#### Current modelling using NorKyst800 and NorFjords

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#### Outline

- Currents and hydrography along the coast
- Current modelling system at the IMR
- Differences between Northern and Southern Norway
- Applications for aquaculture



#### Strong forcing and stratified water in fjord- and coastal areas

- The Norwegian coast has complicated topography.
- The water masses along the coast are stratified = baroclinic currents.
- The tide acts as a Kelvin wave with amplitude 1-3 m increasing northwards.
- There are numerous freshwater discharges along the coast.
- The atmospheric Polar front crosses Norway with passage of low-pressure systems with episodic (1-2 d) strong winds.





#### Large vertical variability of current and hydrography

The forcing mechanisms acting are strongest towards the surface.





## Need a combined information system from observations and numerical models

The large spatial and temporal variability of current, salinity and temperature in Norwegian fjord and coastal waters means that collecting information from observations alone usually is insufficient.

Numerical current models and various biological applications are a necessary tool to complement the understanding of the physical environment.



# NorKyst800 – a current model for the whole Norwegian coast

IMR has developed and operates NorKyst800 in a collaboration with the Norwegian Meteorological institute.

NK800 uses 800m horizontal grid resolution, and have 35 vertical layers.

Model results from 1995 until today (+ 66t) are available (thredds.met.no).





#### When necessary finer grid models are used

NorKyst800

NorFjords 160m







#### Validation of the numerical model results is important

Usually numerical model results are compared to observations in order to assess their quality or usefulness.

No subjective way to validate numerical model results exists.

A «bad» model result might still be useful.



Salinity and temperature in the Hardangerfjord





Salinity and temperature from observations (\*) and NorKyst800 (~ deviation less than a unit).



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#### Currents from NorKyst800 and ADCP at the coast outside Bergen





#### Model results validation – creating a quality index

Current in the Hardangerfjord





#### Model results validation – creating a quality index

### Along-fjord current near the surface. 2016 ok for 64% of the time. 2017 ok for 87% of the time.



Current in the Altafjord (note the large spatial variability of the model result)





Along-fjord current at 50 m depth for the Nordnes location, 4-11. July 2020.







# Differences in the physical environment beween Northern and Southern Norway

Generally the dynamics of the fjords and coastal waters are similar.

In Northern Norway the tidal amplitude is higher.

Slightly warmer water at depth in the south.

The seasonal signal in upper water temperature is less in Northern Norway.



The fjords in Northern Norway are slightly wider and shallower.

The effect of the Earth's rotation is slightly stronger in the north.

#### **Deep water salinity and temperature**

Results from observations at Sognesjøen and Ingøy



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#### Salinity and temperature from Alta- and Hardangerfjord

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Results from NorKyst800, October 2020.



#### Similar upper layer dynamics all along the coast



#### Current at the surface and depth in Alta- and Hardangerfjord

Results from NorKyst800, October 2020.



#### **Applications of the current model results**



#### Conclusions

- The physical environment is highly variable in time and space all along the coast.
- Some characteristic differences exist between regions.
- Numerical current model results along with observations are an efficient way to collect necessary information.
- Numerical current model results of a high quality from all of Norway are available from 1995 +66hr forecast (https://thredds.met.no).

