

SESSION: (B4) S2D forecasts for decision making

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Co-production of seasonal forecasts: experiences from Norway

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The Seasonal Forecasting Engine (SFE) research project aims to develop a state-of-the-art operational seasonal climate prediction system for Northern Europe and the Arctic. Our motivation is that many companies and public stakeholders face climate-related risks that must be managed to stay competitive and to protect life, property and the environment. To our users, the SFE will be accessible through a flexible interface which can be queried to obtain predictions of relevant climate indices and variables. Under the hood, our 'engine' consists of statistical algorithms that merge vast amounts of data into unified forecasts. In this talk I will share some of our experiences from working with our users from the public sector and large business corporations. From the public sector, I will focus on the Norwegian coast guard, who are primarily interested in sea ice forecasts in the Barents Sea. How do we reconcile their demands for high-resolution (both spatially and temporally) forecasts with the forecast skill on the seasonal time scale? The same balance has to be found in dialogue with our business users, which come from hydropower, wind power, weather services, and insurance. I believe that these experiences are of general interest to providers of seasonal forecasts and climate services more generally.