

Development of Mechanistic Models Mechanistic Model for Smålandsfarvandet Hydrodynamic model documentation

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Development of Mechanistic Models

Mechanistic Model for Smålandsfarvandet

Hydrodynamic model documentation

Prepared forDanish EPA (Miljøstyrelsen, Fyn)Represented byMr. Harley Bundgaard Madsen, Head of Section



Eelgrass in Kertinge Nor Photo: Peter Bondo Christensen

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CONTENTS

1	Executive Summary	4
2	Introduction	6
3	Modelling Concept	8
3.1	Mechanistic Modelling	
3.2	Model development	
3.3	Modelling System	
4	Model Setup	10
4.1	Introduction	
4.2	Model Domain	
4.2.1	Introduction	
4.2.2	Horizontal mesh	11
4.2.3	Vertical mesh	
4.3	Model Forcings	
4.3.1	Open Boundary Conditions	
4.3.2	Atmospheric Forcing	
4.3.3	Freshwater Sources	
4.4	Initial Conditions	
4.4.1	Introduction	
4.4.2	Initial water level and current conditions	
4.4.3	Salinity and Water Temperature	17
5	Model Calibration	
5.1	Introduction	
5.2	Model Settings	
6	Model Validation	
6.1	Introduction	
6.2	Model Performance	
6.2.1	Water Level	
6.2.2	Current	
6.2.3	Salinity and Water Temperature	
7	References	

FIGURES

Figure 2.1	Water bodies included in SMF-model. Light-blue colour indicates the model domain of the	7
Figure 4.1	SMF-Model.	/
Figure 4.1	Smalandslarvandet model bathymetry. Data originates from Kystolrektorates 50 m	
	bathymetry updated with satellite derived at shallow waters (DHI 2019b).	10
Figure 4.2	SMF-model mesh triangulation including mesh resolution levels from Table 4-1	12
Figure 4.3	Bathymetry data from satellite images used in the SMF-model (DHI 2019b)	12
Figure 4.4	Transect along Smålandsfarvandet (top) showing the vertical discretization in the vertical	
	column: sigma layers down to -10m and 1m z-layers to the seabed (bottom)	13
Figure 4.5	Smålandsfarvandet open boundaries	14



Figure 4.6	Runoff discharge from Nedre Halleby Å during the modelling period. Data covers the period 1990-2017. The data from 2017 and onwards in this figure are monthly averages	.15
Figure 4.7	Run-off sources included in the Smålandsfarvandet model	.16
Figure 4.8	Total annual discharge to the SMF-model from the different Danish and German sources	.16
Figure 4.9	Initial 2D map of water level from the IDW-model used for the Smålandsfarvandet area	17
Figure 4.0	Initial surface calinity (top) and tomporature (bottom) from the IDW model used for the	/
1 igule 4.10	milital surface saminty (top) and temperature (bottom) non the forw-model used for the	40
F ' A A		. 10
Figure 6.1	Location of the validation stations for water level (VVL), currents, salinity and temperature	
	(ST)	.21
Figure 6.2	Modelled surface elevation (light blue line) compared to measured data (dark blue line) at	
	Gedser (top) and Korsør (bottom)	.22
Figure 6.3	Statistical analysis of modelled surface elevation and measured data at Gedser (top) and	
0	Korsør (bottom).	.23
Figure 6.4	Modelled (red light blue) and measured (dark blue line) surface (upper plot) and bottom	
rigare eri	(lower plot) current speed at station Febmarn-MS01	24
Figure 6.5	Modelled (red light blue) and measured (dark blue line) surface (upper plot) and bottom	-2-7
rigule 0.5	(lower plot) surrout anonad at station Fohmerin MS02	2 E
	(lower pior) current speed at station Ferman-MS02	.25
Figure 6.6	Modelled (left) and measured (right), surface (upper plots) and bottom (lower plots)	
	current rose at station Fehmarn-MS01	.25
Figure 6.7	Modelled (left) and measured (right), surface (upper plots) and bottom (lower plots)	
	current rose at station Fehmarn-MS02	.26
Figure 6.8	Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model salinity at station FYN6700051	
-	compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values	.27
Fiaure 6.9	Surface and bottom (light blue and grev lines) model salinity at station DMU952 compared	
0	to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values	27
Figure 6 10	Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model salinity at station STO0101023	
rigaro o.ro	compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values	27
Eiguro 6 11	Surface and bottom (light blue and grow lines) model calinity at station STO0201061	~~ /
rigule 0.11	Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model samily at station 5100201001	20
F ' 1 0 1 0	Compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black manyles) values	.20
Figure 6.12	Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model salinity at station ST00801008	
	compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values	.28
Figure 6.13	Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model temperature at station FYN6700051	
	compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values	.28
Figure 6.14	Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model temperature at station DMU952	
	compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values	.28
Figure 6.15	Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model temperature at station STO0101023	
0	compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values	.29
Figure 6 16	Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model temperature at station STO0201061	
rigaro o.ro	compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values	20
Eiguro 6 17	Surface and bettem (light blue and grey lines) model temperature at station STO0901009	.23
Figure 0.17	Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model temperature at station 5100001000	~~
F ' A A A	compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values	.29
Figure 6.18	iviodelled (above) and measured (below) salinity isopleth at station STO0801008	.30
Figure 6.19	Modelled (above) and measured (below) temperature isopleth at station STO0801008	.30
Figure 6.20	Location of the validation stations for salinity and temperature used in the model	
	performance, see Table 6-1 and Table 6-2	.31

