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1 **Evaluation of satellite and reanalysis wind products with *in situ* Wave Glider**  
2 **wind observations in the Southern Ocean**

3  
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16 **Keywords:** Sea surface winds, reanalysis, intercomparison, wave gliders, wind speed,  
17 scatterometer, wind products, Southern Ocean

18

19 **Abstract**

20           Surface ocean wind datasets are required to be of high spatial and temporal resolution and  
21 high precision to accurately force or be assimilated into coupled atmosphere-ocean numerical  
22 models and understand ocean-atmospheric processes. *In situ* observed sea surface winds from the  
23 Southern Ocean are scarce and consequently the validity of simulation models is often  
24 questionable. Multiple wind data products were compared to the first known high resolution *in*  
25 *situ* measurements of wind speed from Wave Glider (WG) deployments in the Southern Ocean  
26 with the intent to determine which blended satellite or reanalysis product best represents the  
27 magnitude and variability of the observed wind field. Results show that the ECMWF reanalysis  
28 product is the most accurate in representing the temporal variability of winds, exhibiting  
29 consistently higher correlation coefficients with *in situ* data across all wind speed categories.  
30 However, the NCEP-DOE AMIP Reanalysis-2 product matches *in situ* trends of deviation from  
31 the mean and performs best in depicting the mean wind state, especially during high wind states.  
32 The ECMWF product also leads to smaller differences in wind speeds from the *in situ* data,  
33 while CFSv2 showed slightly higher biases and a greater RMSE. The SW product consistently  
34 performed poorly at representing the mean or wind stress variability compared to those observed  
35 by the WG. Overall, the study shows autonomous surface vehicles provide valuable observations  
36 by which to validate, understand and potentially assist in correcting satellite/reanalysis products,  
37 particularly in remote regions, where few *in situ* estimates exist.

38

39 **1. Introduction**

40 Mid- to high-latitude regions in the Southern Ocean are host to the strongest wind fields  
41 at the ocean surface. These strong winds (e.g. speeds  $>20 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ; Yuan (2004)) significantly  
42 impact upper ocean properties and processes, such as mixed layer dynamics, Ekman processes  
43 and air-sea exchange. Exchanges in heat, moisture, and momentum at the air-sea interface are  
44 facilitated by sea surface winds. In addition to driving physical processes at the sea surface, these  
45 winds also have implications for biological processes which extend below the surface. The flux  
46 of carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) between the atmosphere and ocean is closely related to wind speed  
47 (Wanninkhof, 1992, 1999, 2009, Nightingale, 2000, Ho et al., 2006), and as such, sea surface  
48 winds are of interest to many scientists studying and modeling biogeochemical cycles within the  
49 ocean.

50 Surface ocean winds are measured using *in situ* techniques or remote sensing  
51 instruments. Satellite instruments interpret variability in lidar laser energy reflection due to sea  
52 surface roughness to infer wind vectors generally at a height of 10 meters above sea level, while  
53 *in situ* measurements are generally taken at varying heights above sea level dependent on the  
54 platform (e.g. ship, mooring, or glider). Due to the varying methods of collecting and  
55 synthesizing wind measurements, the uniformity of sea surface wind data is often questioned.  
56 Such inconsistencies require studies reliant on satellite derived wind data (such as Yuan et al.,  
57 2009) to perform a validation prior to the start of their analysis in order to determine the ability  
58 of satellite blended datasets to accurately represent wind fields at the air-sea interface, and to see  
59 if post processing is required to reduce errors once compared to *in situ* measurements. There is a  
60 great need to reduce or eliminate this time costly step in wind data analysis. Further, the dearth  
61 of *in situ* wind stress observations in the Southern Ocean, particularly in winter (practically

62 absent – Gille et al., 2016), is resulting in poorly constrained ocean and climate models, where  
63 wind forcing is reliant on un-validated scatterometer or reanalysis wind products. This particular  
64 problem, together with air-sea flux uncertainties in general, were highlighted at a recent  
65 international workshop that brought together scientists to discuss this issue and how it could be  
66 addressed (Gille et al., 2016). Through the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) a new  
67 capability working group has been formed on enhancing parameterizations of air-sea fluxes in  
68 the Southern Ocean. It is hoped this will attempt to address, discuss and engage with the larger  
69 community on the severe lack of flux observations and the associated research issues emanating  
70 from this (<http://soos.aq/activities/capability-wgs/soflux>).

71         Several studies have made attempts to compare and validate wind products in the  
72 Southern Ocean. Yuan (2004), Yuan et al. (2009), and Patoux (2009) highlight the implications  
73 of misrepresented wind fields in the Southern Ocean in their evaluations of extreme wind events  
74 in the Southern Ocean. Yuan (2004) compared Quick Scatterometer (QuikSCAT) wind data with  
75 reanalysis wind data from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), National  
76 Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and European Centre for Medium-Range Weather  
77 Forecasts (ECMWF). This study showed that both weather station and QuikSCAT winds were  
78 stronger than reanalysis data, albeit only during high wind events. Their approach required the  
79 input of many different wind products to investigate the spatial and seasonal variability of high  
80 wind characteristics. Due to the remote area of the study, the reanalysis products that they used  
81 were limited with regard to *in-situ* data input. It was shown that monthly mean wind observations  
82 from satellite averages over the Southern Ocean were in agreement with model simulations  
83 except for the period from May to October (6 months centered over austral winter), when  
84 scatterometer winds were stronger than simulated winds, thereby suggesting a strong winter bias

85 in data. Similar to Hilburn et al. (2003), Yuan (2004) attributed this discrepancy to the  
86 NCEP/NCAR reanalysis missing some storms entirely, along with a lack of observational data  
87 assimilated into the reanalyses. Additionally, Yuan et al. (2009) further investigated a study by  
88 Patoux et al. (2009), where scatterometer derived pressure fields were modified using reanalysis  
89 wind data. QuikSCAT data were blended with ECMWF forecast data to produce modified  
90 pressure swaths. Yuan et al. (2009) claim that even small mesoscale cyclones contribute  
91 significantly to heat and momentum fluxes at the air-sea interface due to the high frequency of  
92 their occurrence. As such, a correct representation of mesoscale cyclones in numerical weather  
93 prediction (NWP) models of the Southern Ocean is therefore critical (Yuan et al. 2009).  
94 Although these studies have aided in improving estimates of wind stress and understanding time  
95 and space variability of Southern Ocean wind events, significant gaps in our understanding of  
96 wind stress accuracy and uncertainty remain. For instance, at any given location the diurnal  
97 variability of wind stress is often subject to aliasing due to the geographical variability of  
98 sampling by satellite, and the higher harmonics of the fundamental diurnal cycle may be  
99 distorted or eliminated (Risien and Chelton, 2008). New acquisitions of *in situ* data from robotic  
100 platform deployments, such as presented in this study, are likely to play an ever increasing role  
101 in understanding wind stress (and other air-sea fluxes) characteristics and validating gridded  
102 wind stress products, especially in remote and harsh locations of the worlds ocean where  
103 historically field data has a strong bias to the summer season (Gille et al., 2016).

104         The aim of this paper is to determine which wind data product (satellite blended,  
105 reanalysis and modelled) best represents the *in situ* wind field magnitude and variability of a  
106 study location in the Subantarctic Southern Ocean. This is done by comparing wind products  
107 with a valuable set of time series of *in situ* sea surface wind data collected by Wave Glider (WG)

108 technology deployed in a series of experiments in the Southern Ocean. The paper is organized as  
109 follows: an explanation of the surface wind datasets, their sources, and the transformations  
110 performed to collocate them in space and time. In the following section, a detailed description of  
111 the statistical analysis performed in this study is provided, while in Section 3, remotely measured  
112 winds are compared with *in-situ* winds at a quasi-fixed location in the Southern Ocean. The final  
113 section presents a discussion of the results and their broader implications for other scientific  
114 disciplines.

115

## 116 **2. Data and methodology**

### 117 ***2.1 In situ wind observations and experimental setup***

118 The *in-situ* data used in this study were collected via a Liquid Robotics Wave Glider  
119 (WG) autonomous surface vehicle. The primary components of the WG include a surface float, a  
120 subsurface unit, and a 7-meter-long umbilical cable, which connects the two (Figure 1). The fins  
121 installed on the subsurface unit convert orbital motion of surface waves into horizontal force that  
122 drives the subsurface unit forward. The subsurface unit tows the surface float at speeds ranging  
123 between 0.5-2 knots. Solar panels and batteries power sensors and communication systems that  
124 are installed in the surface float, enabling it to remain at sea for an extended period of time  
125 (multiple months). The experiment was located in the domain of austral summer maximum wind  
126 speed (December 2015 average  $> 10 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ), associated with the westerly winds of the Southern  
127 Ocean, as indicated by the red shading band in Figure 1(a). Two different Wave Glider  
128 deployments took place in the austral winter to summer of 2015. Gliders ‘CSIR2’ and ‘CSIR1’  
129 were deployed in July and November of 2015, respectively, and were set to navigate to 43°S,

130 8.5°E. Upon arrival at the study site a pseudo-mooring octagon sampling pattern (Figure 2) with  
131 a diameter of 16 km was maintained (further details in Monteiro et al., 2015). At the center of the  
132 octagon, a Seaglider profiled the upper 1km of the ocean in pseudo-mooring mode.

133 The WG is designed to augment existing marine technology by providing autonomous  
134 real-time data collection of parameters near the air-sea interface. The Council for Scientific and  
135 Industrial Research (CSIR) uses this technology in their integrated multi-platform approach for a  
136 series of the Southern Ocean Seasonal Cycle Experiments (SOSCEX), which use research  
137 vessels, WGs, profiling gliders, bio-optic floats, satellite data and numerical models to explore  
138 the climate sensitivity of carbon and ecosystem dynamics (Swart et al., 2012). The WGs  
139 deployed during the research expeditions were equipped with an Airmar WX-200 Ultrasonic  
140 Weatherstation Instrument (more at [www.airmar.com/uploads/brochures/WX-OFFSHORE.pdf](http://www.airmar.com/uploads/brochures/WX-OFFSHORE.pdf)). This  
141 instrument is a compact weather station designed for moving platforms, with abilities to  
142 dynamically correct winds using an internal compass and correct up to 30° pitch in rough seas.  
143 The sensor outputs apparent and true wind speed and direction (via ultrasonic transducers that  
144 are able to measure wind speed readings up to 40 m s<sup>-1</sup>), barometric pressure, air temperature,  
145 and GPS location. The meteorological sensor was mounted on a mast attached to the surface  
146 float of the WG at 0.70 m above sea level. The sensor sampled at 1 Hz and then averaged over  
147 10 minute bins before transmitting data back to shore via Iridium satellite communications.

