

■ ECMWF Report on ERS-2 RA for July 2002 ■

Title: Report on ERS-2 Radar Altimeter wave height and wind speed data.

By: *Saleh Abdalla*

Date: *6 August 2002*

Overview:

Based on the data received during the full month, on average, 16455 observations arrived at ECMWF every 6 hours of which 79.09% passed the quality control. The data coverage, which was rather good, can be seen in Figure 1. There were periods of significant reduction in data reception at time slots centred at 18:00 on the 3rd., 00:00 and 06:00 on the 14th., and 00:00 on the 15th. of the month. Note that we are talking about the raw data which have arrived at ECMWF before they were processed.

The quality of the received data is as good as used to be before January 2000.

Backscatter:

ERS-2 $\langle \sigma_0 \rangle = 11.06$ dB (with double peaks at 10.6 dB and at 11.1 dB)

Wind Speed Comparison with ECMWF wind speeds (bias):

ERS-2 global: -0.036 m/s

ERS-2 northern hemisphere: -0.642 m/s

ERS-2 tropics: -0.068 m/s

ERS-2 southern hemisphere: 0.363 m/s



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Wind Speed Comparison with buoy wind speeds (bias):

ERS-2 global: -0.991 m/s

ERS-2 northern hemisphere: -1.001 m/s

ERS-2 tropics: -0.926 m/s

Wave Height Comparison with ECMWF wave heights (bias):

ERS-2 global: -0.017 m (lowest waves measured: 0.6m)

ERS-2 northern hemisphere: 0.040 m

ERS-2 tropics: -0.067 m

ERS-2 southern hemisphere: -0.015 m

Wave Height Comparison with buoy wave heights (bias):

ERS-2 global: 0.043 m

ERS-2 northern hemisphere: 0.059 m

ERS-2 tropics: -0.155 m

Remarks:

- There were few wave height outliers this month in the tropics and the northern hemisphere. The outliers are due to the tropical cyclones whose locations are not predicted precisely by the high resolution atmospheric model. Of course, few (same number as the wave height outliers) of wind speed outliers can be explained by the same reason as well.
- In general, the quality of Altimeter wave height and wind speed data are as good as they used to be.



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Comparison Method:

The Altimeter wave height and wind speed data, as received by ECMWF from ESA through GTS, are the so-called fast delivery products. At ECMWF these data are subject to a quality control method, the details of which are described by Janssen et al. (1989) and Bauer et al. (1992). Consequently, superobservations are formed by averaging 30 consecutive data in order to match the spatial scales of the operational WAM model. Therefore, the collocation statistics are based on the comparison between these superobservations and operational wavemodel products.

In addition, since also wave observations from buoys are received through the GTS, the Altimeter products are also compared against buoy observations. Again, in order to have matching scales, the buoy observations are averaged over a six hour time window. Apart from this, also a height correction is applied to the wind speed observations, since not all buoys observe the winds at the standard height of 10 m. A default observation height of 5 m is assumed, and when available the actual observation height is used. In order to interpolate from the observation height to the standard height a logarithmic wind profile with a roughness length as given by the Charnock relation is assumed, where the Charnock parameter is given the constant value of 0.018.



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Figure captions:

Figure 1: Time series of data reception for ERS-2 Altimeter data for July 2002.

Figure 2: Distribution of the ERS-2 Altimeter Backscatter after QC for July 2002.

Figure 3: Distribution of the ERS-2 Altimeter wind speeds after QC for July 2002.

Figure 4: Distribution of the ERS-2 Altimeter wind speeds after along track averaging for July 2002.

Figure 5: Global distribution of ECMWF ocean surface wind speeds for July 2002.

Figure 6: Comparison of ECMWF wind speed results with ERS-2 Altimeter wind speed data for July 2002 (global).

Figure 7: Comparison of ECMWF wind speed results with ERS-2 Altimeter wind speed data for July 2002 (northern hemisphere)

Figure 8: Comparison of ECMWF wind speed results with ERS-2 Altimeter wind speed data for July 2002 (tropics)

Figure 9: Comparison of ECMWF wind speed results with ERS-2 Altimeter wind speed data for July 2002 (southern hemisphere)

Figure 10: Comparison of buoy wind speed observations with ERS-2 Altimeter wind speed data for July 2002 (global).

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Figure 23: Comparison of buoy wave height observations with ERS-2 Altimeter wave height data for July 2002 (tropics).

Figure 24: ERS-2 Altimeter wave heights: Timeseries of bias (ERS-2 - model) and scatter index (SI) for July 2002.