TABLES

Table 2-1	Water bodies included in the Smålandsfarvandet model	6
Table 4-1	Mesh triangulation resolution	11
Table 5-1	Summary of applied hydrodynamic model settings and constants in the	
	Smålandsfarvandet model.	19
Table 6-1	Review of model performance based on measured and modelled salinities for the	
	validation period 2011-2016. The performance is evaluated according to DHI (2019a) and	



	blue colour indicates an 'excellent' model, dark green indicates a 'very good' model, light green indicate a 'good' model and vellow indicates a 'poor' model	32
Table 6-2	Review of model performance based on measured and modelled water temperatures for	
	the validation period 2011-2016. The performance is evaluated according to DHI (2019a)	
	and blue colour indicates an 'excellent' model, dark green indicates a 'very good' model,	
	light green indicate a 'good' model and yellow indicates a 'poor' model.	32



1 Executive Summary

The model development presented in this technical note represents the hydrodynamic model development for Smålandsfarvandet. The Smålandsfarvandet model (SMF-model) is part of a larger model complex comprising a number of mechanistic models developed by DHI and several statistical models developed by AU, Bioscience.

The model complex is developed with the overall aim to support the Water Framework Directive (WFD) by introducing mechanistic models in as many Danish water bodies as possible, and to integrate with Bayesian statistical modelling and cross system modelling carried out by AU, Bioscience.

Here we present the hydrodynamic (HD) model setup covering Smålandsfarvandet: The SMFmodel. This specific model includes 18 Danish water bodies:

Water Body*)	Number	Water Body ^{*)}	Number
Korsør Nor	16	Langelandsbælt, øst	41
Basnæs Nor	17	Grønsund	45
Holsteinsborg Nor	18	Præstø Fjord	47
Skælskør Fjord og Nor	25	Stege Bugt	48
Smålandsfarvandet, syd	34	Stege Nor	49
Karrebæk Fjord	35	Smålandsfarvandet, åbne del	206
Dybsø Fjord	36	Nakskov Fjord	207
Avnø Fjord	37	Femerbælt	208
Guldborgssund	38	Rødsand	209

") Water bodies defined for the River Basin Management Plans 2015-2021

The SMF hydrodynamic model is developed to describe the physical system (water levels, currents, turbulence, mixing, salinity and water temperature). The model is developed to ensure a quality that will support a robust ecosystem (biogeochemical) model, an ecosystem model that eventually can be used for modelling a number of scenarios in support of the WFD implementation in Denmark.

