Assessing Agulhas leakage -The time needed to reach North Atlantic



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Using observations





Photo: Chris Meinen



Tying trajectories together



Tying trajectories together





Validating the technique

Probability that grid cell is crossed by a path [%]



Validating the technique



Validating the technique











Distribution of surface trajectories

Probability that grid cell is crossed by a path [%]



longitude [degrees]

Distribution of surface trajectories

Probability that grid cell is crossed by a path [%]



99% do not reach the North Atlantic



Number of crossings per path

The time needed to cross the Atlantic



Time for fastest 25% to arrive [years]

 Using a Monte Carlo approach, trajectories of infinite length can be computed.
But: only surface circulation for the drifters!



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The bulk of trajectories reach the North Atlantic within 30 to 40 years

 Crossing of the South and the North Atlantic takes approximately equal time



On the oil spill



Subduction zones and the garbage patch

