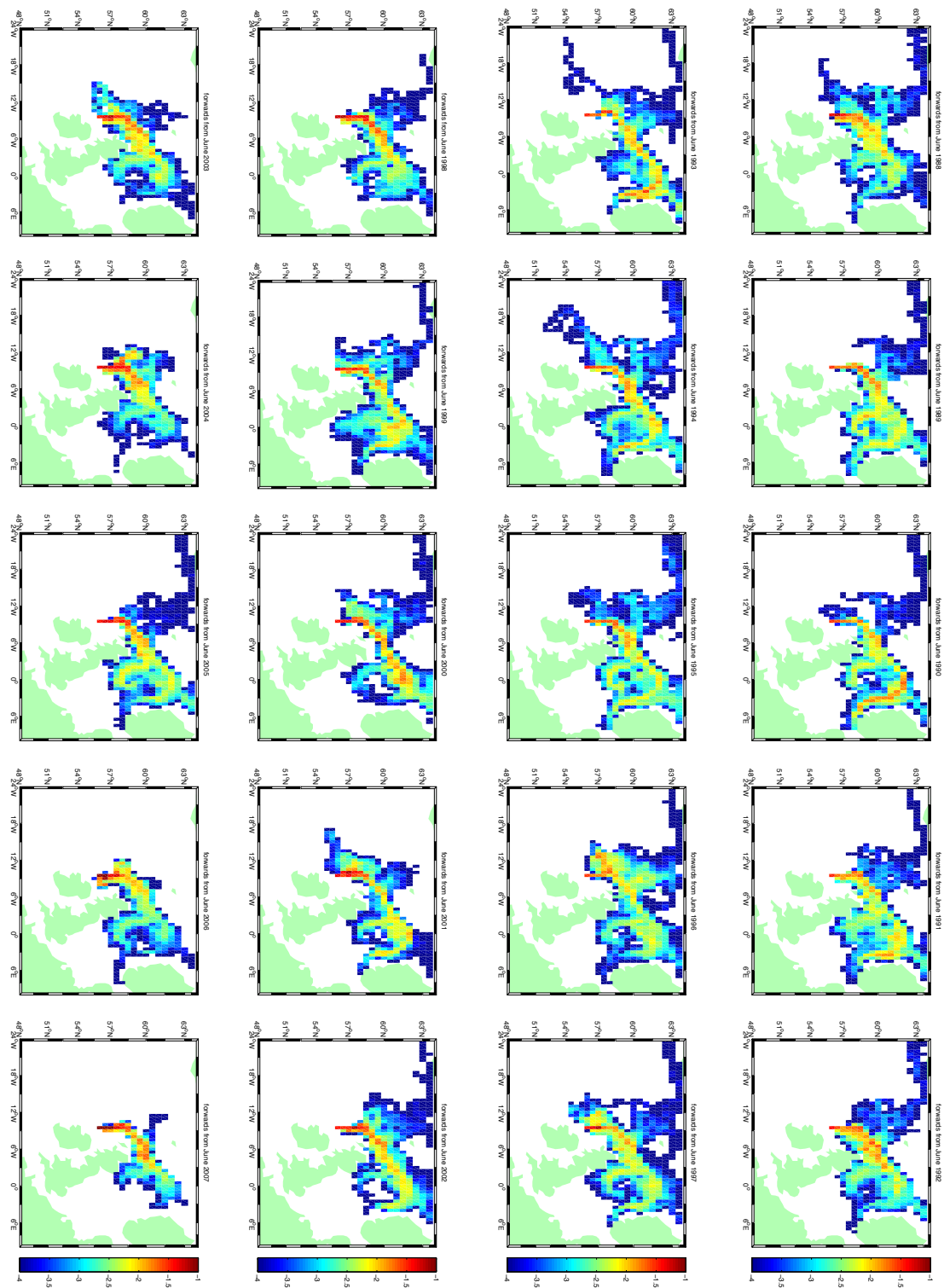