As can be seen from the present technical note the SMF hydrodynamic model has been developed successfully for the entire model period 2002-2016:

• In average the P-Bias is 2.4% with respect to salinity. This covers 10 stations with a difference between model and measurement less than 10% (corresponding to an 'excellent' model) and one station where the model is 10.9% higher than measured (corresponding to a 'very good' model).

For water temperature the average P-Bias is -13.6% covering two station with an absolute difference of less than 10% ('excellent' model), 8 stations with an absolute difference of less than 20% ('very good' model) and one station (Holsteinborg Nor) being -23.5% ('good' model).

• With respect to the Spearman Rank Correlation the average numbers are 0.81 and 0.98 for salinity and water temperature, respectively. This covers 11 stations evaluated as 'very good' with respect to salinity and 11 stations evaluated as 'excellent' for water temperature.



 The average Modelling Efficient Factor (MEF) for salinity is 0.44 corresponding to a 'good' model. This covers one station evaluated as 'excellent' and five stations evaluated as 'very good'. Two stations (Avnø Fjord and Dybsø Fjord) are evaluated as 'good' and three stations (Stege Nor, Guldborgsund and Korsør Nor) are evaluated as 'poor'. For all of the five mentioned stations the modelled levels are correct and overall variability seems correct, which is also highlighted by the two other measures P-Bias and Spearman Rank Correlation, however, the timing is not entirely correct which is why the MEF is not evaluated as 'excellent' or 'very good'.

The average Modelling Efficient Factor (MEF) for temperature is 0.91 and 10 out of 11 stations are evaluated as 'excellent' and one station as 'very good'.

The details behind the above data are available in Table 6-1 and Table 6-2 and time series comparisons are available here: rbmp2021-2027.dhigroup.com (Google Chrome only).

Based on the two tables and the time series (the time series are available at rbmp2021-2027.dhigroup.com) we conclude that the model describes the overall physical features of Smålandsfarvandet and that the model is sufficient for ecosystem model development.



2 Introduction

The model development presented in this technical note represents the hydrodynamic model development for Smålandsfarvandet. The Smålandsfarvandet model (SMF-model) is part of a larger model complex comprising a number of mechanistic models developed by DHI and several statistical models developed by AU, Bioscience.

The model complex is developed with the overall aim to support the Water Framework Directive (WFD) by introducing mechanistic models in as many Danish water bodies as possible, and to integrate with Bayesian statistical modelling and cross system modelling carried out by AU, Bioscience.

Here we present the hydrodynamic (HD) model setup covering Smålandsfarvandet. This specific model includes the Danish water bodies listed in Table 2-1 and shown in Figure 2.1.

Water Body	Number	Water Body	Number
Korsør Nor	16	Langelandsbælt, øst	41
Basnæs Nor	17	Grønsund	45
Holsteinsborg Nor	18	Præstø Fjord	47
Skælskør Fjord og Nor	25	Stege Bugt	48
Smålandsfarvandet, syd	34	Stege Nor	49
Karrebæk Fjord	35	Smålandsfarvandet, åbne del	206
Dybsø Fjord	36	Nakskov Fjord	207
Avnø Fjord	37	Femerbælt	208
Guldborgssund	38	Rødsand	209

Table 2-1 Water bodies included in the Smålandsfarvandet model





Figure 2.1 Water bodies included in SMF-model. Light-blue colour indicates the model domain of the SMF-model.



3 Modelling Concept

3.1 Mechanistic Modelling

The present technical note represents the hydrodynamic part of one model out of eleven mechanistic models. The eleven mechanistic models are developed to increase the knowledge of pressures and status in Danish marine waters and to provide tools for the Danish EPA as part of the implementation of the WFD.