Figure 25: ERS-2 Altimeter wave heights: Timeseries of bias (ERS-2 - model) and scatter index (SI) from December 1996 to July 2002

Figure 26: ERS-2 Altimeter wind speeds: Timeseries of bias (ERS-2 - model) and scatter index (SI) from December 1996 to July 2002



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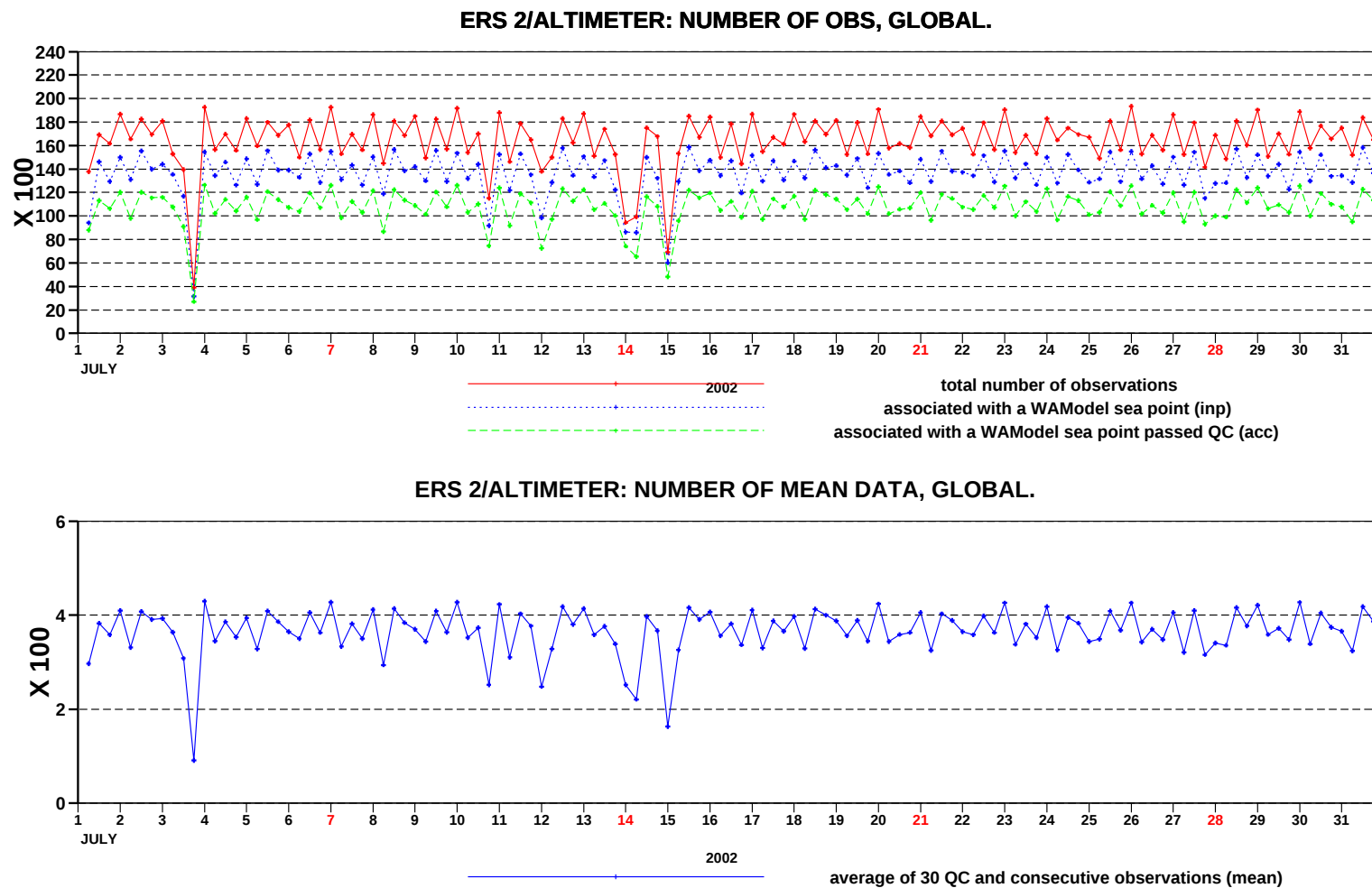