148 As stated by the manufacturer, the sensor has the following wind speed measurement  
149 accuracies depending on wind speed categories: 0-5 m s<sup>-1</sup>: 0.5 m s<sup>-1</sup> RMS; 5-40 m s<sup>-1</sup>: 1 m s<sup>-1</sup>  
150 RMS. In wet conditions, which include rain, frost, snow or severe sea spray, errors may increase  
151 to 2.5 m s<sup>-1</sup> due to moisture flow through the wind channel. This is expected to have a reduced



152 impact on the data accuracy due to the bin averaging in the field as well as in relating the *in situ*  
153 wind speed with longer term 6 hourly satellite or reanalysis wind products.

154

## 155 **2.2 Satellite/reanalysis wind data**

156 The SeaWind (SW) globally gridded and blended sea surface vector winds were  
157 generated from the multiple satellite observations of DOD, NOAA and NASA along with the  
158 input of satellite wind retrievals from Remote Sensing Systems, Inc. More information about the  
159 satellites, instruments, and blending scheme can be found at [https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/data-  
160 access/marineocean-data/blended-global/blended-sea-winds](https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/data-access/marineocean-data/blended-global/blended-sea-winds). The methods used to generate such  
161 data include objective analysis and simple spatiotemporally weighted interpolation. This product  
162 provides global ocean coverage with a spatial resolution of  $0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$  and a 6 hourly temporal  
163 resolution. The data are provided at 10m above sea level.

164 NOAA uses a global NWP model called the Climate Forecast System which represents  
165 the interaction between the air-sea interfaces throughout the world's oceans. The CFS version II  
166 (CFSv2) operational near real time wind vector dataset provides time series at a period of record  
167 from 01 January 2011 – 01 April 2016 at a 6 hourly temporal resolution (Saha et al., 2014). CFS  
168 time series products are available at a spatial resolution of  $0.205^\circ \times 0.204^\circ$  at 10m above sea  
169 level.

170 European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) ERA-Interim Global  
171 Reanalysis Sea Surface Winds are provided at a spatial resolution of  $0.125^\circ \times 0.125^\circ$  (Dee et al.,  
172 2011). The project is in near real-time production and the data are calculated at 10m above sea  
173 level and are available at a 6 hourly temporal resolution.

174           Lastly, the NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis project has created a sea surface wind dataset which  
175 covers the period from 01 January 1979 to the present. Due to increasing user processing errors  
176 and systematic biases in NCEPI, the development of the NCEP–DOE AMIP-II Reanalysis (R-2),  
177 or NCEPII, was initiated in the late 1990’s (Kanamitsu et al., 2002). NCEPII is of the same  
178 spatial ( $1.9047^\circ \times 1.8750^\circ$ ) and temporal resolution as NCEPI and incorporates similar raw  
179 observational data. The data are calculated at a height of 10m above sea level and are available at  
180 a 6 hourly temporal resolution.

181

### 182 *2.3 Data comparison approaches*

183           Satellite winds are derived from sea surface backscatter observed by microwave sensors  
184 in orbit to generate wind in an equivalent neutrally stable state. This estimation is based on the  
185 variation of normalized radar cross section as a function of local wind conditions and observation  
186 geometry (Freilich and Vanhoff, 2002). When a lidar laser beam hits a calm water surface at near  
187 normal incidence roughly 2% of the energy is reflected with little divergence; however, with  
188 increasing wind speed and subsequent surface roughening the divergence angle of the reflected  
189 energy increases and the intensity of lidar backscatter decreases (Yongxiang Hu, 2009). This  
190 process makes them sensitive to ocean surface roughness due to the stratification of the  
191 atmosphere above sea level. These sensors are thus calibrated to an equivalent neutral wind at a  
192 reference height of 10m above the sea surface (Liu and Tang, 1996; Bourassa et al. 1999a;  
193 Bourassa et al. 2003; Chelton et al. 2004). These equivalent neutral winds are the winds that  
194 would exist if the atmospheric boundary layer was neutrally stratified (Chelton et al. 2004;  
195 Carvalho et al. 2013). An observation operator (Tardif and Laroche, 2012B) is typically applied  
196 to vertically interpolate wind information through the surface layer to the specified 10m height

197 using the logarithmic wind profile and Monin- Obukov similarity functions (as described by  
198 Geleyn, 1988). Consequently, to compare real-time stability dependent winds to equivalent  
199 neutral winds, a transformation must be performed to shift the WG winds to the same reference  
200 level as satellite winds. Any extrapolation method to shift measured wind speed to a different  
201 height is a function of atmospheric turbulence. Wind shear and the buoyant forcing of the  
202 atmosphere must be taken into account; ultimately the vertical density stratification of the  
203 atmosphere must be accurately represented (Ruti et al., 2008).

204 Various methods have been used depending on the amount of input data available. One  
205 commonly used method, proposed by Liu and Tang (1996) is based on the bulk aerodynamic  
206 relation. This approach requires additional observational inputs of air and sea surface  
207 temperature (SST), relative humidity, and atmospheric pressure which are not available for this  
208 study period and site. As in Satheesan et al. (2007), Singh et al. (2013), Sudha and Rao (2013),  
209 and Yang et al. (2014), the present study required a method which does not include inputs  
210 associated with atmospheric stability. Bentamy et al. (2008) and Qing and Chen (2015) use the  
211 wind profile power law in their validation tasks of OSCAT and ASCAT wind data in the Atlantic  
212 Ocean. With this method, neutrally equivalent winds are calculated with the use of the  
213 coefficient ( $\alpha$ ) which varies with atmospheric stability. However, no intercomparison has been  
214 performed to determine the difference between a power expression method and the method  
215 proposed by Liu and Tang (1996). Therefore, the present study uses a mixing-length approach  
216 used by Herrera et al. (2005), Ruti et al. (2008), Carvalho et al. (2013), Singh et al. (2013),  
217 Alvarez et al. (2014) and Yang et al. (2014) in the vertical transformation of *in situ* surface wind  
218 data to a reference height of 10 meters. With no atmospheric stability input, a logarithmic  
219 method proposed by Peixoto and Oort (1992) is used. This is expressed as

$$U_Z = U_{Z_m} \frac{\ln \frac{Z}{Z_0}}{\ln \frac{Z_m}{Z_0}}, \quad (1)$$

220 where  $U_Z$  is wind speed at height  $Z$ ,  $Z_m$  denotes measurement height, and  $Z_0$  represents the  
 221 roughness length. A typical oceanic value of  $1.52 \times 10^{-4}$  m was assumed for  $Z_0$  (Peixoto and  
 222 Oort, 1992). This approach generates a logarithmically varying vertical wind profile while  
 223 assuming neutral stability conditions. An inter-comparison of the correction methods proposed  
 224 by Liu and Tang (1996) and by Peixoto and Oort (1992) was performed by Mears et al. (2001).  
 225 They conducted a comprehensive analysis to determine if these laws can account for effects due  
 226 to differences in atmospheric stability. It was concluded that the Liu and Tang (1996) correction  
 227 is typically on average  $0.12 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  stronger than a logarithmic correction (Mears et al., 2001;  
 228 Pickett et al., 2003; Ruti et al., 2008). Under stable conditions, Liu and Tang (1996) corrected  
 229 winds are greater than logarithmic corrected winds, and for unstable conditions the opposite is  
 230 seen (Carvalho et al., 2013). Ruti et al. (2008) also compared these correction methods and  
 231 concluded that generally a difference in collocated wind speed is only observed during extreme  
 232 wind events, where wind speeds exceed  $15 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . Singh et al. (2013) conclude that during these  
 233 extreme wind events, wind speed transformation carried out by a logarithmic profile may lead to  
 234 errors of  $1\text{--}1.5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . However, it can be assumed that the use of a logarithmic extrapolation  
 235 method will not cause discernable error as there are very few instances in the WG data where the  
 236 wind speed is greater than  $15 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ .  
 237

238 An instantaneous sampling approach may be appropriate in cases where the *in-situ* time  
 239 series matches exactly with the satellite time series. On the other hand, according to Ruti et al.  
 240 (2008) an averaging method may require consideration of the phase velocities of cyclones in the  
 241 region of interest. By determining the typical phase velocity for Mediterranean cyclones, they

242 could determine a general time frame of 30-60 minutes over which *in-situ* data from the  
243 Mediterranean should be averaged when compared with scatterometer winds. Other studies,  
244 such as one by Bourassa et al. (2003), state that the optimal averaging period varies with respect  
245 to wind speed at the moment of observation. During high wind periods, a shorter averaging  
246 period may result in a smaller RMSE, whereas during low wind speed periods, longer averaging  
247 periods could also have the same effect . This variability in optimum averaging time with respect  
248 to wind speed is anticipated from Taylor’s hypothesis (Taylor, 1938). This study took an  
249 averaged sampling approach to binning the time series. Data was transmitted back to the base  
250 station in 10 minute averages. Each time series consisted of more than ten thousand wind  
251 measurements. For analysis the data was binned twice, first to create an hourly product and then  
252 a 6 hourly product. Instead of sampling over the duration of each hour, two data points before  
253 and after each desired interval were averaged.

254 In order to compare blended wind fields from satellite data with the WG observations, a  
255 collocation procedure was necessary to match the datasets spatially and temporally. For all wind  
256 products, a linear interpolation procedure was performed to produce wind pairs from both  
257 datasets. This method was possible due to the aforementioned temporal gridding of the WG data.  
258 Because the WGs were set to circle a fixed point, the majority of the collocations were  
259 performed on a coordinate points close to 43°00’S 8°30’E (Figure 2).

## 260 ***2.4 Statistical comparison***

261 WG meteorological records are provided every 10 minutes, while the satellite products  
262 and numerical weather products provide four data points per day (corresponding to the hours  
263 00H00, 06H00, 12H00, and 18H00 UTC). Initial statistical analysis is intended to assess the  
264 quality of the simultaneous records with respect to temporal and spatial accuracy. In order to

265 determine if the error associated with the satellite and reanalysis derived wind data is related to a  
266 particular wind speed, the wind data were analysed as a whole as well as in low, medium, and  
267 high wind speed categories. The thresholds for these wind speed categories were determined by  
268 the lower and upper quartiles of the WG dataset. This varied slightly for each time series; the  
269 winter-spring deployment of the CSIR2 WG in 2015 had a low speed threshold of  $7.3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , and  
270 a high speed threshold of  $12.4 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , while during austral summer CSIR1 WG had a low speed  
271 threshold of  $9.0 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , and a high speed threshold of  $16 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . The purpose of this approach was  
272 to show the error dependence on wind speed as well as to determine which product best  
273 represented each wind category.

