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Stereo video measurements of extreme wave crests in the North Sea

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Short Abstract

Extreme sea states pose a threat to marine operations and significantly impact fluxes at the air-sea interface, yet field observations taken in these kinds of environmental conditions are relatively sparse due to the difficulty of accessing measurement locations and operating instruments in such challenging conditions. In this talk I will present surface wave observations from instruments permanently installed on the Ekofisk platform in the Central North Sea. The observations include stereo video and infrared laser altimeter measurements of wave breaking and extreme crest elevations sampled in strongly forced sea states. I will present both published results and preliminary findings from work currently in process.