

**CEOS Constellations and the Use of Scatterometer Winds and Altimeter Waves
by Operational Marine Forecast Centers
with Responsibility for the Southern hemisphere GMDSS MetAreas**

The Committee for Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) has introduced the concept of *Virtual Constellations* to harmonize planning amongst the satellite agencies. Surface Vector Wind (SVW) and Ocean Surface Topography Constellations have been established; and as one of the initial steps to promote the operational use of resulting data, an assessment was conducted of the extent to which the marine forecast centers with responsibility for operational high-seas forecasts for the MetAreas of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) were using SVW and Significant Wave Height (SWH) from the two scatterometers and three altimeters currently on orbit. These centers are located in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Fiji, Mauritius, South Africa and New Zealand. With the exception of Australia and New Zealand, SVW and SWH products were being used, at best, on a very limited basis in operational forecasts. The results of the assessment, including problems encountered, and a recommended way forward will be presented. This talk represents an introduction to an extra half-day Constellation session on Wednesday afternoon the 20th immediately following the conclusion of the OSVWST meeting; anyone interested is invited to participate.