274 The mean and the standard deviation of all wind products per wind speed category are  
275 calculated with the intent to show the standard variance from the mean. Statistical parameters  
276 such as the Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) and correlation coefficient ( $R^2$ ) are calculated to  
277 assess the ability of the wind products to represent the observed winds.  $U_i$  and  $U_j$  are variables  
278 which represent the satellite product wind speed and the observed wind speed by the WG,  
279 respectively.  $N$  is the total number of paired simulation/ observed records. More specifically,  
280 these parameters will determine the accuracy of the varying wind product's ability to represent  
281 the temporal variability of the wind. Bias is calculated to evaluate the tendency of the data and is  
282 intended to estimate differences in the mean state of the wind field. The intent of observing this  
283 parameter is to determine if wind products tend to over/underestimate the WG measured wind  
284 speed.

285 Lastly, Weibull Probability Density Functions (PDF's) were used to evaluate the various  
286 wind products ability to describe the WG measured wind regime. This method was similarly  
287 used by Liu et al. (2008) and Carvalho et al. (2013) in their assessment of QuikSCAT and Cross-

288 Calibrated Multi-Platform (CCMP) surface winds ability to characterize buoy measured wind  
289 regimes closest to reality.

### 290 **3. Results**

291 Wind speeds measured by the WG are compared against the corresponding gridded 10m  
292 surface winds available from various products. Initially, comparison was made between the  
293 entireties of all datasets. After hourly and 6 hourly binning methods were applied, each WG  
294 deployment rendered the following number of data points in the 6-hourly bins to compare to 6-  
295 hourly wind products: CSIR2- 27 July 2015 to 02 November 2015:  $n = 394$ ; CSIR1- 07  
296 December 2015 to 07 February 2016:  $n = 252$  (Figure 3).

297 In order to understand the degree of variance from the mean of each product, the mean  
298 and standard deviation of all wind products per wind speed category are provided in Table 2. The  
299 mean for the varying wind speed categories increases with respect to wind speed. Additionally,  
300 the magnitude of increase in the mean is fairly uniform between low and medium wind speeds  
301 (on average an increase of  $2-3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , except for both CSIR series which have an increase of  $\sim 5-6$   
302  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ). However, this magnitude varies significantly between medium and high wind speed  
303 categories for all wind products. For instance, during both time series the differences in the  
304 medium and high wind means of the SW product increased on the order of  $1-2 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , while the  
305 differences for other wind products were on the order of  $5-7 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ .

306 During the CSIR2 WG time series in 2015 the SW, ECMWF, and CFSv2 products  
307 underestimated the mean state by approximately  $0.3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  while the NCEP II product  
308 overestimated the mean state by approximately  $1.1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . All wind products underestimated the  
309 mean state of the winds recorded by the CSIR1 WG by approximately  $2.9 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  in 2015-2016,  
310 although the underestimation of the NCEP II product was on average just  $1.3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  less than the

311 *in situ* data. The variance of the mean of the WG data, as depicted by the standard deviation, is  
312 consistent at low and medium wind speeds, and increases slightly (approximately 20% increase)  
313 for high wind speeds. The only wind product which depicted this trend was NCEP2 and during  
314 both time series, this product's low wind speed category had a lower variance (averaged  $\pm 3.2$  m  
315  $s^{-1}$ ) with respect to the variance of the high wind speed category (averaged  $\pm 4.0$  m  $s^{-1}$ ). The SW  
316 product exhibited low variance (averaged  $\pm 2.9$  m  $s^{-1}$ ) with low and high speeds, while the  
317 greatest variance from the mean was at medium wind speeds (averaged  $\pm 3.2$  m  $s^{-1}$ ). The  
318 ECMWF product consistently exhibited a trend of decreasing variance with an increase in wind  
319 speed (averaged low wind variance  $\pm 2.6$  m  $s^{-1}$  compared to averaged high wind variance of  $\pm 2.2$   
320 m  $s^{-1}$ ). The CFSv2 product exhibited the most consistent variance across time series and wind  
321 speed categories with an average variance of  $\pm 2.9$  m  $s^{-1}$  for the CSIR2 time series, and an  
322 average variance of  $\pm 2.3$  m  $s^{-1}$  for the CSIR1 time series.

323 Further statistical comparison was conducted using root mean square error, mean bias,  
324 and the correlation coefficient (Table 3). Globally, there is a tendency for satellite product wind  
325 speed errors, as depicted by RMSE, to be greater in the presence of low and high winds  
326 (Carvalho et al., 2013). This trend was especially apparent for the SW product during the CSIR2  
327 time series. However, also during this time series the ECMWF, CFSv2, and NCEP2 products  
328 exhibited the highest RMSE for the low wind speed category. For the CSIR1 time series, the  
329 SW, ECMWF, and CFSv2 products exhibited the opposite trend where the high wind speed  
330 category had the highest RMSE. Only the NCEP2 product exhibited the trend described by  
331 Carvalho et al. (2013) during this time series. The ECMWF product exhibited the lowest RMSE  
332 across all wind speed categories during the CSIR2 time series, whereas during the CSIR1 series



333 the NCEP II product had the lowest RMSE for the all, medium and high wind speed categories  
334 (outperformed by CFSv2 and ECMWF for the low wind speed category).

335 The time series correlation using data collected by WG CSIR2 from July 2015 to  
336 November 2015 (Figure 4) represents an extensive austral winter to spring dataset while the time  
337 series collected by WG CSIR1 from December 2015 – February 2016 (Figure 5) represents an  
338 austral summer dataset of *in situ* observations. Related confidence levels of the correlations can  
339 be found in Table 3. For both time series, the SW product performed poorly across all wind  
340 speed categories and the majority of the correlations fell outside of confidence intervals. The SW  
341 product was observed to consistently have the highest error, especially so during high winds.  
342 Overall the lowest error varies, but is shown by the ECMWF wind product during the CSIR2  
343 time series (all wind speed RMSE = 2.62 m s<sup>-1</sup>) and by the NCEP II product during the CSIR1  
344 time series (all wind speed RMSE = 2.52 m s<sup>-1</sup>). For the *all* wind speed and *medium* wind speed  
345 categories, the ECMWF product had the highest correlation coefficients overall with respect to  
346 the WG *in situ* data.

347 ECMWF exhibited the following correlation coefficients for the *all* wind speed category:  
348 0.76 and 0.93, and the following coefficients for the medium wind speed category: 0.40 and 0.81  
349 (Table 3). Low wind speeds are best represented overall by the CFSv2 product, with correlation  
350 coefficients of 0.21 and 0.58, respectively. Statistically, the NCEP II product outperformed all  
351 other products in the high wind speed category with coefficients of 0.74 and 0.82, even though it  
352 significantly overestimated the magnitude of low and high winds during the CSIR2 time series  
353 (Figure 4). This overestimation positively skews the overall correlation of the NCEP II with the  
354 *in situ* data, which would suggest that it is not best suited to represent the temporal variability of  
355 this particular time series even though the statistics in Table 3 would suggest otherwise.

356 Therefore, the CFSv2 and ECMWF products similarly best represent the high wind speed  
357 category and in general best represent the temporal variability of the wind field during this  
358 sampling period.

359 The bias exhibited by all wind products with respect to the data collected by the WG  
360 ranged from as small as  $-0.18 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  (CFSv2 vs CSIR2 – 2015 *all* wind speed category) to as large  
361 as  $-9.23 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  (SW vs CSIR1 2015-2016 *high* wind speed category). Similar to the RMSE, the  
362 trends in bias are different during each time series. During the CSIR2 time series (July –  
363 November 2015) the bias for the ECMWF, CFSv2, and NCEP2 products remained fairly  
364 consistent across wind speed categories, but exhibited a positive bias for low winds and a  
365 negative bias for medium and high winds (exception- NCEP2 high winds). The SW product  
366 during this time series exhibited a highly positive bias of  $+3.14 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  for the low speed category,  
367  $-0.49 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  for the medium wind speed category, and  $-3.80 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  for the high wind speed  
368 category. This trend in bias was only exhibited by the SW and ECWFMF products during the  
369 CSIR2 time series (July – November 2015) and causes the SW product to appear better in  
370 performance than the NCEP2 product in this respect (SW *all* wind speed bias =  $-0.42 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ,  
371 NCEP2 *all* wind speed bias =  $+1.13 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ). During the CSIR1 time series (December 2015-  
372 February 2016) all products exhibited a systematic increase in bias with an increase in wind  
373 speed; however, the magnitude of increase was largest for the SW and smallest for the NCEP2  
374 product. Additionally, during this time series, all products exhibited a negative bias, indicative of  
375 an underrepresentation of the measured wind field (exception- SW *low* wind speed category).

376 Figure 6 visualizes the wind speed residuals from the wind products. There is an  
377 observed offset between the linear fit for each time series across all wind products; the CSIR2  
378 time series exhibits residuals on average  $2 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  higher than the CSIR1 time series. The SW

379 product is observed to consistently overestimate low wind speeds, and significantly  
380 underestimate high wind speeds. The ECMWF and CFSv2 products exhibit very similar trends in  
381 residuals and only slightly overestimate low wind speeds and slightly underestimate high wind  
382 speeds. The NCEP II product performs differently per time series by having the smallest residuals  
383 at highest wind speeds during the CSIR2 time series, and the largest residuals at highest wind  
384 speeds during the CSIR1 time series. Although each product performs slightly different from one  
385 another, they all follow the same trend: overestimating low wind speeds, and underestimating  
386 high wind speeds.