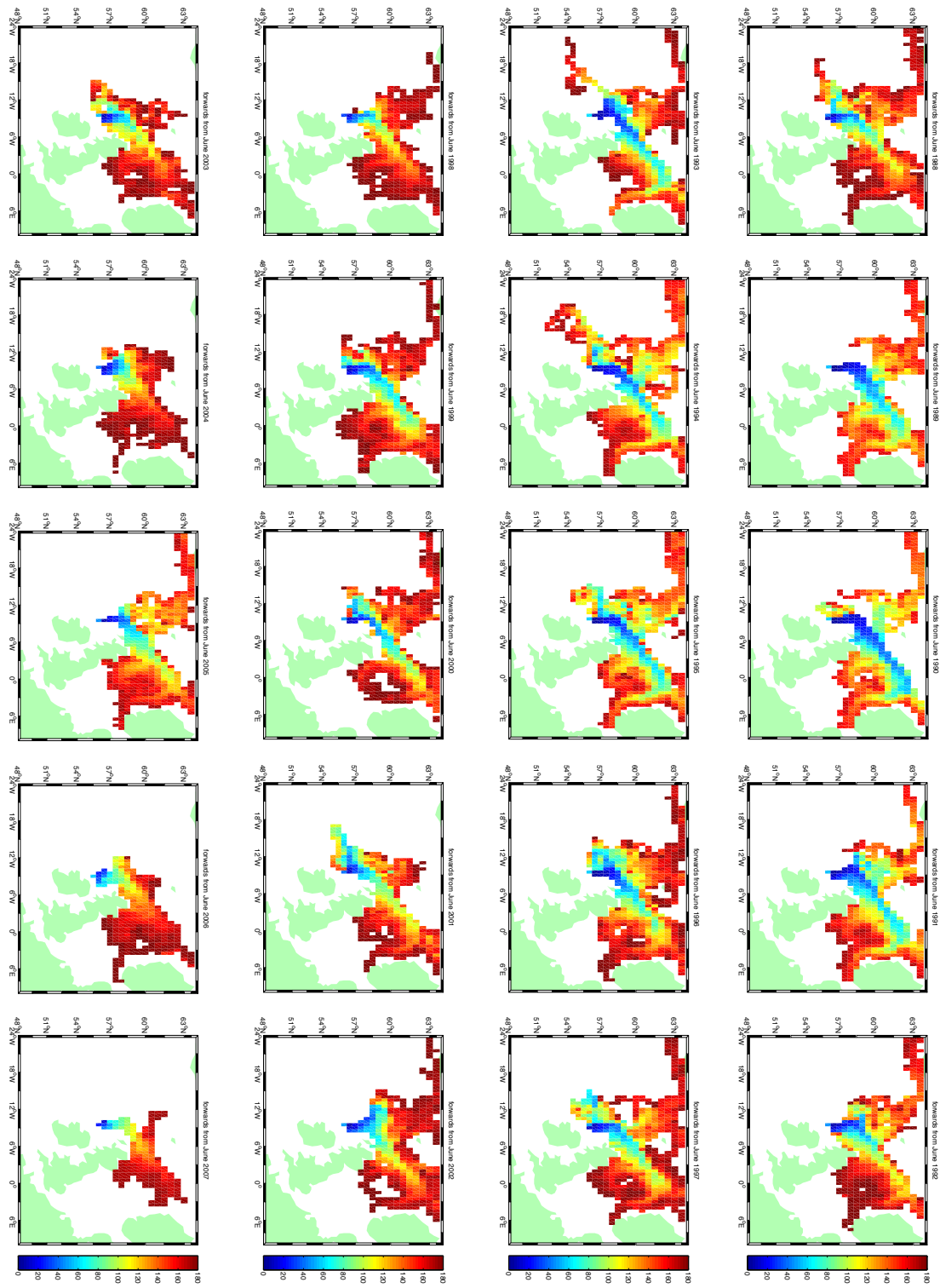