Mechanistic models enable dynamic descriptions of ecosystems and interactions between natural forcings and anthropogenic pressures. Hence, mechanistic models can by applied for predictions of changes in specific components, like chlorophyll-a concentrations, due to climatic changes or changes in anthropogenic pressures.

The ecological conditions in marine waters is determined by a number of different natural factors like water exchange, stratification, water temperature, nutrient availability, sediment characteristics, structure of the food web, etc. On top of that numerous anthropogenic factors, like nutrient loadings, fishery, etc., also impact the ecosystem and potentially the ecological status.

The model development in this specific project aims at supporting the Danish EPAs implementation of the WFD. In this first phase of the model development the models are developed to represent the present period (2002-2016) evaluated against NOVANA measurements. Here we use present meteorological data, present nutrient loadings, etc.

After the models are finalized they will be applied for scenario modelling, although the specific scenarios are not yet defined.

3.2 Model development

The model development consists of a 3D hydrodynamic model describing the physical system; water levels, current, salinity and water temperatures. Following the development of the hydrodynamic model is the development of the biogeochemical (ecosystem) model describing the governing biogeochemical pelagic and benthic parameters and processes like phytoplankton, dissolved oxygen, primary production, etc. The model structure is modular, meaning that a hydrodynamic model is developed independently of the biogeochemical model.

The SMF-model is defined as a local-domain model. The mechanistic model complex developed as part of the present project includes two regional models, three local-domain models and six estuary specific models.

- Regional models: Regional models cover both specific Danish water bodies and regional waters, such as the North Sea and a small part of the North Atlantic, which is included in the North Sea-model and the Baltic Sea, which is covered by the IDW-model (Inner Danish Waters). These models provide model results for specific water bodies but, equally important, provide boundaries to local-domain models and estuary specific models.
- Local-domain models: These models are developed to allow for resolving the majority of small and medium sized water bodies in the North-western Belt Sea, the South-western Belt Sea and the waters bodies in and around Smålandsfarvandet.
- Estuary specific models: Six specific estuary (fjord) models are developed to allow for detailed modelling of the particular estuary.



All mechanistic model will be setup and calibrated for the period 2002-2011 and validated for the period 2012-2016. In this note the validation will be reported according to specific indices (DHI 2019a), whereas the entire period is included as time series in a WEB-tool (rbmp2021-2027.dhigroup.com) with a few examples included in section 6.2.3. The majority of data used for calibration and validation originates from the national monitoring programme NOVANA, see http://odaforalle.au.dk for more details. For some models and some parameters other data are included, and the specific origin of those data will be referenced when used.

3.3 Modelling System

The hydrodynamic model is based on the modelling software MIKE 3 HD FM (version 2017) developed by DHI. MIKE 3 HD FM is based on a flexible mesh approach and has been developed for applications within oceanographic, coastal and estuarine environments.

The system is based on the numerical solution of the three-dimensional (3D) incompressible Reynolds averaged Navier-Stokes equations invoking the assumptions of Boussinesq and of hydrostatic pressure. Thus, the model consists of continuity, momentum, temperature, salinity and density equations and it is closed by a turbulent closure scheme. The free surface is taken into account using a sigma-coordinate transformation approach. The scientific documentation of MIKE 3 HD FM is given in DHI (2017a).



4 Model Setup

4.1 Introduction

The model setup comprises defining the model domain, establishing the model mesh, preparing the model forcings in terms of open boundary conditions, atmospheric forcing and freshwater inflows, preparing the initial conditions and setting up the model.

For the present project the model is set up for the period 2002-2016, which means that all model forcings need to cover this period.

4.2 Model Domain

4.2.1 Introduction

The model domain is determined in accordance with the area of interest of the modelling study. Considerations of the area of influence, being the surrounding areas that affect the area of interest, and of suitable open boundary locations also affect the choice of model domain.

