

COASTAL ENVISAT RA-2 DATA VALIDATION IN THE GULF OF CADIZ (SPAIN)

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Validation is the process that quantifies the accuracy of the altimeter-derived estimates of sea level against an independent corroborative record of ground-based measurements. In this paper we present a case-study of validation in the Gulf of Cadiz (SW Iberian Peninsula) using the outputs of the new coastal processor of ENVISAT RA-2 data, developed under the frame of the ESA funded COASTALT project. Geophysical parameters (significant wave height, wind speed and sea level) are obtained at higher frequencies (18Hz) than standard product (1Hz). We use the track segments of all the ENVISAT RA-2 passes crossing the Gulf of Cadiz. The new products will be compared against in-situ ground truth measurements in the zone. Thus, it will be possible to assess the improvement of the new products, in comparison with the standard ones. This work will be focused on the closest track segments to the coast (typically 30 km offshore).

Key words: Altimetry, Tide Gauge, Gulf of Cadiz, Validation.