387 To assess which of the wind products offers a characterization of the WG wind regime  
388 closest to reality, a Weibull PDF is used (Figure 7). For the CSIR2 time series (July 2015 -  
389 November 2015), the ECMWF product wind speed frequency distribution is almost identical to  
390 the WG frequency distribution, with the CFSv2 product being a close second. The SW product  
391 exhibits a similar curve but significantly overestimates the frequency of the medium wind speeds  
392 while underestimating frequencies of high wind speeds. The NCEP II product underestimates the  
393 frequencies of low and medium wind speeds and overestimates the frequencies of high wind  
394 speeds during austral spring. However, during the CSIR1 time series (December 2015 - February  
395 2016), the NCEP II product best represents the frequency distribution of the *in situ* wind speeds.  
396 During austral summer the SW, ECMWF, and CFSv2 products overestimate the frequency of  
397 low and medium wind speeds, and underestimate the frequency of high wind speeds. While the  
398 *in situ* wind speed frequency distribution varies between the two time series, the products  
399 consistently estimate similar frequency distributions. This could be a result of sensor calibration  
400 offsets between the Airmar sensors and/or a seasonal change in the wind distributions between  
401 the two time series. When compared to the other products, the SW product systematically

402 represented the wind fields having higher frequencies of lower wind speeds. The ECMWF and  
403 CFSv2 products are characterized by a more even frequency distribution across all wind speed  
404 categories, while the NCEP2 product tended to introduce reduced variability in the wind speed  
405 frequency distribution. It was observed that the higher the maximum wind speed of the wind  
406 product, the greater the variability and the more even the distribution of wind speeds.

407

## 408 **4. Discussion**

### 409 ***4.1 Comparing field data to global wind products***

410 At global scale, numerous gridded scatterometer and/or reanalysis wind products such as  
411 QuikSCAT, Oceansat-2 Scatterometer (OSCAT) and Cross-Calibrated Multi-Platform (CCMP),  
412 tend to overestimate the true wind speed exponentially with respect to wind intensity (Carvalho  
413 et al., 2013), and have the highest margins of error during low and high wind events (Sudha et  
414 al., 2013; Alvarez et al., 2014; Jayaram et al., 2014). However, because various wind products  
415 have not been rigorously inter-calibrated, any comparison between satellite- and model derived  
416 wind data- with *in situ* data will only give relative information on accuracy (Vogelzang et al.,  
417 2012).

418 Based on our results, the performance of each product varied with respect to time of year  
419 and wind strength. The SW product consistently underestimated the wind fields and exhibited  
420 poor correlation across all wind speeds. As such it is not considered the preferred wind product  
421 for use in process understanding of upper ocean dynamics or realistic numerical analysis in the  
422 Southern Ocean. This may, in part be attributed to the fact that while SW data are available at a  
423 relatively high spatial resolution ( $0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$ ), it is a gridded satellite product. This product

424 uses a simple objective analysis method (spatial-temporally weighted interpolation) to generate a  
425 gridded and blended product (Zhang, 2006). This method of blending satellite observations  
426 minimizes but does not completely eliminate data gaps. As such, the high resolution of spatial  
427 and temporal sampling conducted by WG technology may not be represented accurately by the  
428 SW dataset. There is a dearth of in situ observations in this remote ocean, which leads to  
429 difficulties in validation of any given wind product. This is further amplified by our poor  
430 understanding of the surface boundary layer, where accurate estimates of both momentum and  
431 heat fluxes are poor and likely contribute to inaccurate algorithms and bulk formulas that are  
432 used to derive satellite wind estimates (Gille et al., 2016). Furthermore, such a gap in  
433 observational input may lead to inadequate assimilation and parametrization of the boundary  
434 layer and surface frictional processes. This can ultimately impact how we derive and model  
435 (reanalyse) wind estimates to produce gridded wind products. SW also poorly represent wind  
436 estimates at different wind speed thresholds, particularly at high wind states. This indicates that  
437 there may be issues with how satellite scatterometer data is interpreted during extreme events  
438 which could be a result of high sea state (swell), surface wave breaking and surface turbulence  
439 all affecting the backscatter observed by the satellite. The strong performance of all reanalysis  
440 wind products in this study is indicative of improved algorithms and model parameterisations for  
441 different wind speeds related to different sea states. The improved performance of both the  
442 ECMWF and CFSv2 products may be attributed to the high spatial resolution of the datasets  
443 ( $0.125^\circ \times 0.125^\circ$ , and  $0.205^\circ \times 0.204^\circ$  respectively) that take into account finer scale variability  
444 in the wind field and meteorological processes. In this study, four of the ECMWF sampling  
445 locations fall either directly on or within a tenth of a degree ( $\sim 10$  km) away from the  
446 circumference of the octagon sampling pattern (Figure 2) of the WGs for both time series. For

447 the NCEP2 product, the nearest point of reference to the majority of the *in situ* measurements is  
448 roughly 100 km (see Figure 2). Such low resolution data could lead to larger uncertainties  
449 between NCEP2 and the *in situ* measurements. Overall, the ECMWF product performs best  
450 (with *all* wind speed correlations of 0.76 and 0.93) at consistently representing the temporal wind  
451 field variability as observed by the WG.

452         During the CSIR2 time series (July 2015 – November 2015), measures of error and bias  
453 for ECMWF and CFSv2 were lower than for NCEP2 for all wind speed categories. However,  
454 during the CSIR1 time series (December 2015- February 2016) the NCEP2 product outperforms  
455 all other products with regard to error and bias. While the CFSv2 product is better than ECMWF  
456 at representing the mean wind state of low and medium wind speeds, ECMWF is better at  
457 representing the temporal variability of the wind field magnitude. Upon closer inspection of the  
458 performance of the NCEP2 product, it best represented the mean wind state by exhibiting similar  
459 trends in standard deviation across wind speed categories. For example, across time series the  
460 NCEP2 product had similar deviations from the mean of the low and medium wind speed  
461 categories, and a greater deviation for the high wind speed category. This trend is also depicted  
462 by the *in situ* data (Table 2); however, all other products exhibit opposing trends in deviation  
463 from the mean. Due to these factors, the NCEP2 product is best at representing the mean wind  
464 state and deviation from the mean state, particularly during periods of high wind speeds.  
465 However, this product should be used with caution, given that NCEP2 derives its overall high  
466 correlation through its overestimation of low and high wind speeds (Figure 6).

467         The ability of a product to best represent the wind speed frequency distribution is  
468 illustrated in Figure 7. Findings by Pickett et al. (2003) and Tang et al. (2004) suggest that  
469 satellites measure higher frequencies of strong winds and lower frequencies of weak winds.

470 However, during this study the frequency distribution of the *in situ* wind speeds varied between  
471 times series, while the frequency distribution of the satellite product wind speeds remains  
472 consistent. As such, a different product for each time series best represented the frequency  
473 distribution of observed wind speeds (Figure 7). The SW product consistently showed higher  
474 frequencies of low wind speeds which did not reflect the frequency distribution of the *in situ*  
475 winds for either time series. ECMWF and CFSv2 similarly showed a more uniform distribution  
476 of wind speed frequencies which almost perfectly matched the frequency distribution measured  
477 by the CSIR2 WG during the July – November 2015 time series. There was an observed 2.52 m  
478 s<sup>-1</sup> increase in the mean wind speed of the CSIR1 time series (December 2015 – February 2016)  
479 with respect to the CSIR2 time series (Table 2). NCEP II consistently showed a broader  
480 distribution of speed frequencies, and thus this product best represented the frequency  
481 distribution of wind speeds during the CSIR1 time series.

482         Satellite derived wind data as well as reanalysis and model products can be very different  
483 from in-situ anemometer data in that they tend to represent synoptic-scale wind perturbations. A  
484 study by Atlas et al. (1999) showed that satellite products can detect mesoscale features, however  
485 this representation is limited since satellite and NWP products are of lower spatial and temporal  
486 resolution (Carvalho et al., 2013). Anemometer wind data is closer to a temporal average of  
487 instantaneous moments, while satellite winds represent a spatial average of instantaneous  
488 moments (Pansieri et al., 2010). Studies have shown that in cases where a limited amount of data  
489 existed, such as from a single satellite, any interpolations or extrapolations were inaccurate in  
490 representing the true strength of mesoscale events (Isaksen and Stoffelen, 2000). Bearing this in  
491 mind, over most SW grids the number of observational input data points is over 40 (Zhang,  
492 2006). As such a multiple satellite blending scheme can be advantageous in representing fine

493 scale wind perturbations in the Southern Ocean. ECMWF, on the other hand, is a reanalysis  
494 product using a sequential data assimilation scheme, advancing forward in time using 12 hourly  
495 analysis cycles (Dee et al., 2011). A temporally short-scale assimilation scheme could give  
496 ECMWF an advantage over other reanalysis products, such as NCEP-II, in representing the  
497 temporal variability on shorter temporal scales, as is a dominant scale of this study. CFSv2 is a  
498 fully coupled ocean–land–atmosphere dynamical model using a global ocean data assimilation  
499 system (GODAS) operational at NCEP (Saha et al., 2014). This product is unique in that it  
500 makes retrospective forecasts to calibrate operational subsequent real time sub-seasonal and  
501 seasonal predictions (Saha et al., 2014). This calibration scheme could be why CFSv2 is a more  
502 rounded product and performs well in representing both the temporal variability and the mean  
503 wind state. The NCEP-II product is also a model simulation (forecast/hindcast reanalysis);  
504 however, the data assimilation scheme is slightly different to ECMWF which is forced to  
505 conform to observational input. Using 4-D data assimilation methodology, observational input  
506 from ships, satellite, radiosonde, aircraft, and meteorological station observations are  
507 incorporated into NCEP-II (Kalnay et al., 1996). An assimilation methodology with high input  
508 gives NCEP-II the ability to represent regional climate dynamics (Kanamitsu et al., 2002), even  
509 though it is of the coarsest spatial resolution compared to all other wind products.

#### 510 ***4.2 Wave Glider meteorological sampling assumptions and potential shortcomings***

511 Compared to conventional *in situ* meteorological observing platforms, such as ships and  
512 moorings, the WG has a low profile with respect to sea level with the Airmar sensor located just  
513 0.7m above the sea surface. As stated in the methods, all wind observations in this study are  
514 extrapolated to 10m above the sea surface for comparison to the wind products. However, this  
515 proximity of sampling so close to the sea surface may not fully comprehend the impact of



516 surface friction and wave sheltering of the true wind field, especially in the case of extreme wind  
517 events or storms where large swell conditions of the Southern Ocean may impact the WG to  
518 product comparison. This scenario may explain the greater observed bias between the WG and  
519 product winds as a function of increasing wind speed and the impacts felt by the associated  
520 increase in sea state. This would suggest that wind observations from near surface platforms  
521 measure the winds between waves rather than the wind field ‘above’ the ocean surface. As such  
522 WGs are likely prone to underestimating wind speeds, particularly in the presence of large  
523 waves, and so are more suited to characterizing wind variability versus wind speed magnitude. In  
524 future deployments, ship-based meteorological observations could be used to compare with the  
525 WG observations to assess the magnitude and behavior of these potential inaccuracies in varying  
526 sea states and wind regimes. In addition, the Airmar sensor is prone to larger errors at higher  
527 wind speeds (see Methods section), which could contribute to the enhanced bias with higher  
528 wind speeds.