The SMF-model domain includes the Danish waters enclosed by Sjælland, Lolland, Falster, Møn, Fehmarn and East of Langeland, as shown in Figure 4.1.

The model mesh is the representation of the model domain. More specifically the model mesh defines the model area, the location of the open boundaries, the land-water boundaries, the horizontal and vertical model resolution (discretization), and the water depths (bathymetry) of the model. In the following sections some details of the horizontal and vertical model mesh are described.



Figure 4.1 Smålandsfarvandet model bathymetry. Data originates from Kystdirektorates 50 m bathymetry updated with satellite derived at shallow waters (DHI 2019b).



4.2.2 Horizontal mesh

The horizontal discretization of the domain applies an unstructured mesh with triangular elements varying in size and quadrangular elements in areas with a predominant flow direction like narrow connections and navigation channels (i.e. Guldborgssund and Grønsund).

The different resolutions used are listed in Table 4-1 with the highest resolution in the targeted water bodies around Smålandsfarvandet (levels 2, 3 and 4) and the resolution of the regional model (levels 5 and 6) in the rest of the domain, see Figure 4.2.

The domain representation has been setup using geographical coordinates (longitude/latitude) WGS-84.

Satellite derived data combined with a national 50m bathymetry from Kystdirektoratet were used to generate water depths in the Danish part of the model domain according to (DHI 2019b), Figure 4.3, while depth data from the IDW regional model has been applied for the rest of the domain. All model elevations are applied relative to DVR90 or MSL.

Level	Maximum area Element length (deg ²) (m)		
2	2.0E-06	100-200m	
3	8.0E-06	200-300m	Local model resolution
4	2.0E-05	300-500m	
5	0.0001	500-1,200m	Denienal madel resolution
6	0.00025	1,200-2,000m	Regional model resolution

Table 4-1Mesh triangulation resolution





Figure 4.2 SMF-model mesh triangulation including mesh resolution levels from Table 4-1.



Figure 4.3 Bathymetry data from satellite images used in the SMF-model (DHI 2019b)



4.2.3 Vertical mesh

The vertical mesh is structured and consists of a combination of 10 sigma layers down to -10m and z-layers of 1m thickness for the rest of the water column.

Figure 4.4 show an example of the resulting vertical stratification along one transects in the central model domain.



Figure 4.4 Transect along Smålandsfarvandet (top) showing the vertical discretization in the vertical column: sigma layers down to -10m and 1m z-layers to the seabed (bottom)

4.3 Model Forcings

4.3.1 Open Boundary Conditions

The model domain has five connections to the surrounding Danish waters, Figure 4.5, where water level, currents, salinity and temperature from the IDW regional model are extracted and applied, giving the full dynamic boundary specification for the model

- Langeland Syd
- Storebælt
- Langeland Nord
- Faxe Bugt
- Østersøen



The water level forcing is described by a time varying profile along the boundary, while velocity components, temperature and salinity are defined as 2D vertical maps varying in time along the open boundary.

The forcing of the boundary with water level and currents simultaneously is the so called Flather boundary (Flather, 1976), being one of the most efficient open boundary conditions. It is very efficient in connection with downscaling coarser model simulations to local areas (see Oddo and Pinardi (2007). Instabilities often observed when imposing stratified density at a water level boundary are avoided using Flather conditions.



Figure 4.5 Smålandsfarvandet open boundaries

4.3.2 Atmospheric Forcing

The atmospheric forcing of the SMF-model is mainly provided by StormGeo in terms of temporally and spatially varying fields of:

- Wind
- Atmospheric pressure
- Precipitation
- Air temperature
- Cloud cover



The applied atmospheric data is from StormGeo's WRF meteorological model covering the North Atlantic. The data is provided in a resolution of 0.1° x 0.1° in hourly time steps.