Figure 1: Time series of data reception for ERS-2 Altimeter data for July 2002

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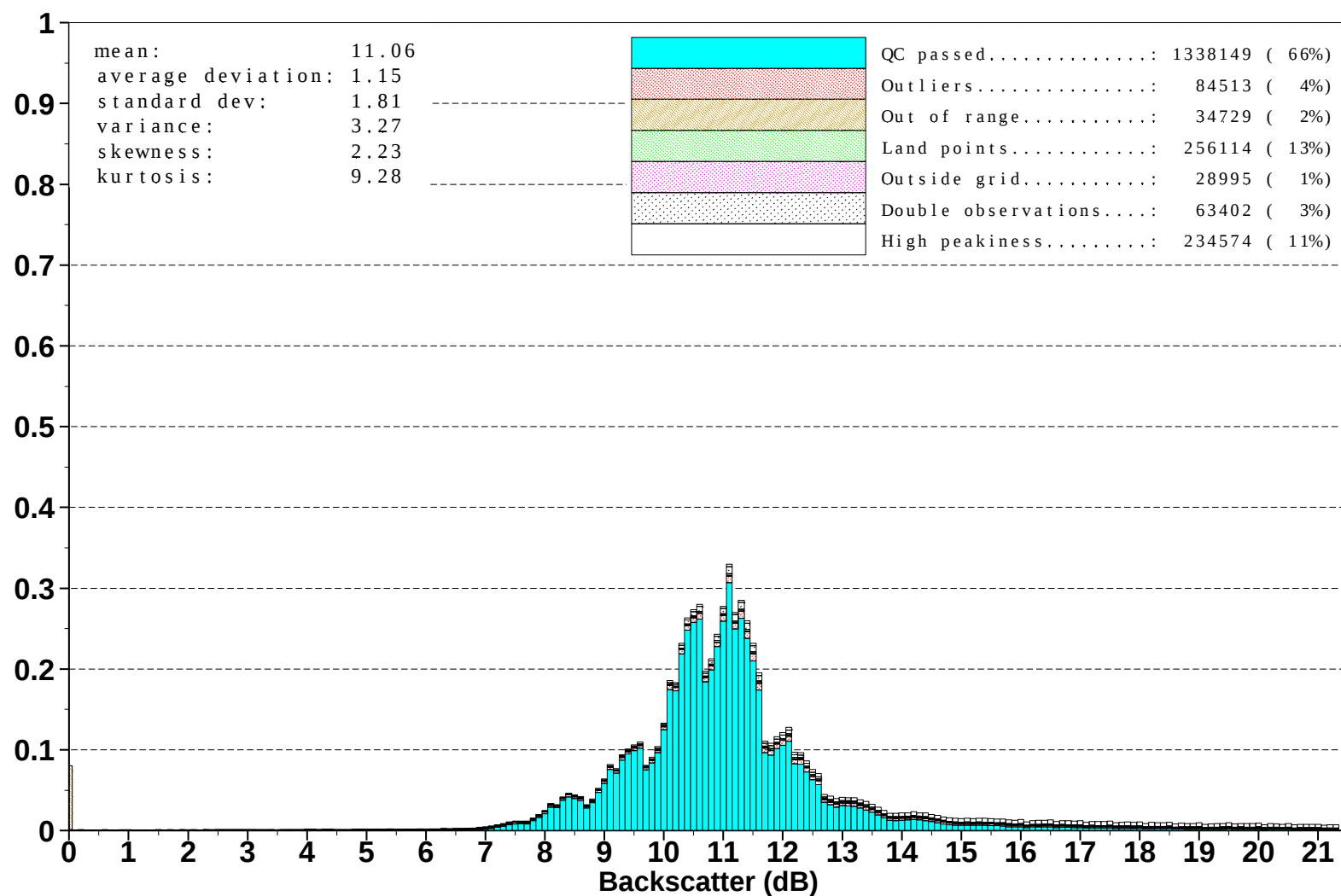


