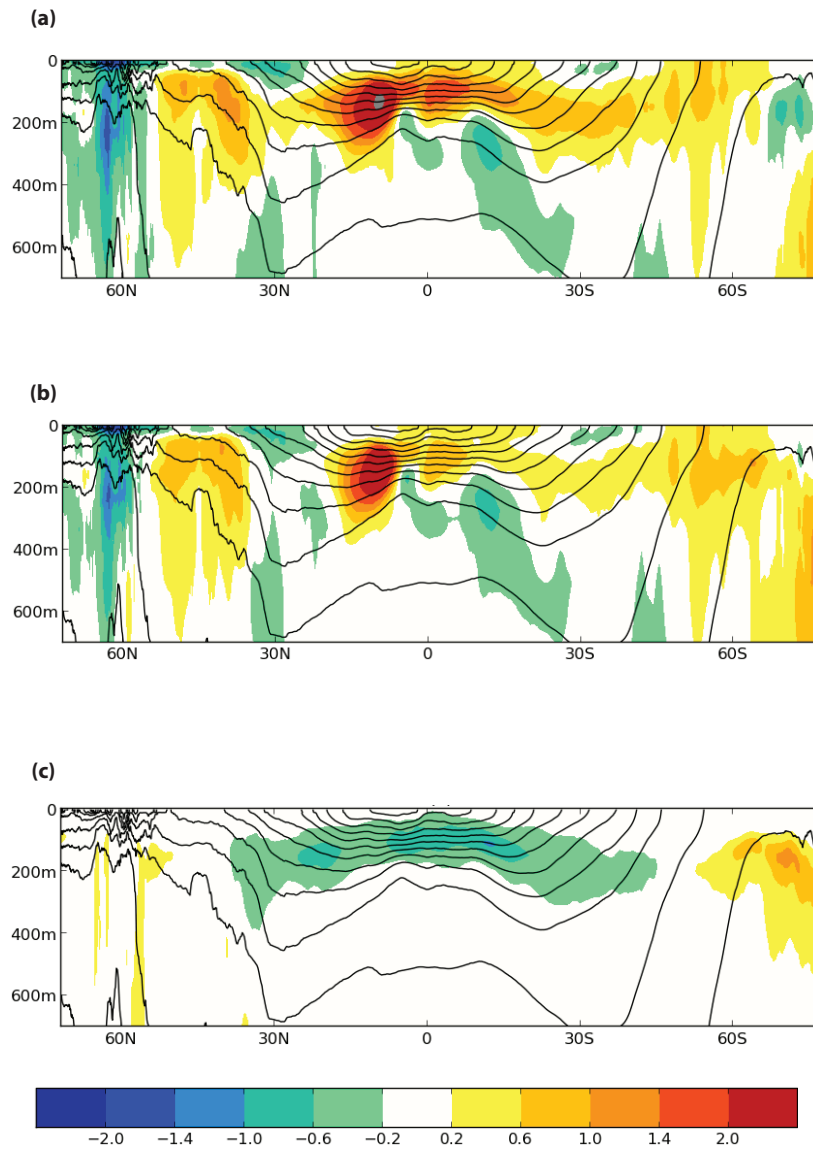


**Figure 10.** (a) Zonal mean net air-sea heat flux in GO1 (black); GO5.0 (red) and CORE2 data (dashed blue line) in years 1996-2005; and (b) surface net downward heat flux difference GO5.0 minus GO1.