The StormGeo data are only available from 2009 and forward. Before 2009 meteorological fields from Vejr2 of Denmark were applied with varying spatial and time resolution (9 nautical miles (2002-2005), 0.15° x 0.15° (2005-2009), 3 hourly (2002-2004) and 1 hourly (2005-2008).

4.3.3 Freshwater Sources

The Smålandsfarvandet model includes a number of model sources representing the freshwater run-off from land to sea.

The model sources are specified as daily discharge time series over the modelling period 2002-2016 and are based on the following data sources:

- DCE (Aarhus University) Denmark
- E-HYPE (http://hypeweb.smhi.se/europehype/time-series/) Germany

An example of one of the runoff sources time series is shown in Figure 4.6





The run-off sources included in the model are shown in Figure 4.7, indicated by its watercourse name at 4th order catchment area level, followed by the representing fraction within the catchment and the watershed name, i.e. Agersoe_(0.4)_6100: Hence, 40% of the water coming from the 4th order catchment area no. 6100 is assumed distributed through the Agersø stream/canal.





Figure 4.7 Run-off sources included in the Smålandsfarvandet model

These sources represent an input of fresh water to the system that lead to different degrees of stratification of the water column depending of the magnitude and position of the sources.



The total annual runoff discharged into the model domain is summarized in in Figure 4.8.





4.4 Initial Conditions

4.4.1 Introduction

In order to properly initiate a model simulation, the model requires initial conditions for the various state variables. For the hydrodynamic model the state variables comprise water level, current, salinity and water temperature.

4.4.2 Initial water level and current conditions

The normal procedure for water level and current is to apply a so-called 'cold start'. This means that the water is stagnant with no currents initially. Immediately after starting the simulation the water begins to move under the influence of the model forcing and after a short time (~1day) the model has 'warmed up'.

However, to reach stable conditions within a short time, the simulations for Smålandsfarvandet was initiated at January 1st, 2002 with a water level distribution from the model results of the Inner Danish Seas simulations, Figure 4.9



Figure 4.9 Initial 2D map of water level from the IDW-model used for the Smålandsfarvandet area

4.4.3 Salinity and Water Temperature

Contrary to water level and current the warm-up time for salinity and water temperature is typically long (months or years), which is useless. Consequently, 3D fields of salinity and water temperature at the simulation start time are prepared and applied as initial conditions for the simulation. These fields are typically established based on results from an encompassing (larger) model or based on local monitoring data.

The SMF-model has applied January 1st, 2002 salinity and water temperature initial fields from the model results of the Inner Danish Seas simulations, Figure 4.10.





Figure 4.10 Initial surface salinity (top) and temperature (bottom) from the IDW-model used for the Smålandsfarvandet area



5 Model Calibration

5.1 Introduction

Having set up the model, the model calibration is undertaken. The model calibration is the process of adjusting model settings and model constants to obtain satisfactory agreement between observations and model results. In practice the model setup and the model calibration are often performed iteratively, since a good comparison between observations and model results require a well-proportioned model domain as well as adequate model forcings, and this is not always obtained in the first attempt.

5.2 Model Settings

In Table 5-1 a summary of applied model settings and constants is given.

 Table 5-1
 Summary of applied hydrodynamic model settings and constants in the Smålandsfarvandet model.

Feature/Parameter	Setting/Value
Flooding and drying	Included with parameters: 0.005m, 0.05m and 0.1m
Wind friction coefficient	Linearly varying between 0.001255 and 0.002425 for wind speeds between 7 and 25m/s
Bed roughness	Constant 0.005m
Eddy viscosity	Horizontally: Smagorinsky formulation, $C_s=0.28$ Vertically: k- ϵ model with standard parameters and no damping
Solution technique	Shallow water equations: Low order Transport equations: Low order
Overall time-step	300s
Heat exchange	Light extinction coefficient 1, otherwise standard parameters
Diffusivity factors (S/T):	
- Horizontal: Scaled Eddy	1.0 (temperature / salinity.)
- Vertical: Scaled Eddy	1.0 (temperature) / 0 - 1.0 (salinity.)