Figure 2: Distribution of the ERS-2 Altimeter backscatter after QC for July 2002

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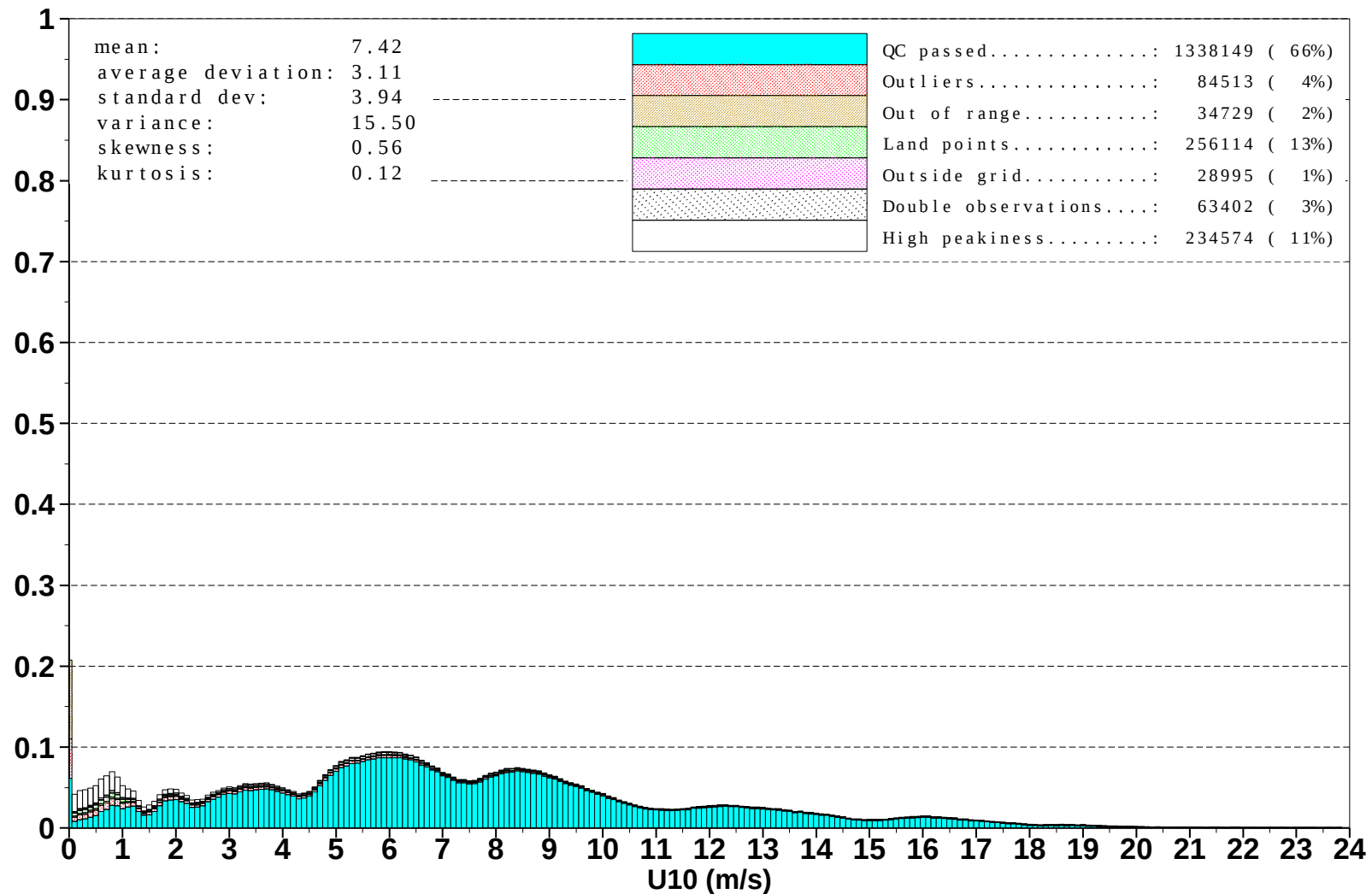