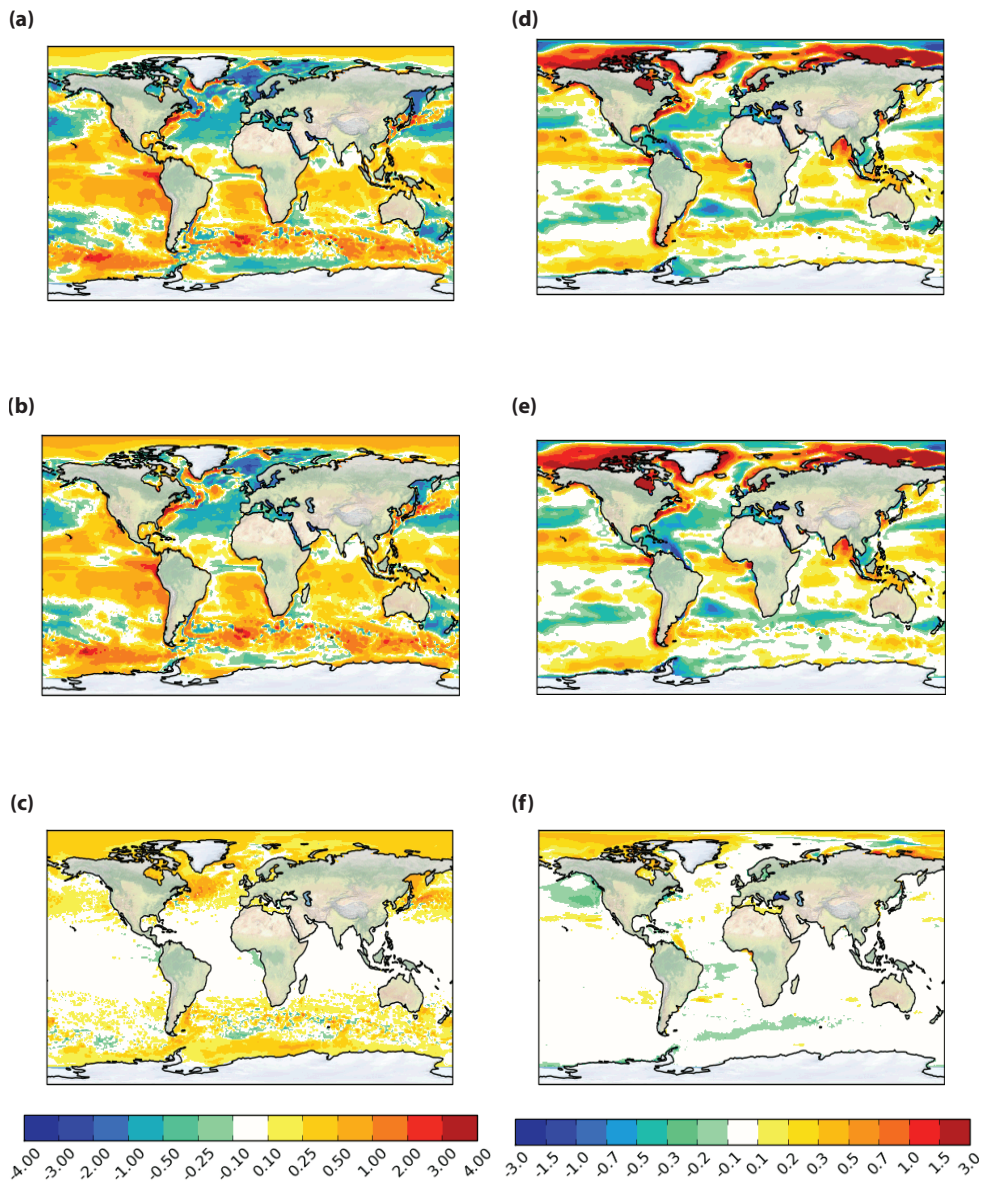


**Figure 11** Effect on sea surface fields in years 1981-1985 of ocean code upgrade from v3.2 (GO1) to v3.4 (N3.4): (a) GO1 SST bias; (b) N3.4 SST bias; (c) N3.4 minus GO1 SST; (d) GO1 SSS bias; (e) N3.4 SSS bias; and (f) N3.4 minus GO1 SSS.

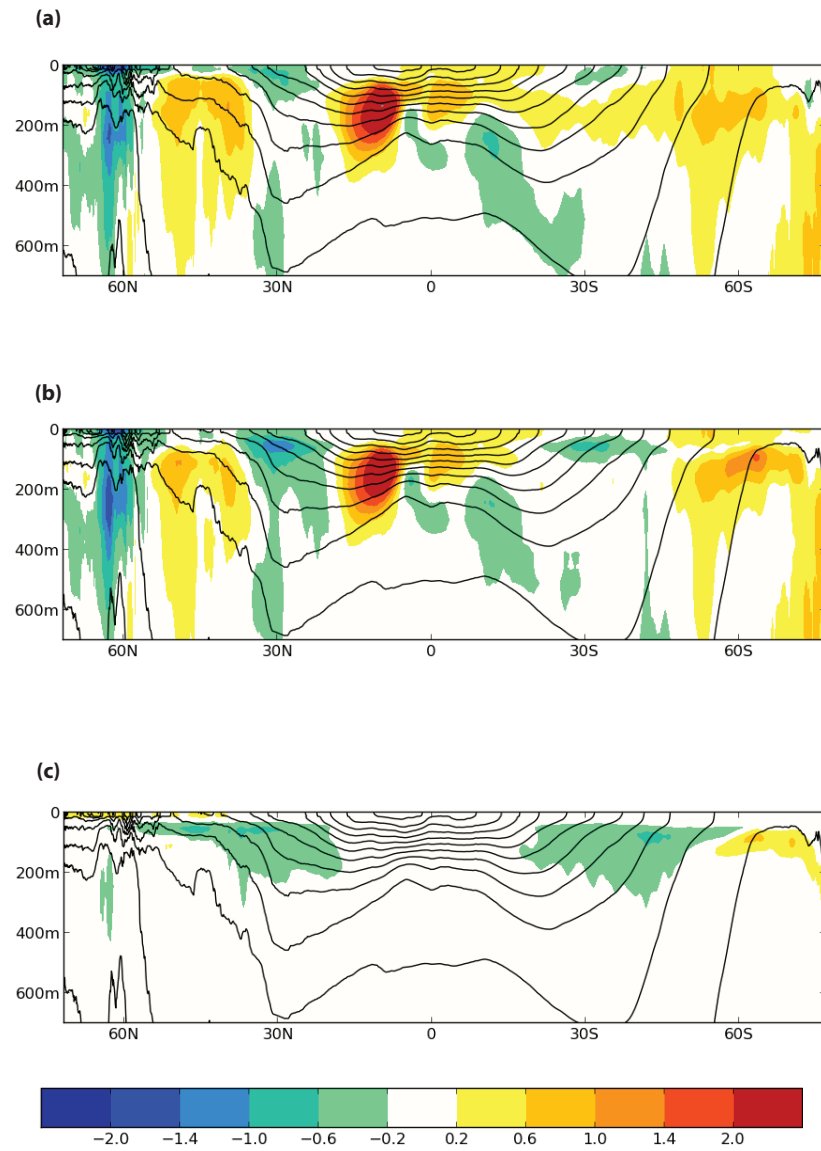




**Figure 12.** Effect on zonal mean temperature in years 1981-1985 of code upgrade from NEMO v3.2 (GO1) and v3.4 (experiment N3.4) in years 1981-1985: (a) bias in GO1; (b) bias in N3.4; and (c) difference N3.4 minus GO1. The black contours are of the mean isopycnals of the potential density  $\sigma_0$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