529         Furthermore, the WG measures absolute wind conditions at a particular location, while  
530 scatterometers measure wind relative to a moving ocean surface (Sudha and Rao, 2013).  
531 Dickinson et al. (2001) observed that during alignment (both in same and opposite direction) of  
532 both wind and surface ocean current, scatterometer data tend to be under or overestimated. This  
533 could partially explain the bias observed by products using scatterometer data. Shown in Table 2,  
534 the greatest standard deviation of wind products is often associated with low wind speeds (except  
535 for NCEP II), potentially indicative of the scatterometer inability to appropriately detect weak  
536 wind speeds due to the limited detection limits of the sensor in measuring surface scatter caused  
537 by wind-surface interaction. Additionally, the relation between wind and backscatter is provided  
538 by an empirical geophysical model function. However, because the quantity of backscatter

539 cannot be obtained during *in situ* sampling, model functions have varying methods of  
540 interpretation and subsequent assumptions which may not translate as intended for remote  
541 locations such as the Southern Ocean. An example of such an assumption is of the neutral  
542 stratification of the marine atmospheric boundary layer which is on average weakly unstable and  
543 the global average neutral equivalent wind is  $\sim 0.2 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  stronger than real wind (Hersbach,  
544 2009). Ebuchi et al. (2002) note the generation of small-scale waves via wind stress also varies  
545 with respect to atmospheric stability, which in turn affects radar backscatter used to derive wind  
546 speed. In addition, the difference between surface air temperature and SST is largely responsible  
547 for variability in stability. In the condition of a stable boundary layer, neutral equivalent winds  
548 can be lower than real winds by as much as  $0.5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  (Hersbach, 2009). A similar argument can  
549 be made for the WG where in this study the vertical transformation of WG data did not include  
550 information on the atmospheric stability because we have no observations of the relative  
551 humidity from the WG. It is possible that data transformation could be in the order of  $0.7 \text{ m s}^{-1}$   
552 greater in magnitude (Singh et al., 2013). In future deployments and glider experiments, the  
553 measurement of the atmospheric stability via relative humidity - not yet available on sensors  
554 located in such proximity to the sea surface - should be included in order to reduce uncertainty in  
555 the WG derived winds.

### 556 ***4.3 Broader implications***

557 Ocean circulation modelling, climate change estimation, and numerical weather  
558 predictions are heavily dependent on the accuracy of input of meteorological information. Upper  
559 ocean dynamics are closely linked to atmospheric variability, particularly in the Southern Ocean  
560 where wind magnitudes and heat flux variations are great. As mentioned previously, the mid-  
561 latitude regions of the Southern Ocean are host to the strongest wind fields at the ocean surface.

562 If these winds are not accurately represented, models will incorrectly simulate a range of  
563 processes and parameters such as air-sea exchanges of heat and moisture, lateral advection,  
564 stratification and mixed layer dynamics (frontal formation and instabilities), Ekman pumping and  
565 transport. Given the importance of this, the present study and others shows that in many cases the  
566 wind fields are poorly represented.

567         Upper ocean models which include satellite-derived wind speed input do not accurately  
568 represent variance in mixed layer depth (MLD) and SST. Ocean circulation models have shown  
569 the sensitivity of the MLD to the gustiness in the wind (Lee et al., 2008). Turbulent mixing and  
570 subsequent buoyancy forcing caused by sea surface winds strongly influences the MLD. As the  
571 MLD shallows, high wind events are observed to have a greater impact on the deepening of the  
572 mixed layer (Carranza and Gille, 2015). Carranza and Gille (2015) observed that during high  
573 wind events, water from below the mixed layer is entrained in the upper ocean as the mixed layer  
574 deepens. Swart et al. (2015) observe with high-resolution glider datasets that this variability of  
575 the MLD is driven by synoptic storms (4-9 days) where turbulent mixing deepens the surface  
576 mixed layer, while quiescent wind episodes allow the upper ocean to restratify and subsequently  
577 shoal the MLD (du Plessis et al, 2017). This wind-driven mixing also influences SST, where cold  
578 water from below the MLD is entrained in the upper ocean. This in turn influences the mixed  
579 layer heat budget (Bonekamp et al., 1999) and produces cooler SSTs. Carranza and Gille (2015)  
580 found a statistically significant negative correlation between wind speed and SST anomalies, and  
581 that wind speed alone can explain as much as 80% of the variance observed in SSTs. The  
582 accurate representation of these upper ocean dynamics has been proven to have important  
583 implications for numerous chemical, biogeochemical and biological processes (e.g. Thomalla et

584 al., 2011; Fauchereau et al., 2011; Swart et al., 2015; Carranza and Gille 2015), as well as  
585 biogeochemical models (e.g. Nicholson et al., 2016), that are not elaborated on in this study.

586

## 587 **5. Conclusion**

588 Predictions of heat, moisture, and momentum exchanges between the ocean and the  
589 atmosphere remain uncertain in data sparse regions, such as the Southern Ocean (Gille et al.,  
590 2016). We use high-frequency observations of wind stress obtained from WG deployments in the  
591 Subantarctic Ocean to compare with four available satellite scatterometer and reanalysis global  
592 wind products. It was found that the NCEP II product best represented the mean wind state in  
593 certain conditions, namely with respect to the high wind speed category correlations for both  
594 time series (0.74 and 0.82, respectively). Overall, ECMWF most consistently represented the  
595 temporal wind field variability as observed by the glider, by representing the highest ‘all’ wind  
596 speed correlations with coefficients of 0.76 and 0.93 for the independent time series. CFSv2 was  
597 a close performer to ECMWF in its representation of the temporal wind field variability with  
598 correlations differing on average  $< 0.05$  from the ECMWF correlations with the WG. However,  
599 on average CFSv2 had a slightly higher bias and RMSE (on average  $< 0.2 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) compared to  
600 ECMWF. The results clearly showed that the SW product performed poorly at representing the  
601 mean or wind stress variability (majority of the correlations  $< 0.1$ ) compared to those observed by  
602 the WG.

603 The overall comparison between WG winds and gridded products in this study provide  
604 confidence that autonomous surface vehicles, such as the WG, can be used to understand and  
605 validate satellite-derived wind estimates. Further use of such vehicles should be supported to  
606 provide improved time and space scale data sets and data volumes, particularly in remote and

607 harsh regions, such as the high-latitude oceans. There is a need to correctly parameterize  
608 transient and synoptic scale wind fields in order to improve depictions of decadal and century  
609 scale changes in ocean-atmosphere relationships.

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789 **Table and Figure captions:**

790

791 **Table 1:** Characteristics of the different wind products used in this study

792

793 **Table 2:** The mean and standard deviation of all wind products and WG data per wind speed  
794 category, as defined in Section 2.3. All bold product values indicate the closest match to the WG  
795 data.

796

797 **Table 3:** Comparison between *in situ* WG and satellite/reanalysis products, which includes the  
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799 coefficients. The bold values highlight the wind product providing the closest match with the *in*  
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801 coefficient). All correlation coefficients  $> |0.24|$  exhibit a confidence interval  $>99\%$ . The number  
802 of comparative observations are shown by 'N'.

803

804 **Figure 1.** (a) The study region in the Subantarctic Ocean, with the main location of where the *in*  
805 *situ* data was collected at  $43^{\circ}00'S$   $8^{\circ}30'0E$  (indicated by black square) and overlaid on the  
806 monthly averaged ECMWF wind speeds ( $m\ s^{-1}$ ) for December 2015. The mean locations of the  
807 Southern Ocean fronts are overlaid (solid black curves) according to Swart et al., 2010. (b) The  
808 Liquid Robotics SV2 Wave Glider with the Airmar weather station indicated (photo credit: Fred  
809 Fourie).

810

811 **Figure 2:** Map of sampling region in the Southern Ocean, centered at 43°00'S 8°30'E. The WG  
812 sampling locations, encompassing two separate deployments, are indicated with respect to spatial  
813 distribution of gridded wind products.

814

815 **Figure 3:** Comparison of wind products (colored curves) with *in situ* WG data (black line) and  
816 upper and lower limits of each product dotted lines of their respective colors. (a) WG CSIR2,  
817 July - November 2015. (b) WG CSIR1, December 2015 – February 2016. Data gaps in (a)  
818 represent periods when the meteorology sampling was stopped in order to save battery power  
819 during poor solar charging periods in winter-spring. SW represents the SeaWinds product.

820

821 **Figure 4:** Comparison of wind products with *in situ* (CSIR2 WG) data collected July 2015 –  
822 November 2015 (austral winter-spring). Wind speed categories are determined using the lower  
823 and upper quartiles of the *in situ* data. A linear fit for each wind speed category is shown.

824

825 **Figure 5:** Comparison of wind products with *in situ* (CSIR1 WG) data collected December 2015  
826 – February 2016 (austral summer). Wind speed categories are determined using the lower and  
827 upper quartiles of the *in situ* data. A linear fit for each wind speed category is shown.

828

829 **Figure 6:** Wind speed residuals (wind product minus *in situ* data) for both WG time series.  
830 Linear fit for each time series and product is displayed in their respective colors.

831

832 **Figure 7:** Wind speed frequency distribution (Weibull PDF) for all products (SW, ECMWF,  
833 CFSv2, and NCEP2) compared to *in situ* wind collection by Wave Gliders (a) CSIR2 and (b)  
834 CSIR1.