6 Model Validation

6.1 Introduction

The model validation is the process of comparing observations and model results qualitatively and quantitatively to demonstrate the suitability of the model. The qualitative comparison is typically done graphically, and the quantitative comparison is typically done by means of certain performance (goodness of fit) measures. As such the model validation constitutes the documentation of the model performance.

The SMF-model has been run for the period 2002-2016, but the validation period was defined as the 6-year period 2011-2016. Model comparison plots and performance measures are consequently presented for this period, whereas model results and measurements of salinity and temperature are presented for the entire period using a WEB-tool (rbmp2021-2027.dhigroup.com).

Figure 6.1 shows the different locations where water level (WL), current, salinity and temperature (ST) comparisons are presented for the validation period 2011-2016.



Figure 6.1 Location of the validation stations for water level (WL), currents, salinity and temperature (ST)



6.2 Model Performance

6.2.1 Water Level

Comparison of modelled and measured water level at Gedser and Korsør (Figure 6.2) shows a fine match, representing tidal and non-tidal variability.

A statistical comparison of the modelled and measured water level was carried out for both stations, resulting in high correlation coefficients (CC) of 0.90 for Gedser and 0.87 for Korsør (100% fit would have resulted in CC=1), Figure 6.3.



Figure 6.2 Modelled surface elevation (light blue line) compared to measured data (dark blue line) at Gedser (top) and Korsør (bottom)





WL (mMSL) - observed

Figure 6.3 Statistical analysis of modelled surface elevation and measured data at Gedser (top) and Korsør (bottom)

6.2.2 Current

Current measurements from two stations in the Fehmarn Belt have been compared to model results. No measured data for the validation period 2011-2016 was available therefore 2010 data were used. Only a qualitative comparison of the currents has been carried out.

Figure 6.4 and Figure 6.5 show time series comparisons of current speeds at surface and bottom. Model surface speed correlates well to measured values, describing correctly the amplitudes, phases and variability of the surface current. The model matches the order of magnitude of the bottom currents, although it does not reproduce with the same level of detail the high variability seen in the bottom speeds.





Figure 6.6 and Figure 6.7 include current rose comparisons at both locations, showing a correct directional distribution of the modelled currents in Fehmarn Belt.

Figure 6.4 Modelled (red light blue) and measured (dark blue line) surface (upper plot) and bottom (lower plot) current speed at station Fehmarn-MS01





Figure 6.5 Modelled (red light blue) and measured (dark blue line) surface (upper plot) and bottom (lower plot) current speed at station Fehmarn-MS02



Figure 6.6 Modelled (left) and measured (right), surface (upper plots) and bottom (lower plots) current rose at station Fehmarn-MS01





Figure 6.7 Modelled (left) and measured (right), surface (upper plots) and bottom (lower plots) current rose at station Fehmarn-MS02

6.2.3 Salinity and Water Temperature

Figure 6.8 to Figure 6.12 show examples of comparisons of modelled and measured salinity at stations indicated in Figure 6.1. The model reproduces well the seasonal salinity stratification and its variability across the domain.

Figure 6.13 to Figure 6.17 show comparison of modelled and measured temperature at the same stations. The model reproduces well the seasonal variation observed in both the surface and bottom measured data including the thermal summer stratification and autumn mixing.

Salinity and temperature isopleths for modelled and measured data at station STO0101023 that presents a pronounced salinity and temperature stratification are presented in Figure 6.18 and Figure 6.19 to demonstrate the capability of the model to reproduce and maintain density gradients over time.