Figure 3: Distribution of the ERS-2 Altimeter wind speeds after QC for July 2002



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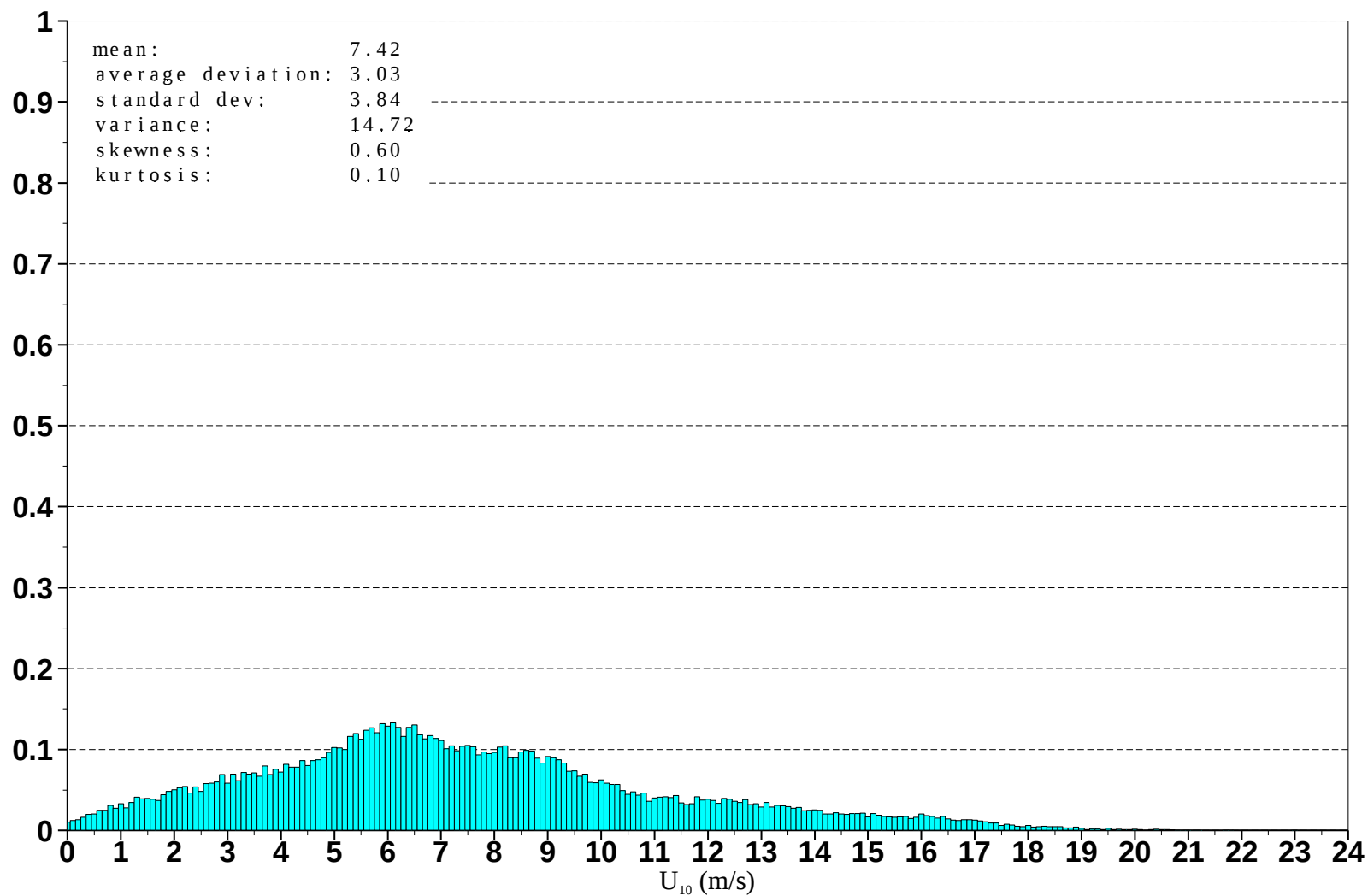


Figure 4: Distribution of ERS-2 Altimeter wind speeds after along track averaging for July 2002



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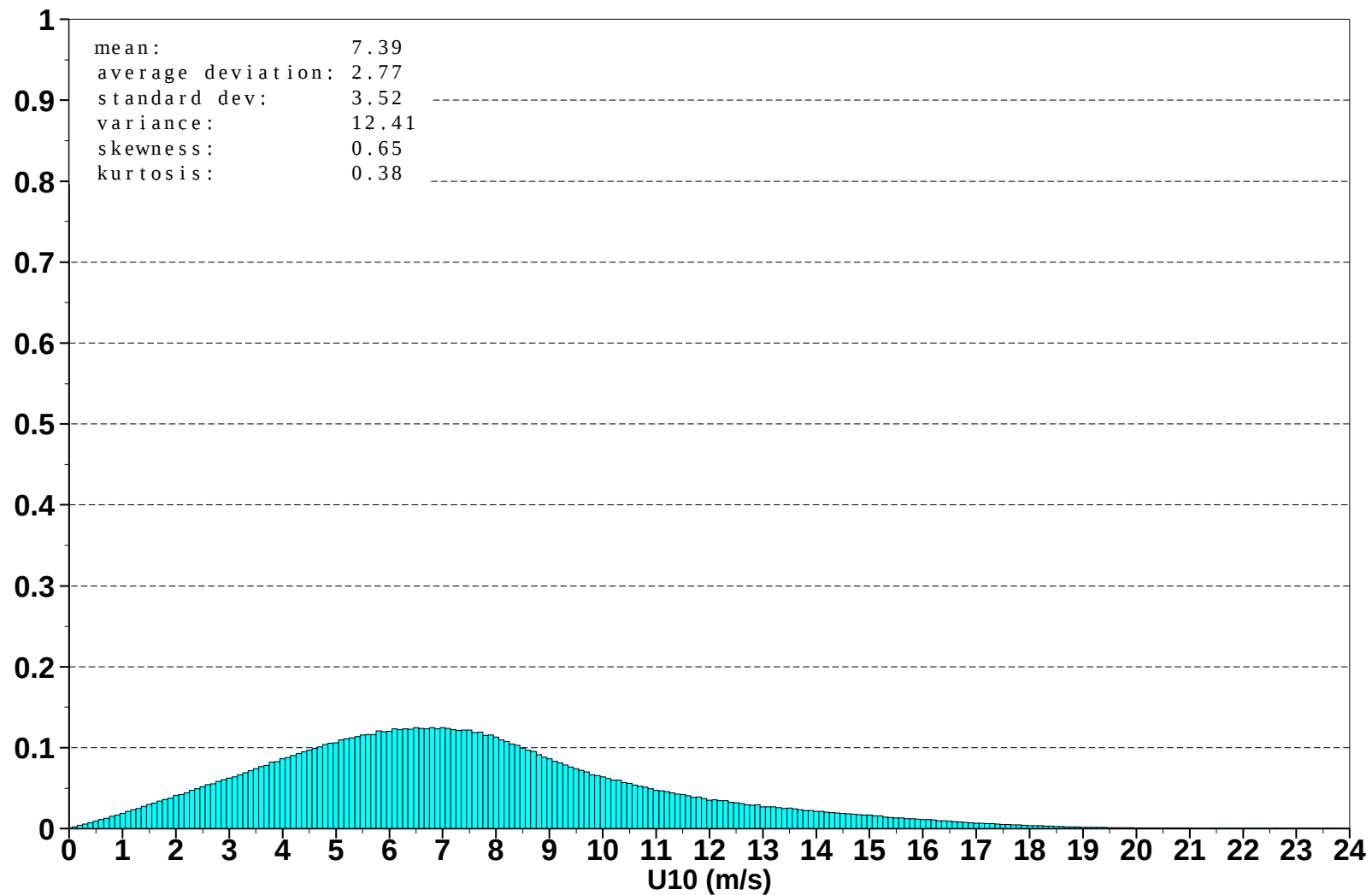