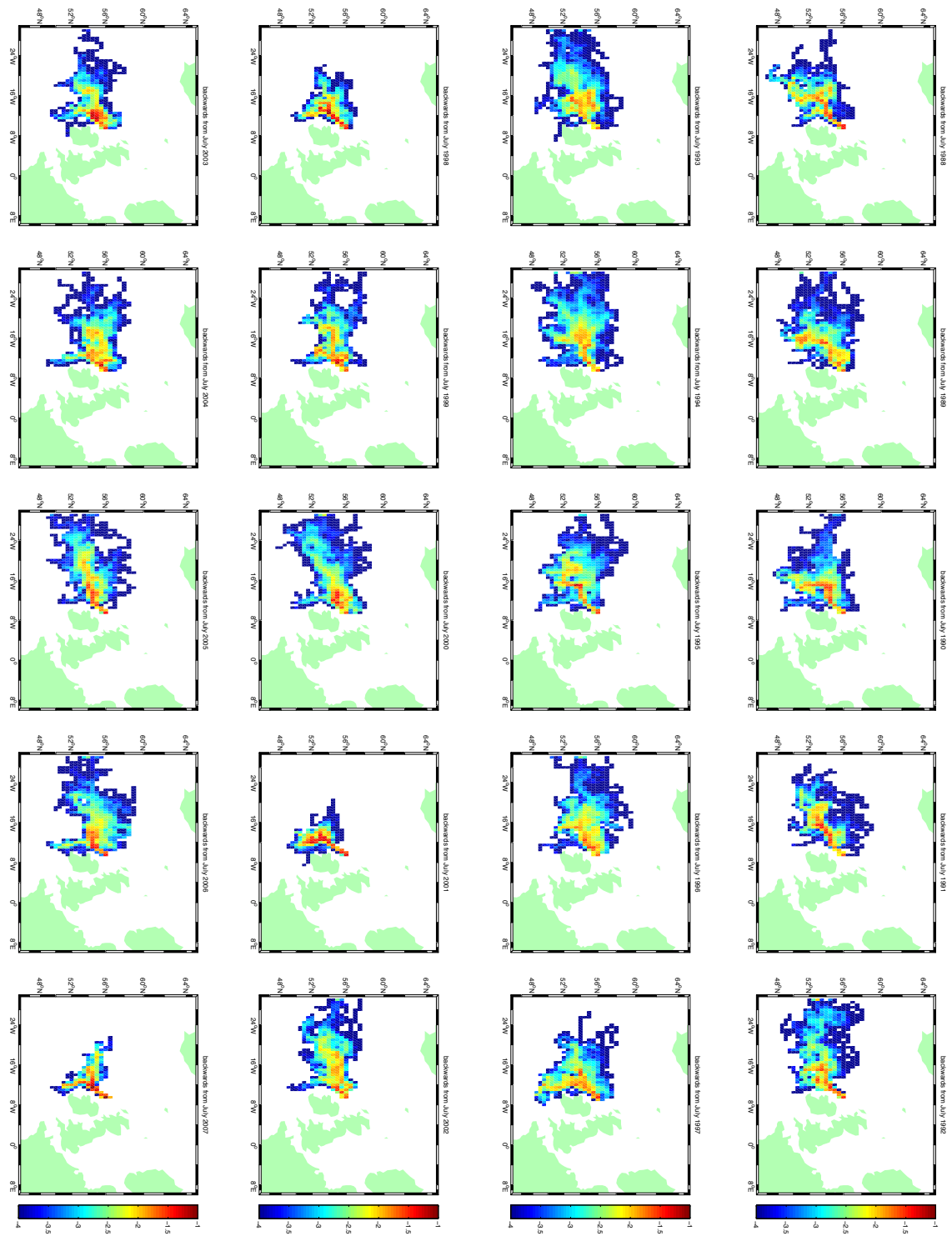
1 **Large-scale forcing of the European Slope Current and**  
2 **associated inflows to the North Sea - Supplementary Material**  
3



