

Topic 3c- Data Short: Sea Wind and Ice

So the Copernicus system is using data from the Sentinel satellites, but there are other data sources that are contributing to the whole process and the data that become available. Here's some of the stuff from EUMETSAT. So, some of the key data that we provide, for example, is the ice monitoring. We're able to monitor the northern and southern poles just to see how the ice extent changes during the course of a season, and how those extents change from year to year.

In the summers, what we're starting to see, of course, is less ice being present. And what this means is we're going to be able, with the polar satellites, we're going to be able to monitor the bio and geophysical processes of the Arctic Oceans and the Antarctic Oceans. Things that we've never been able to see before as a result of the sea ice extent changes.

We also monitor, as well, winds over the ocean surface. This is really useful feeding into the weather forecasting models, and into the whole weather forecasting process. So we can see the winds across the surface of the ocean, which is helping again to keep shipping safe and keep people who work at sea safe.

But also we can monitor things like cyclones and some big storms. As they move towards land we have a much better idea of what they're going to do and where they go. Again, this really contributes to the whole operational mission for weather centres, which is protecting life and property.