835



836 **Tables and Figures:**

837

838 **Table 1:** Characteristics of the different wind products used in this study

| <b>Wind Products</b> | <b>Time (h) Resolution</b> | <b>Spatial Resolution</b> | <b>Reference</b>             | <b>Time Coverage</b>    |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| SW                   | 6                          | 0.25° x 0.25°             | <i>Zhang 2006</i>            | 09 July 1987 - Present  |
| ECMWF                | 6                          | 0.125° x 0.125°           | <i>Dee et al. 2011</i>       | 1979 – 31 Jan 2016      |
| CFSv2                | 6                          | 0.205° x 0.204°           | <i>Saha et al. 2014</i>      | 01 April 2011 - Present |
| NCEP2                | 6                          | 1.875° x 1.904°           | <i>Kanamitsu et al. 2002</i> | 1979 - Present          |

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851 **Table 2:** The mean and standard deviation of all wind products and WG data per wind speed  
 852 category, as defined in Section 2.3. All bold product values indicate the closest match to the  
 853 WG data.

| <u><i>TIME SERIES</i></u>                              | <b>ALL</b>                       | <b>LOW</b>           | <b>MEDIUM</b>        | <b>HIGH</b>          |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|  | (m s <sup>-1</sup> )             | (m s <sup>-1</sup> ) | (m s <sup>-1</sup> ) | (m s <sup>-1</sup> ) |
| CSIR2: July 2015 - Nov. 2015                           |                                  |                      |                      |                      |
| CSIR1: Dec. 2015 - Feb. 2016                           |                                  |                      |                      |                      |
| <b>LOW WIND SPEEDS</b>                                 |                                  |                      |                      |                      |
| CSIR2 ≤ 7.3 m s <sup>-1</sup>                          | <i>CSIR2</i> 9.98 ± 3.76         | 5.21 ± 1.32          | 9.93 ± 1.46          | 14.83 ± 2.03         |
| CSIR1 ≤ 9.0 m s <sup>-1</sup>                          | <i>SW</i> 9.63 ± 3.24            | 8.42 ± 3.06          | 9.51 ± 3.37          | 11.10 ± 2.49         |
|  | <i>CFSv2</i> <b>9.80 ± 3.97</b>  | 6.30 ± 3.04          | <b>9.51 ± 2.86</b>   | <b>13.86 ± 2.93</b>  |
|  | <i>ECMWF</i> 9.58 ± 3.64         | <b>6.25 ± 2.92</b>   | 9.39 ± 2.57          | 13.26 ± 2.57         |
| <b>MEDIUM WIND SPEEDS</b>                              |                                  |                      |                      |                      |
| 7.3 m s <sup>-1</sup> ≤ CSIR2 ≤ 12.4 m s <sup>-1</sup> | <i>NCEP2</i> 11.11 ± 5.03        | 7.39 ± 3.81          | 10.52 ± 3.63         | 16.00 ± 4.70         |
| 9.0 m s <sup>-1</sup> ≤ CSIR1 ≤ 16.0 m s <sup>-1</sup> | <i>CSIR1</i> 12.50 ± 4.79        | 6.76 ± 1.84          | 12.20 ± 2.06         | 18.82 ± 2.53         |
|  | <i>SW</i> 8.57 ± 3.14            | 7.36 ± 2.93          | 8.67 ± 3.14          | 9.59 ± 2.99          |
| <b>HIGH WIND SPEEDS</b>                                |                                  |                      |                      |                      |
| CSIR2 ≥ 12.4 m s <sup>-1</sup>                         | <i>CFSv2</i> 9.39 ± 4.05         | 5.17 ± 2.16          | 8.96 ± 2.39          | 14.50 ± 2.32         |
| CSIR1 ≥ 16.0 m s <sup>-1</sup>                         | <i>ECMWF</i> 9.21 ± 3.90         | 4.95 ± 2.28          | 8.88 ± 2.16          | 14.12 ± 2.03         |
|  | <i>NCEP2</i> <b>11.15 ± 4.97</b> | <b>6.72 ± 2.70</b>   | <b>10.67 ± 2.80</b>  | <b>17.28 ± 3.41</b>  |

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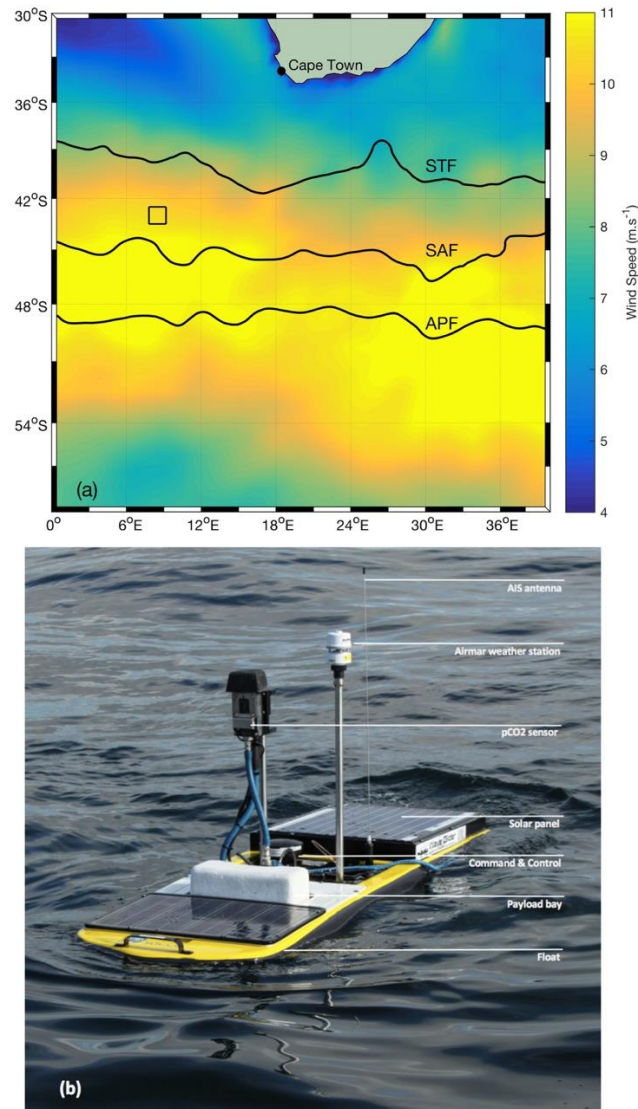
862

863 **Table 3:** Comparison between *in situ* WG and satellite/reanalysis products, which includes the  
864 wind speed error per wind speed category, root mean square error, bias, and correlation  
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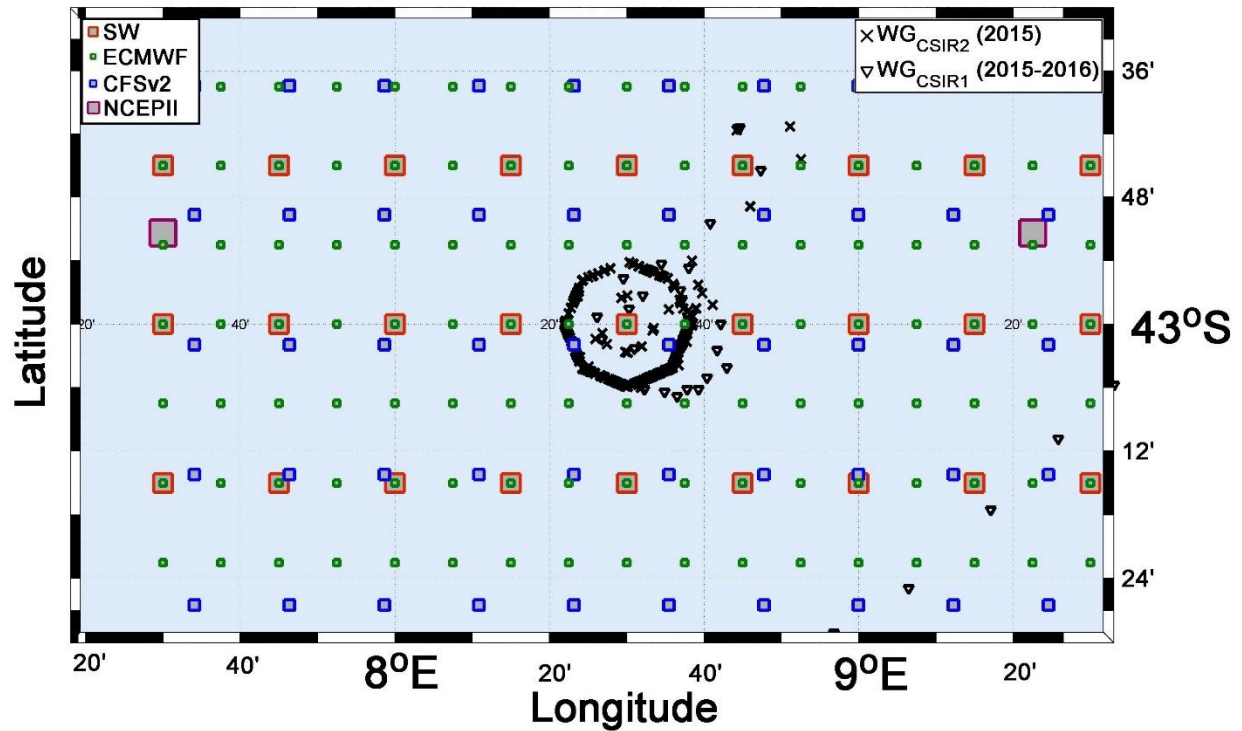
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| <u>WG CSIR 1</u>   |                      | CSIR1        | ALL                  | LOW                  | MEDIUM               | HIGH                 | N   |
|--|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----|
| Dec. 2015 -<br>Feb. 2016   |                      | vs:          | (m s <sup>-1</sup> ) | (m s <sup>-1</sup> ) | (m s <sup>-1</sup> ) | (m s <sup>-1</sup> ) |     |
| <b>LOW WIND</b><br>WG ≤ 9.0 m s <sup>-1</sup>                                    | <b>RMSE</b>          | SW           | 6.37                 | 3.23                 | 5.24                 | 9.84                 | 243 |
|  |                      | <b>CFSv2</b> | 3.58                 | <b>2.39</b>          | 3.51                 | 4.57                 | 245 |
|  |                      | <b>ECMWF</b> | 3.70                 | 2.43                 | 3.42                 | 5.06                 | 217 |
|  |                      | <b>NCEP2</b> | <b>2.52</b>          | 2.75                 | <b>2.40</b>          | <b>2.50</b>          | 245 |
| <b>MEDIUM WIND</b><br>9.0 m s <sup>-1</sup> ≤ WG;<br>WG ≤ 16.0 m s <sup>-1</sup> | <b>BIAS</b>          | SW           | -3.92                | <b>+0.60</b>         | -3.53                | -9.23                | 243 |
|  |                      | <b>CFSv2</b> | -3.06                | -1.55                | -3.19                | -4.32                | 245 |
|  |                      | <b>ECMWF</b> | -3.16                | -1.55                | -3.16                | -4.78                | 217 |
|  |                      | <b>NCEP2</b> | <b>-1.31</b>         | -0.75                | <b>-1.47</b>         | <b>-1.54</b>         | 245 |
| <b>HIGH WIND</b><br>WG ≥ 16.0 m s <sup>-1</sup>                                  | <b>R<sup>2</sup></b> | SW           | 0.25                 | 0.16                 | -0.08                | 0.24                 | 243 |
|  |                      | <b>CFSv2</b> | <b>0.93</b>          | 0.58                 | 0.79                 | 0.81                 | 245 |
|  |                      | <b>ECMWF</b> | <b>0.93</b>          | <b>0.59</b>          | <b>0.81</b>          | 0.77                 | 217 |
|  |                      | <b>NCEP2</b> | 0.90                 | 0.35                 | 0.73                 | <b>0.82</b>          | 245 |
| <u>WG CSIR 2</u>   |                      | CSIR2        | ALL                  | LOW                  | MEDIUM               | HIGH                 | N   |
| July. 2015 -<br>Nov. 2015  |                      | vs:          | (m s <sup>-1</sup> ) | (m s <sup>-1</sup> ) | (m s <sup>-1</sup> ) | (m s <sup>-1</sup> ) |     |
| <b>LOW WIND</b><br>WG ≤ 7.3 m s <sup>-1</sup>                                    | <b>RMSE</b>          | SW           | 4.25                 | 4.58                 | 3.64                 | 4.95                 | 250 |
|  |                      | <b>CFSv2</b> | 2.81                 | 3.22                 | 2.76                 | 2.47                 | 259 |
|  |                      | <b>ECMWF</b> | <b>2.62</b>          | <b>3.14</b>          | <b>2.45</b>          | <b>2.35</b>          | 259 |
|  |                      | <b>NCEP2</b> | 3.73                 | 4.47                 | 3.34                 | 3.64                 | 259 |
| <b>MEDIUM WIND</b><br>7.3 m s <sup>-1</sup> ≤ WG;<br>WG ≤ 12.4 m s <sup>-1</sup> | <b>BIAS</b>          | SW           | -0.42                | +3.14                | -0.49                | -3.80                | 250 |
|  |                      | <b>CFSv2</b> | <b>-0.18</b>         | +1.09                | <b>-0.43</b>         | <b>-0.97</b>         | 259 |
|  |                      | <b>ECMWF</b> | -0.40                | <b>+1.04</b>         | -0.54                | -1.57                | 259 |
|  |                      | <b>NCEP2</b> | +1.13                | +2.18                | -0.58                | +1.17                | 259 |
| <b>HIGH WIND</b><br>WG ≥ 12.0 m s <sup>-1</sup>                                  | <b>R<sup>2</sup></b> | SW           | 0.27                 | -0.03                | 0.05                 | 0.01                 | 250 |
|  |                      | <b>CFSv2</b> | 0.74                 | <b>0.21</b>          | 0.34                 | 0.63                 | 259 |
|  |                      | <b>ECMWF</b> | <b>0.76</b>          | 0.17                 | 0.40                 | 0.73                 | 259 |
|  |                      | <b>NCEP2</b> | 0.71                 | 0.07                 | <b>0.42</b>          | <b>0.74</b>          | 259 |