**Figure S1. Particle density maps ( $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$  resolution) for all ensembles of forward trajectories starting on 1 July, 1988-2007 (note log scale).**



**Figure S2. Particle age maps (binned at  $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$  resolution) for all ensembles of forward trajectories starting on 1 July, 1988-2007 (days since 1 July).**



1

2 **Figure S3. As Fig. S1, for backward trajectories.**

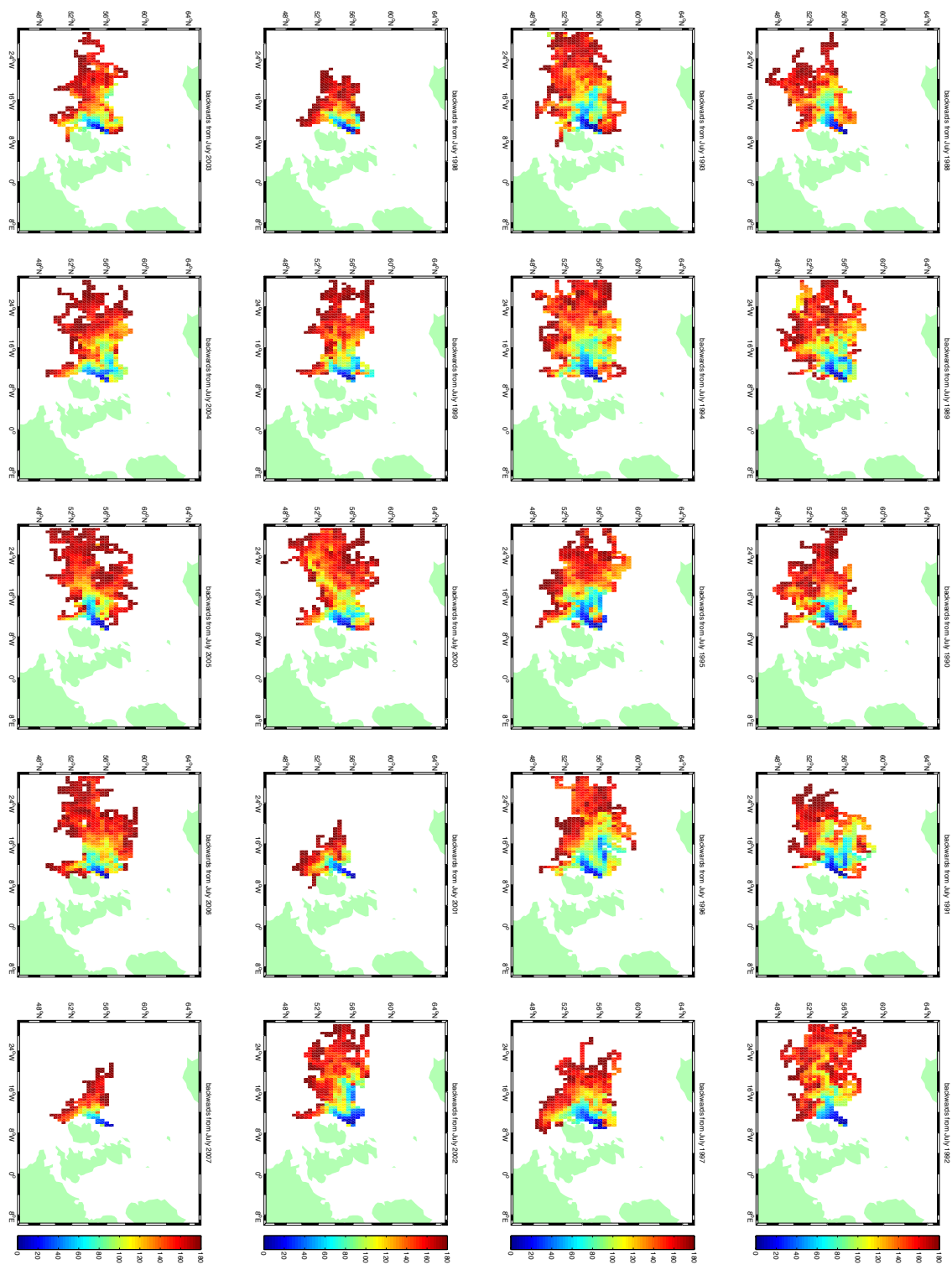


Figure S4. As Fig. S2, for backward trajectories.