Figure 5: Global distribution of ECMWF ocean surface wind speeds for July 2002



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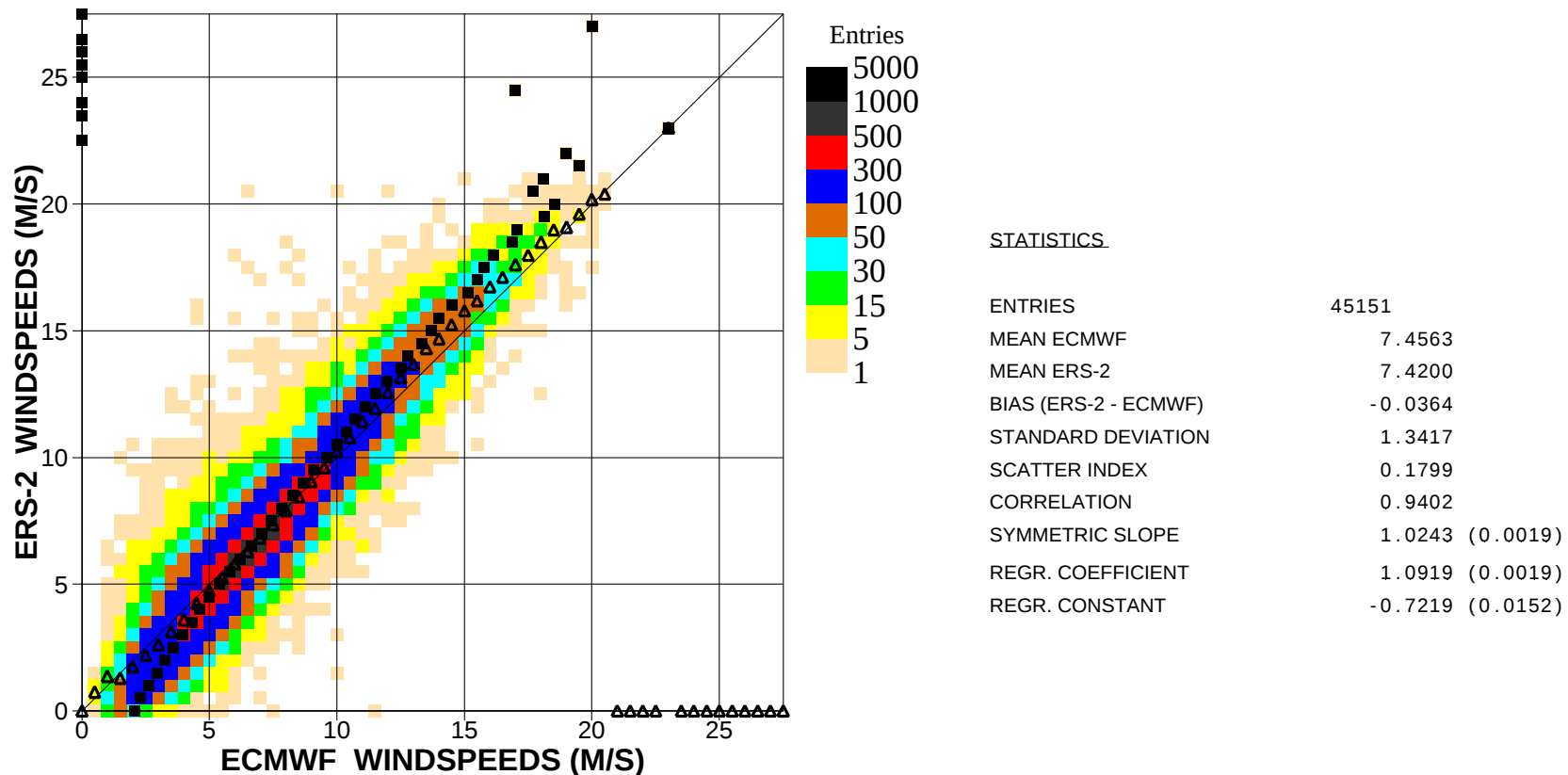


