

Decadal Marine Climate Prediction: Challenges and Opportunities in Nigeria

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Despite the importance of the neighboring oceans to the economies climates and biodiversity of many African countries, decadal marine climate prediction to coastal ocean problems by African scientists is not well developed. This limited capacity is associated with relative lack of computational resources and facilities for training in marine and oceanography sciences on the continent, as well as little or no monitoring of coastal waters by local scientists.

The study revealed that presently the marine meteorological stations in Nigeria, by the Nigerian meteorological agency, have increased from four to ten stations all situated at the coastline of Nigeria with the observations and forecast issue to potential users.

Some evidences of warming ocean in Nigeria using sea surface temperature(SST) for the period 1989 - 2007 which was statistically analyzed (Ediang et al 2010), there is some theoretical basis for expecting changes in their occurrence, associated with changes in background climate state.

The attempt in this study is however to highlight that in Nigeria marine meteorological observations show that the ocean has been changing over the last several decades, indicating that decadal marine climate prediction is evident in the environment of Nigeria coastal line.