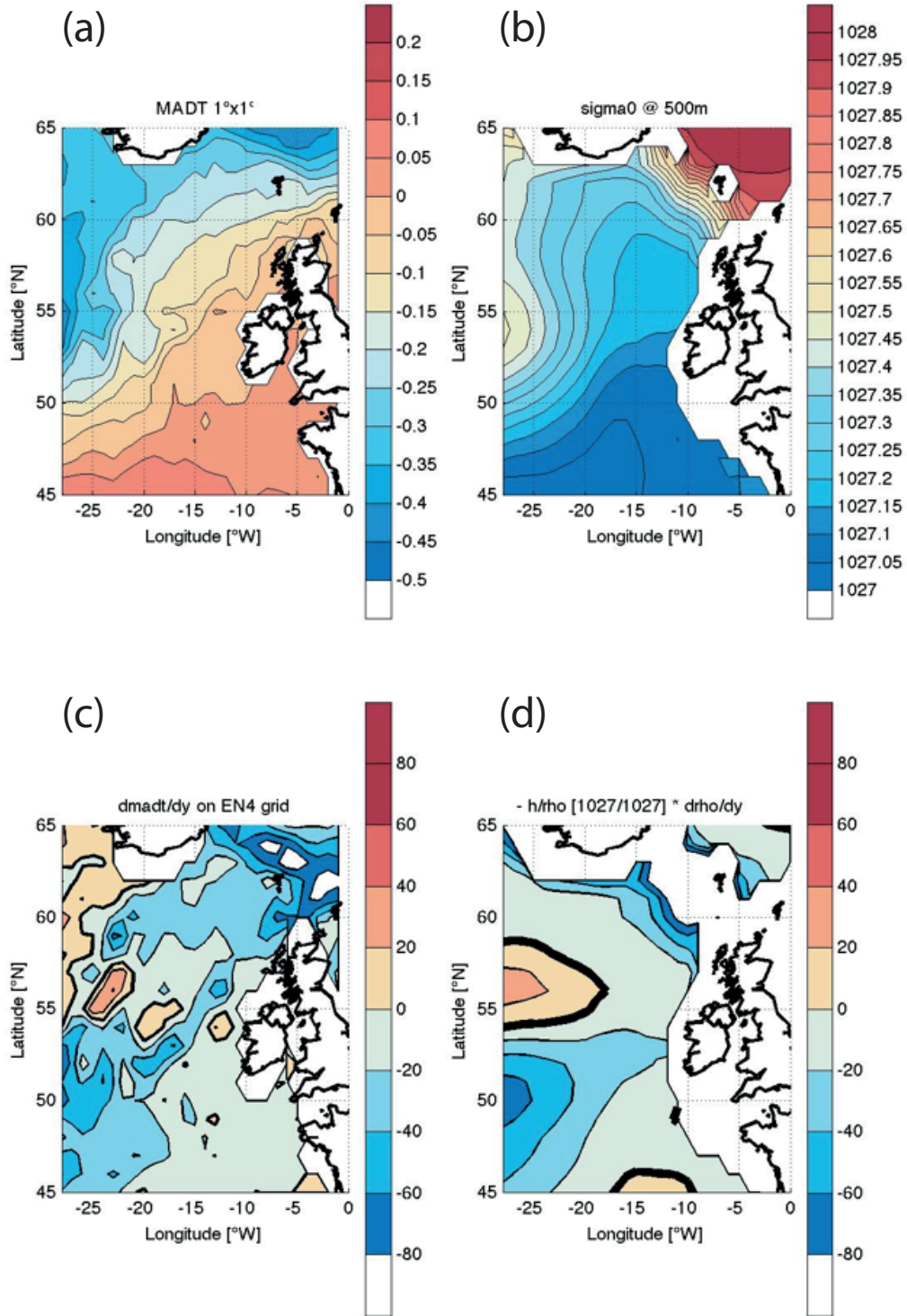
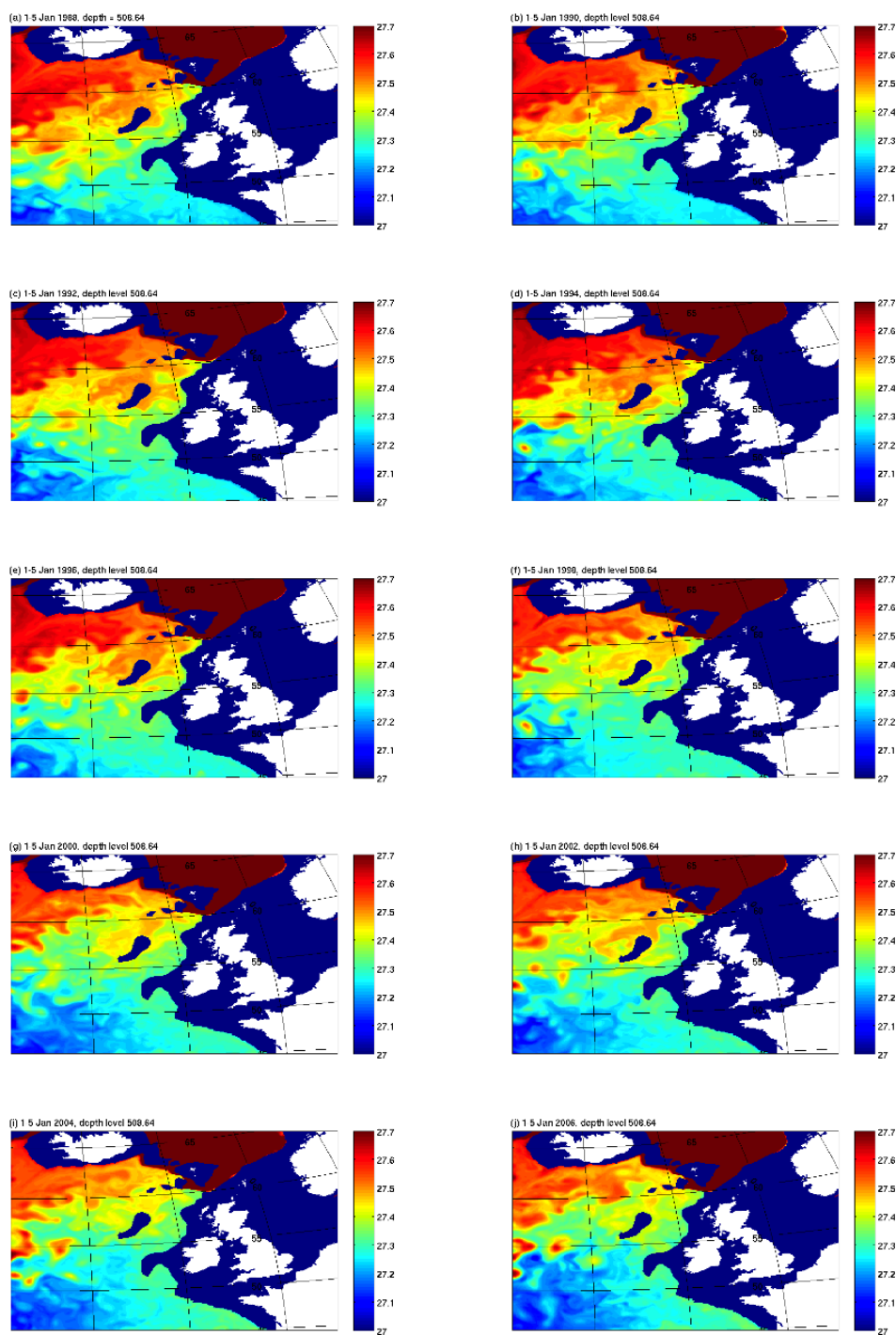
