

Synthetic Aperture Radar Applications Current Status in NOAA and Plans for Development as a component of Operational Ocean Observing Systems

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NOAA is on the threshold of being able to generate operational ocean products from synthetic aperture radar (SAR) data. Although there is much research and development yet to be done, some applications are sufficiently mature to be of use in an operational environment. NOAA has been conducting an applications demonstration in Alaska since 1999, generating ocean surface winds at 1 km resolution and detection of vessel positions. This talk covers the status of our SAR applications research, product generation activities, and SAR data analysis capabilities. Also discussed will be our plans for developing systems capable of producing products that can be used operationally within ocean observing systems.