Figure 6. Comparison of ECMWF wind speed results with ERS2 Altimeter wind speed data for July 2002 (global)

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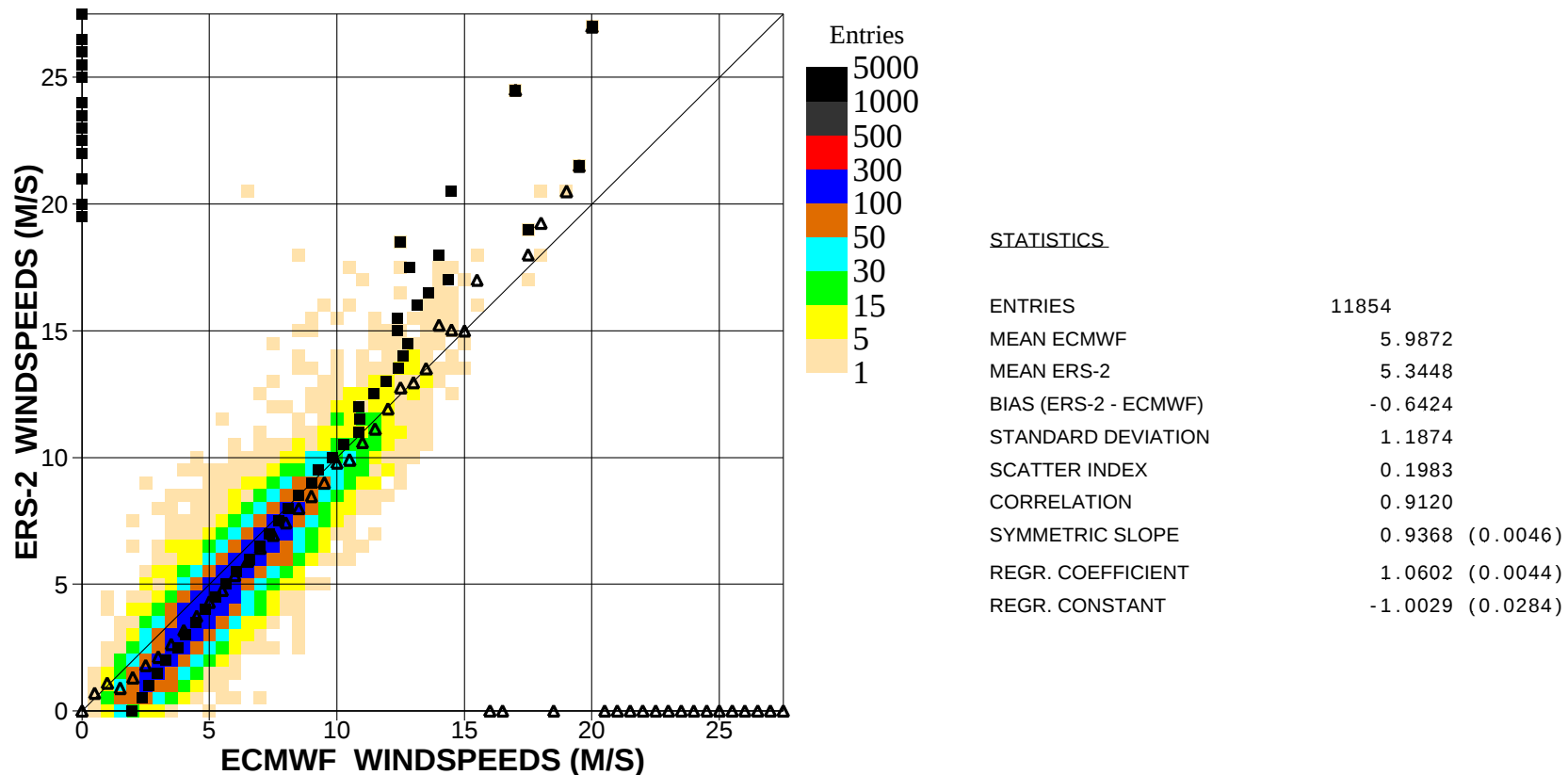


Figure 7. Comparison of ECMWF wind speed results with ERS2 Altimeter wind speed data for July 2002 (n.hem.)