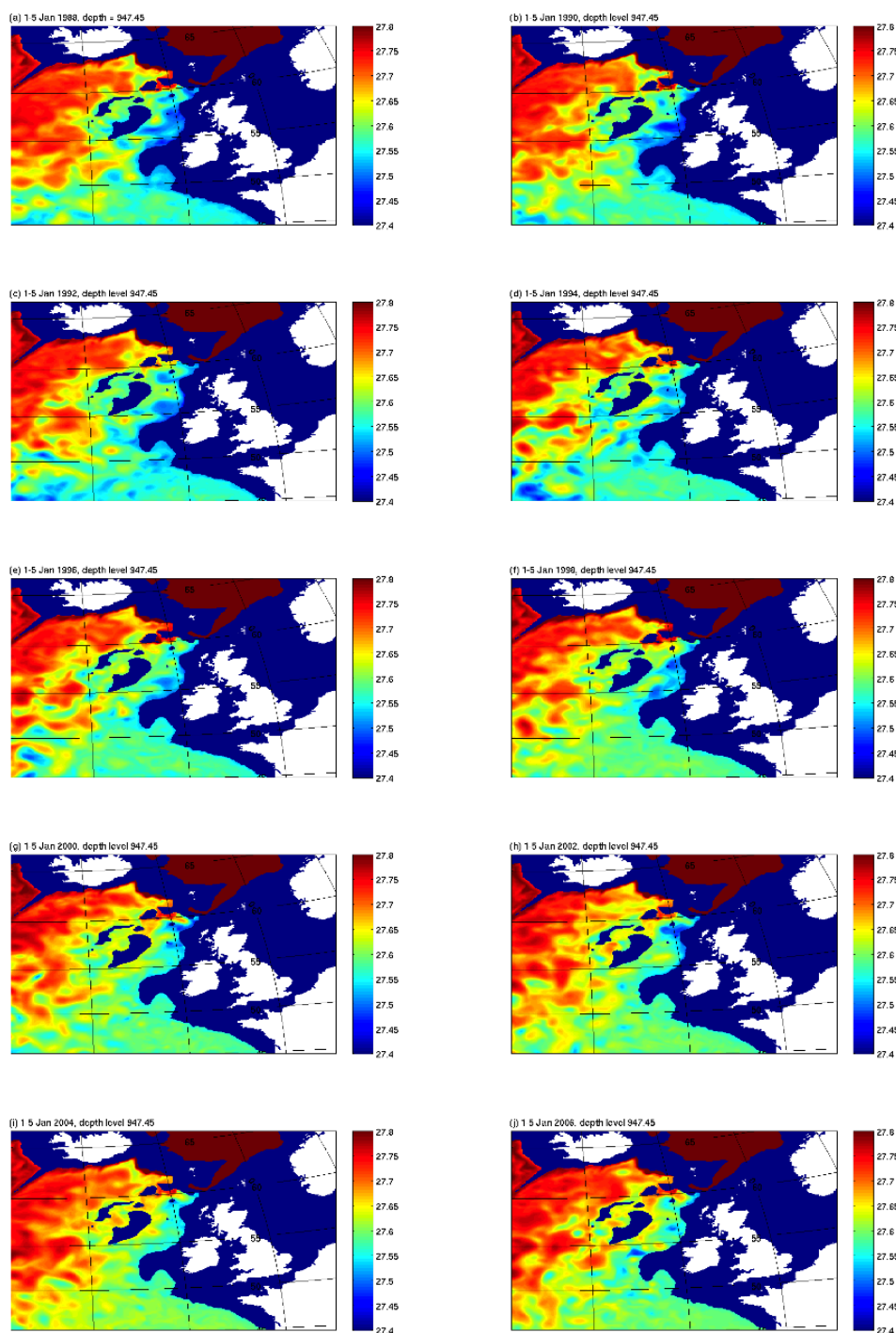