870



873 **Figure 1.** (a) The study region in the Subantarctic Ocean, with the main location of where the in  
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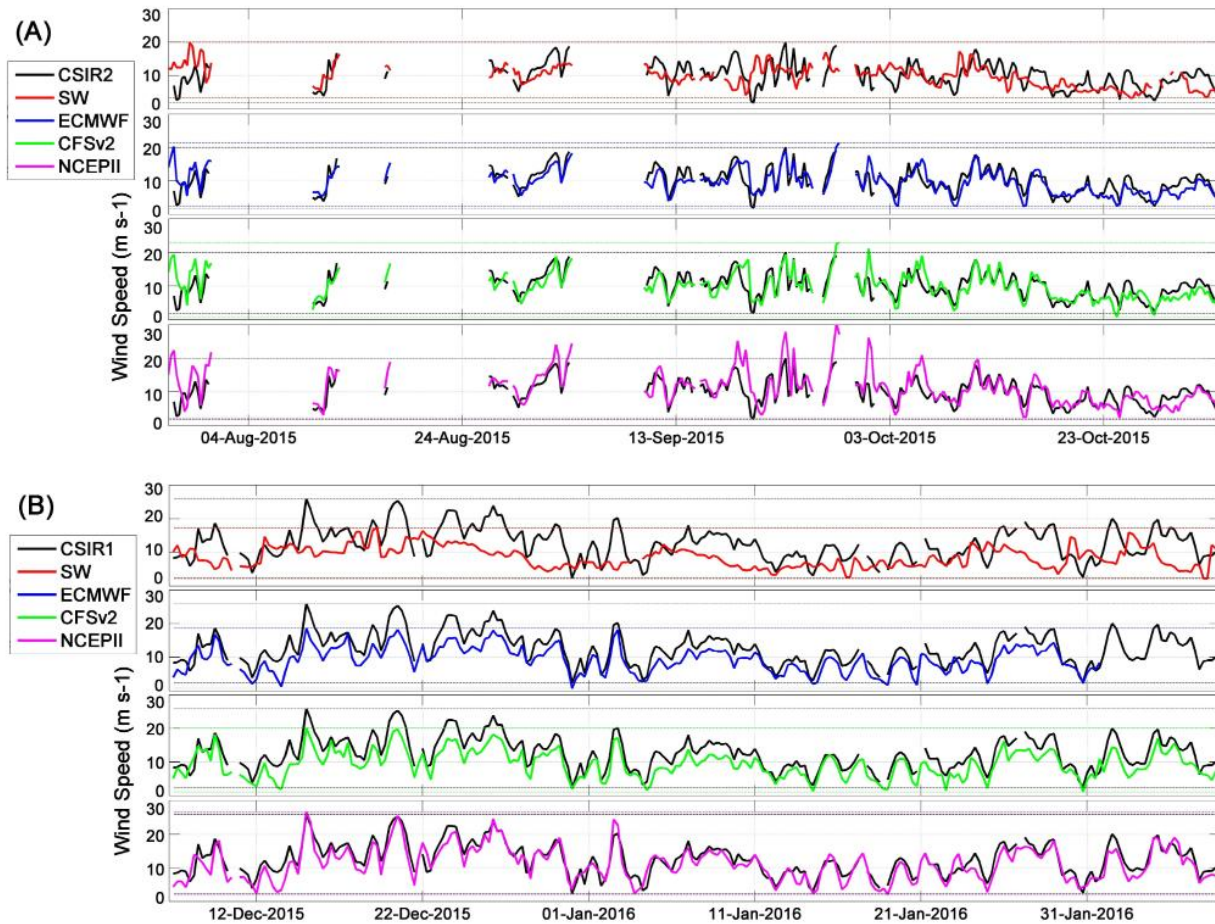