Figure 6.9 Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model salinity at station DMU952 compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values



Figure 6.10 Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model salinity at station STO0101023 compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values









Figure 6.12 Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model salinity at station STO0801008 compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values







Figure 6.14 Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model temperature at station DMU952 compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values





Figure 6.15 Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model temperature at station STO0101023 compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values



Figure 6.16 Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model temperature at station STO0201061 compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values



Figure 6.17 Surface and bottom (light blue and grey lines) model temperature at station STO0801008 compared to measured surface and bottom (blue and black triangles) values













Figure 6.19 Modelled (above) and measured (below) temperature isopleth at station STO0801008

Value



In Table 6-1 and Table 6-2 the model performance is evaluated according to DHI (2019a) based on three performance measures: P-Bias, Spearman Rank Correlation and Modelling Efficiency Factor. Representative stations with good coverage available for the period 2011-2016 are included and the entire station network in the SMF-model domain is shown in Figure 6.20. In the tables color codes are included to highlight the overall model performance as 'excellent', 'very good', 'good' or 'poor'.

The model covering Smålandsfarvandet includes a relatively large amount of individual water bodies (18 water bodies¹) with varying tidal and flushing characteristics and varying freshwater influence. Furthermore, parts of the area are stratified whereas other areas and water bodies are well mixed. For the hydrodynamic model covering Smålandsfarvandet we aim at 'excellent' or 'very good' model performance at more than 3 out of 4 measurement stations. For salinity the model performance has been evaluated against the three different quality measures at 11 stations, and according to Table 6-1 the model meets 'excellent' or 'very good' in 85% of all measures at all stations. Similarly, the modelled water temperature (see Table 6-2) meets 'excellent' or 'very good' in 97% of all measures at all stations.

Hence, we conclude that the hydrodynamic model covering Smålandsfarvandet is well suited for continued biogeochemical model development as part of the overall development of mechanistic models towards the RBMP 2021-2027.



Figure 6.20 Location of the validation stations for salinity and temperature used in the model performance, see Table 6-1 and Table 6-2.

¹ The 18 water bodies refer to the water bodies defined according to RBMP 2015-2021



Table 6-1Review of model performance based on measured and modelled salinities for the validation
period 2011-2016. The performance is evaluated according to DHI (2019a) and blue colour
indicates an 'excellent' model, dark green indicates a 'very good' model, light green indicate
a 'good' model and yellow indicates a 'poor' model.

Station	P-Bias	Spearman Rank Correlation	Modelling Efficiency Factor	Number of observations
STO0102006	3.2	0.82	0.66	265
STO0103052	3.9	0.79	0.29	80
STO0104002	5.7	0.82	0.45	252
STO0201061	0.3	0.87	0.84	272
STO0601056	9.3	0.81	0.00	270
STO0703006	10.9	0.79	-0.13	260
STO0802008	2.5	0.90	0.74	253
VSJ43020	-3.4	0.89	0.76	281
VSJ44011	-8.2	0.63	0.05	48
VSJ51013	-2.7	0.83	0.59	276
VSJ53016	4.7	0.77	0.59	259

Table 6-2Review of model performance based on measured and modelled water temperatures for the
validation period 2011-2016. The performance is evaluated according to DHI (2019a) and
blue colour indicates an 'excellent' model, dark green indicates a 'very good' model, light
green indicate a 'good' model and yellow indicates a 'poor' model.

Station	P-Bias	Spearman Rank Correlation	Modelling Efficiency Factor	Number of observations
STO0102006	-14.2	0.98	0.89	265
STO0103052	-18.0	0.98	0.88	80
STO0104002	-13.9	0.99	0.91	252
STO0201061	-8.1	0.99	0.95	272
STO0601056	-10.5	0.99	0.94	270
STO0703006	-13.7	0.99	0.92	260
STO0802008	-10.3	0.99	0.94	253
VSJ43020	-5.1	0.99	0.97	281
VSJ44011	-16.4	0.97	0.91	48
VSJ51013	-15.6	0.99	0.90	276
VSJ53016	-23.5	0.97	0.78	259





7 References

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