Figure S5. (a) mean absolute dynamic topography (MADT); (b) mean  $\sigma_0$  at 500m; (c) meridional gradient of MADT, i.e., the left hand side of Eq. (7); (d) meridional gradient of  $\sigma_0$ , scaled by  $-H/\rho$  (nominally  $1027 \text{ m}/1027 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ ) i.e., the right hand side of Eq. (7).



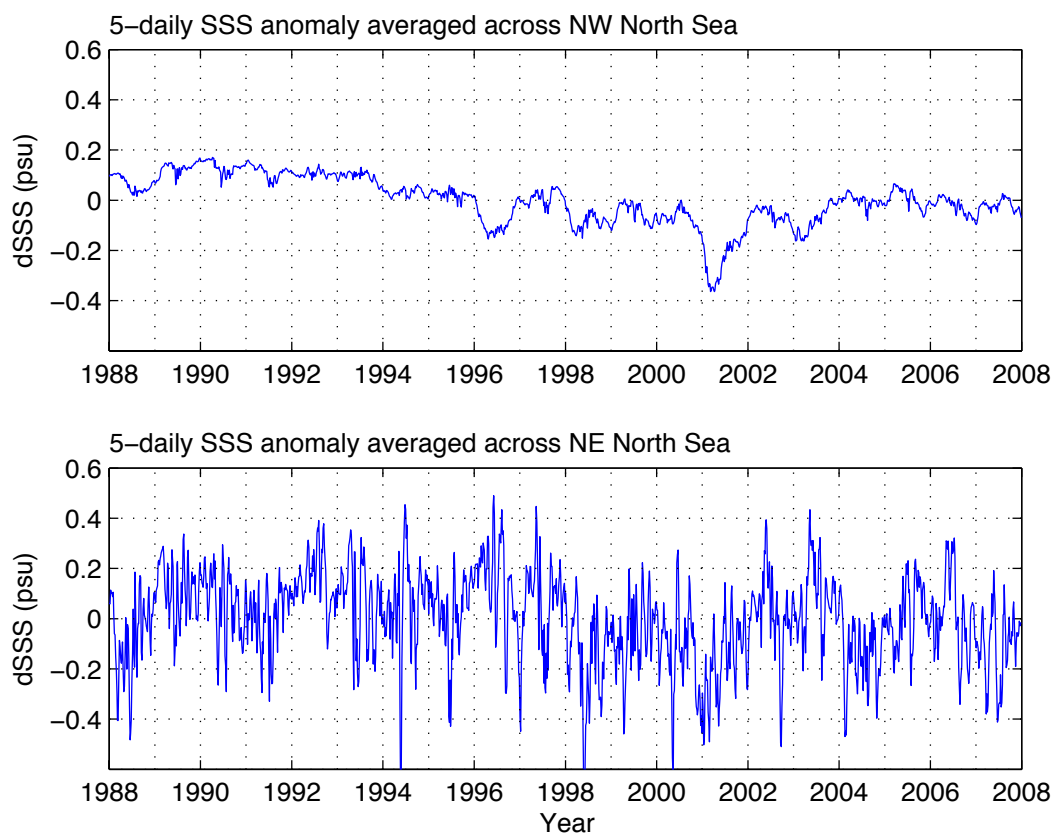
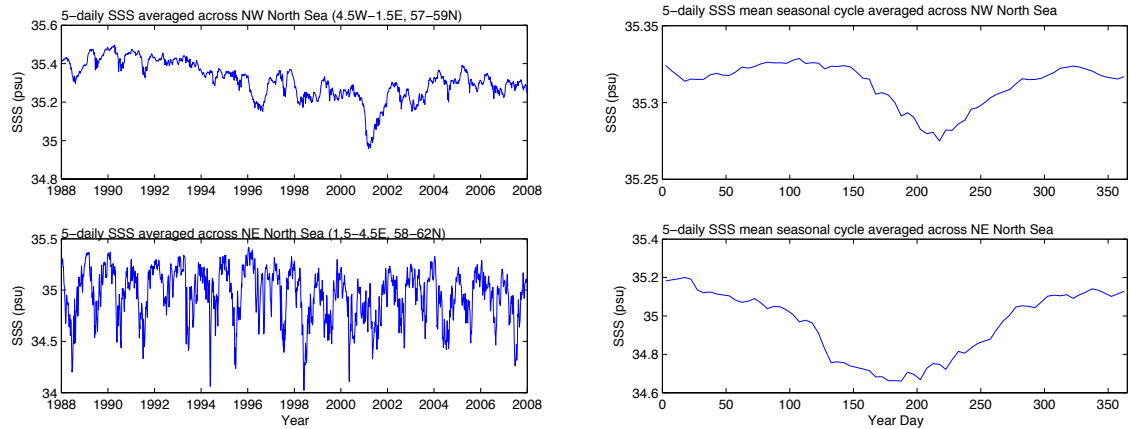


1  
2 **Figure S6. Potential density ( $\sigma_0$ ) at 500 m, 1-5 January biennially, 1988-2006, ORCA12-**  
3 **N01.**