880

881 **Figure 2:** Map of sampling region in the Southern Ocean, centered at 43°00'S 8°30'0E. The WG  
 882 sampling locations, encompassing two separate deployments, are indicated with respect to spatial  
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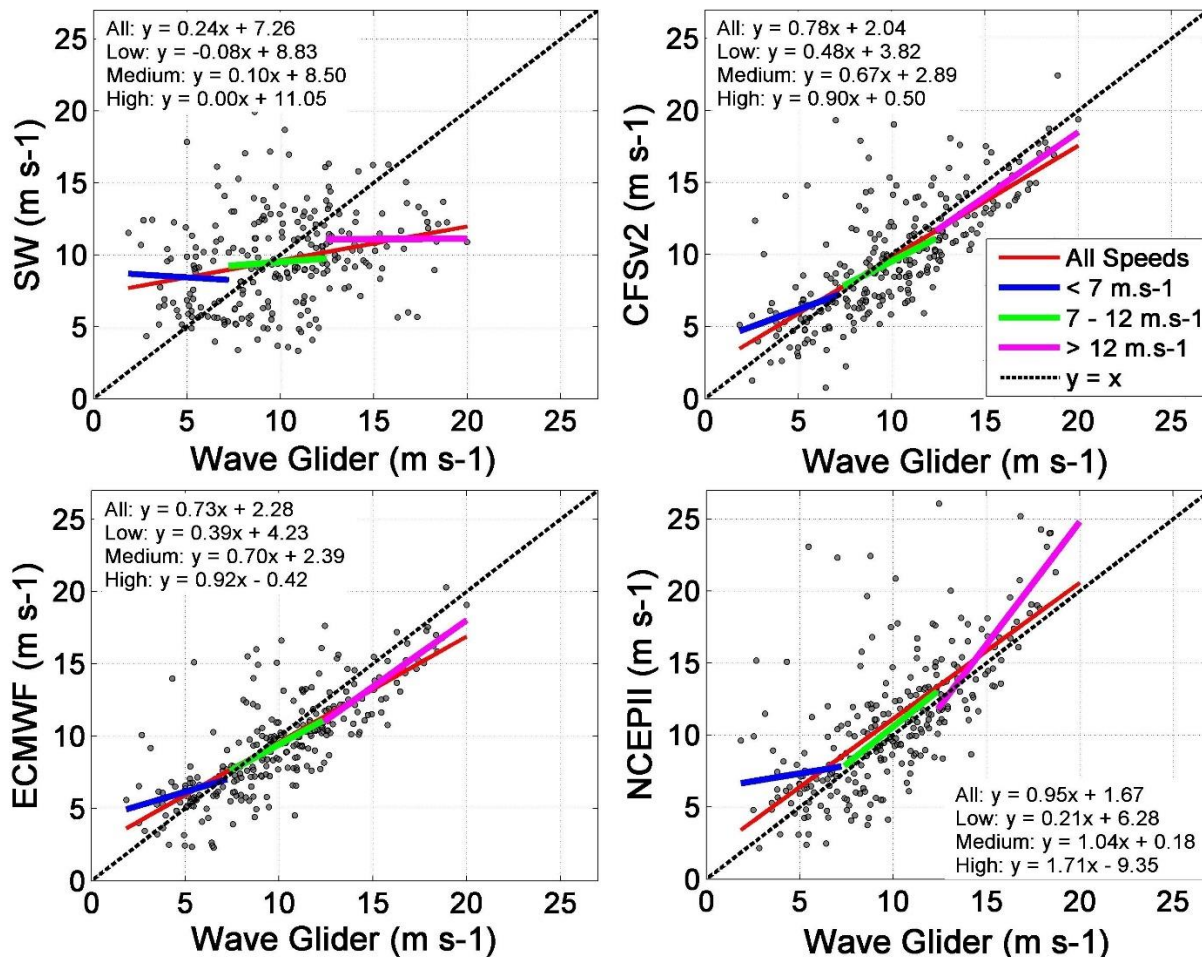
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887 **Figure 3:** Comparison of wind products (colored curves) with *in situ* WG data (black line) and  
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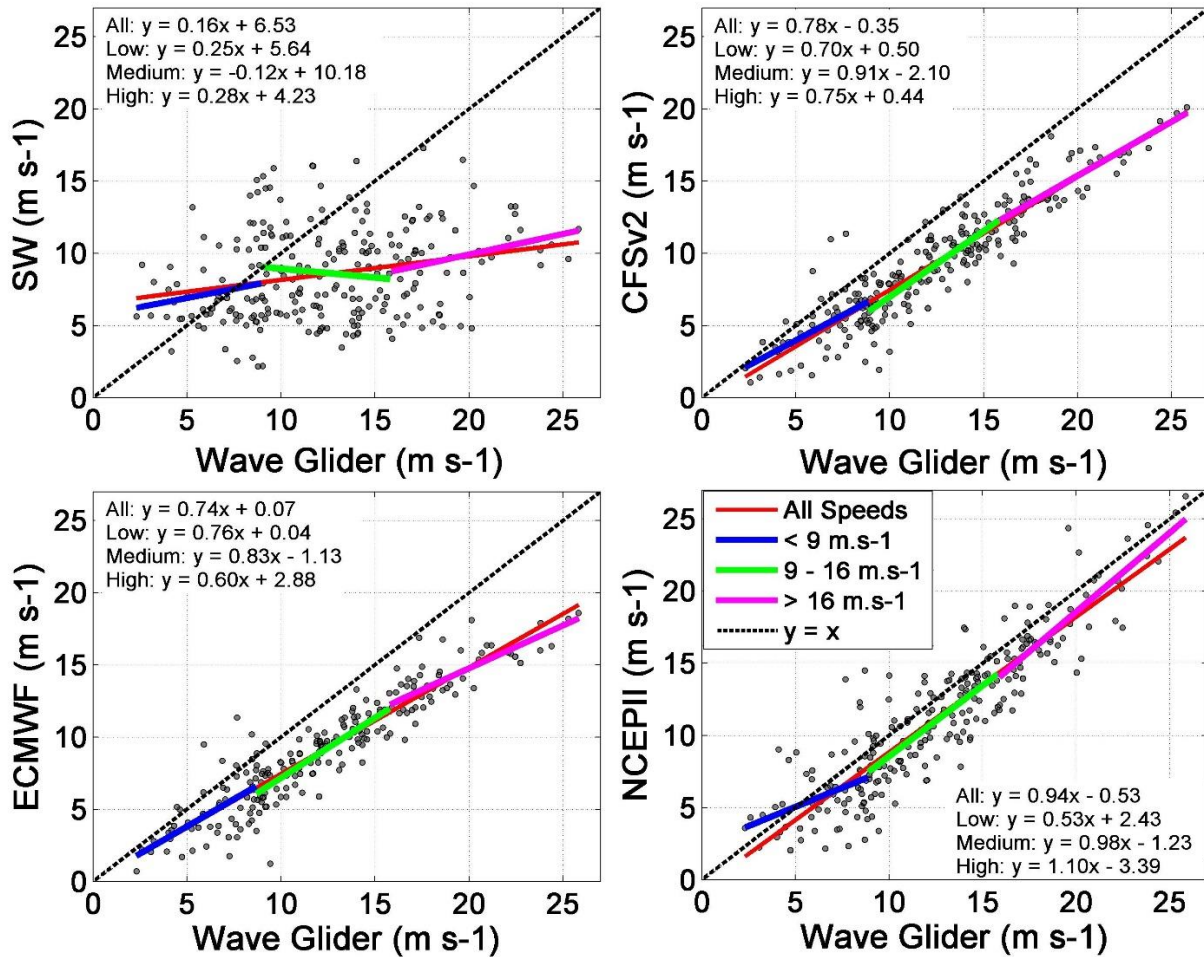
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904 **Figure 5:** Comparison of wind products with *in situ* (CSIR1 WG) data collected December 2015  
 905 – February 2016 (austral summer). Wind speed categories are determined using the lower and  
 906 upper quartiles of the *in situ* data. A linear fit for each wind speed category is shown.

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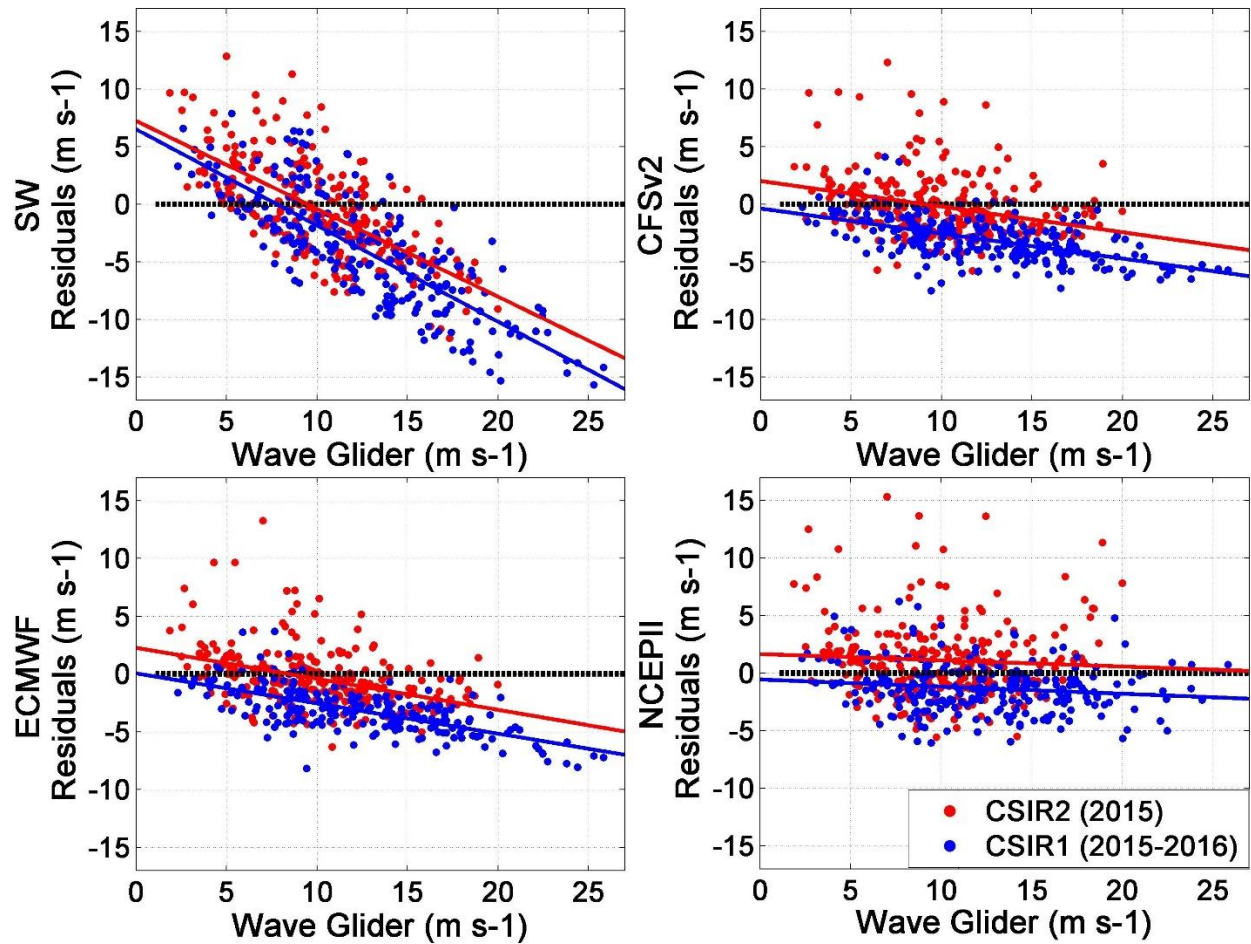
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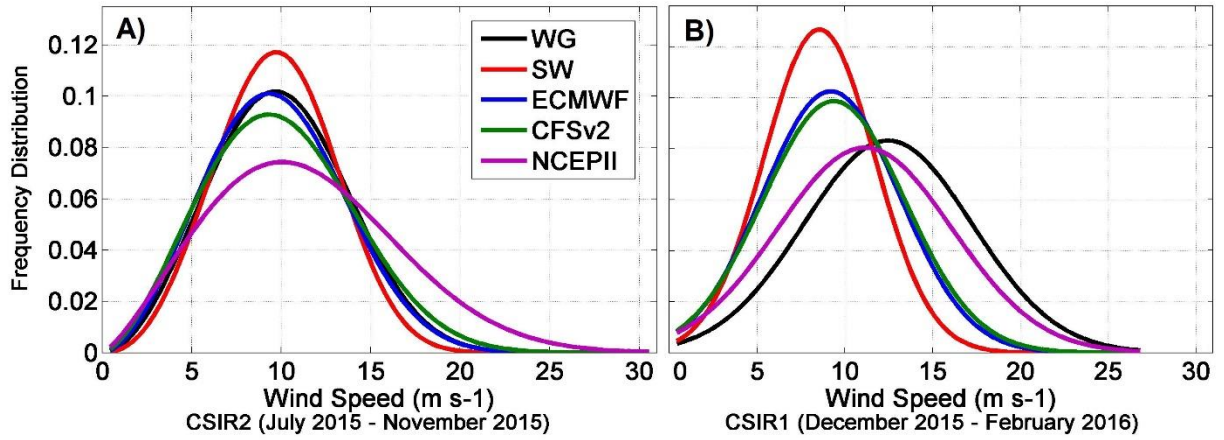
913 **Figure 6:** Wind speed residuals (wind product minus *in situ* data) for both WG time series.

914 Linear fit for each time series and product is displayed in their respective colors.

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919 **Figure 7:** Wind speed frequency distribution (Weibull PDF) for all products (SW, ECMWF,  
 920 CFSv2, and NCEP II) compared to *in situ* wind collection by Wave Gliders (a) CSIR2 and (b)  
 921 CSIR1.

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