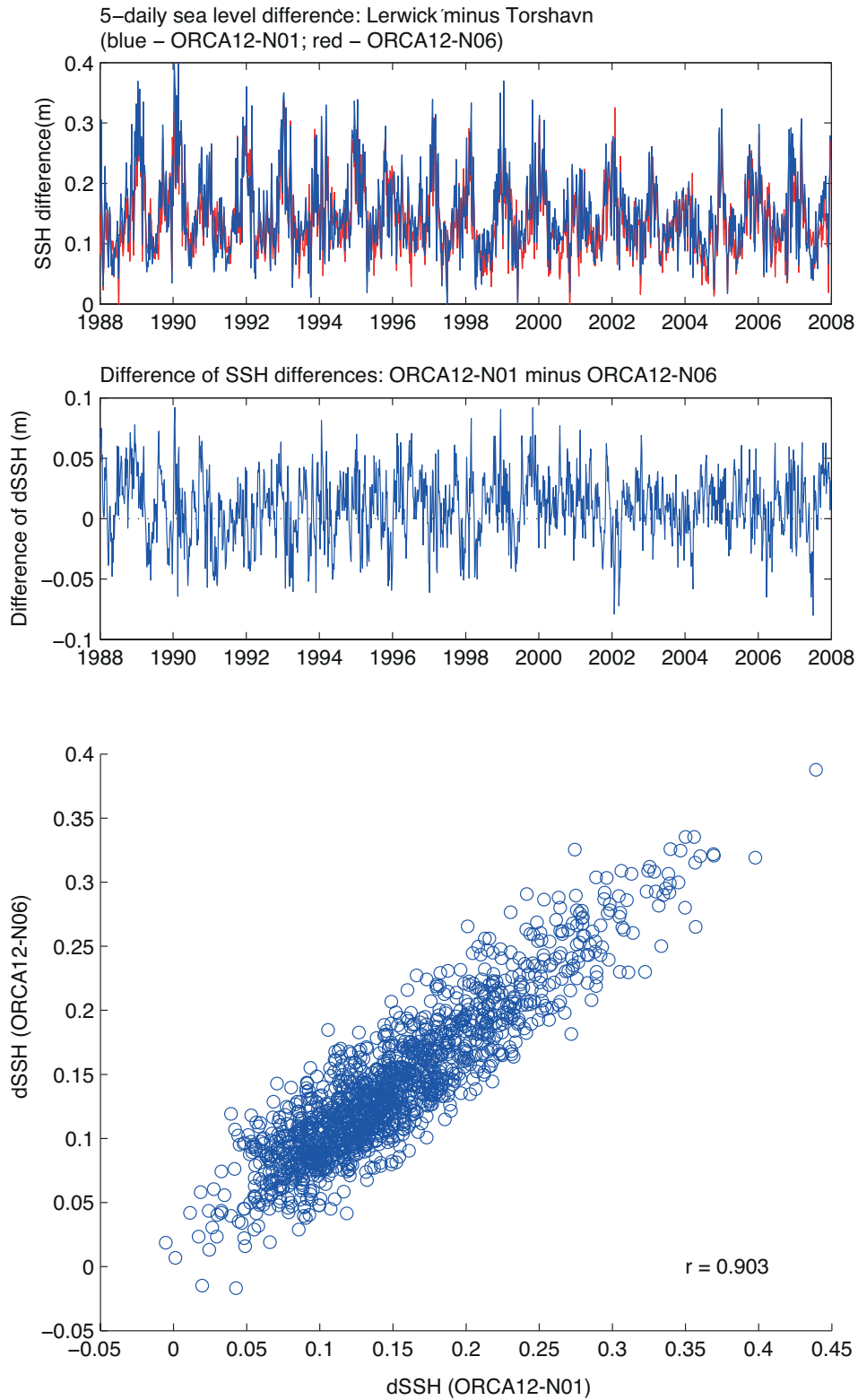


1  
2 **Figure S7. Potential density ( $\sigma_0$ ) at 947 m, 1-5 January biennially, 1988-2006, ORCA12-**  
3 **N01.**





**Figure S8. Area-averaged surface salinity (top left panels), mean seasonal cycles (top right panels) and anomalies (bottom panels) in the northwest and northeast North Sea, 5-daily in ORCA12N01.**



1

2

3 **Figure S9. Comparison of ORCA12-N01 and ORCA12-N06 hindcasts over 1988-2007: 5-**  
 4 **day averages of sea level difference, Lerwick minus Torshavn (top panel); ORCA12-N01**  
 5 **minus ORCA12-N06 differences (middle panel); scatterplot of individual sea level**  
 6 **differences.**