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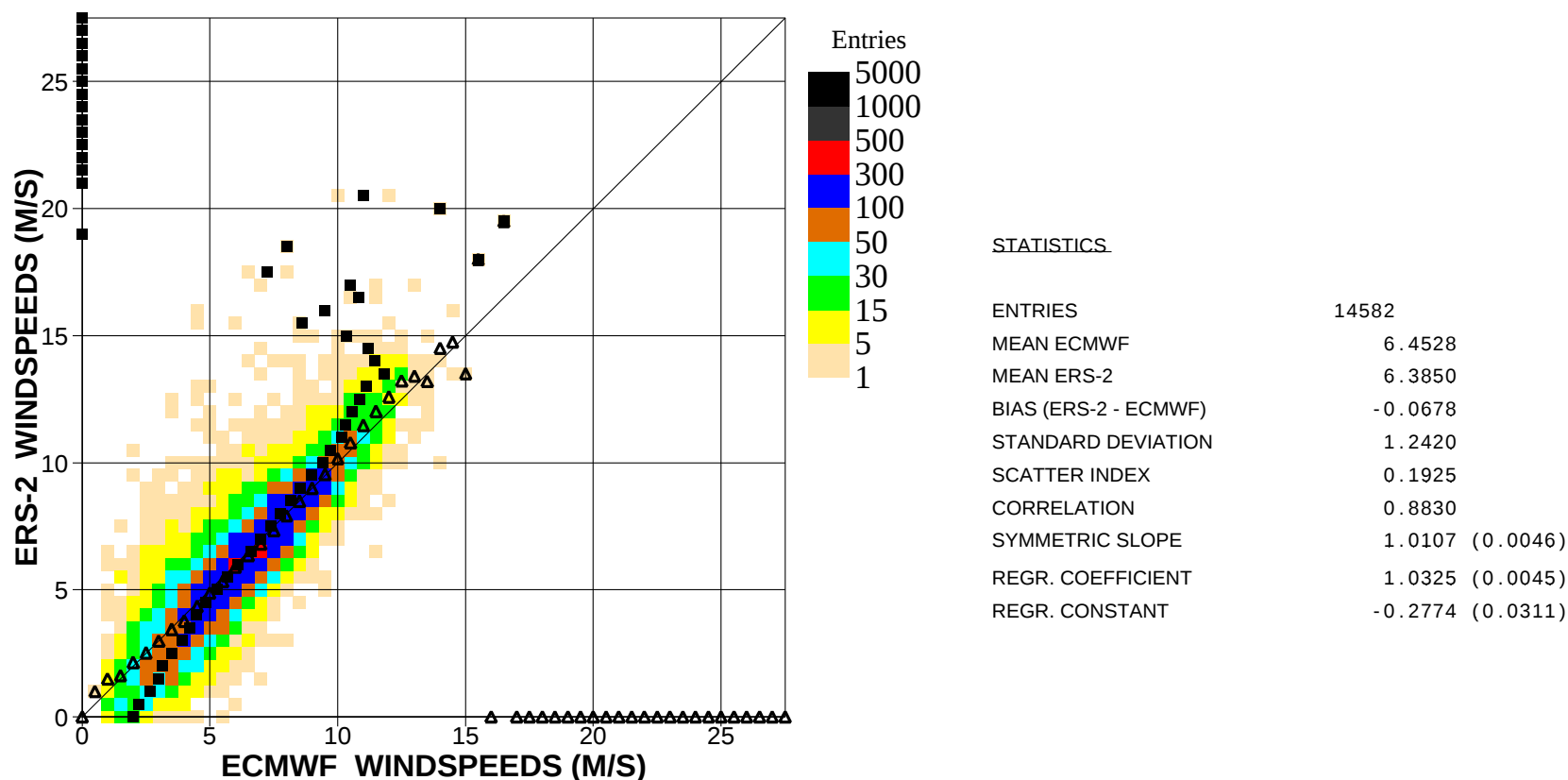


Figure 8. Comparison of ECMWF wind speed results with ERS2 Altimeter wind speed data for July 2002 (tropics)

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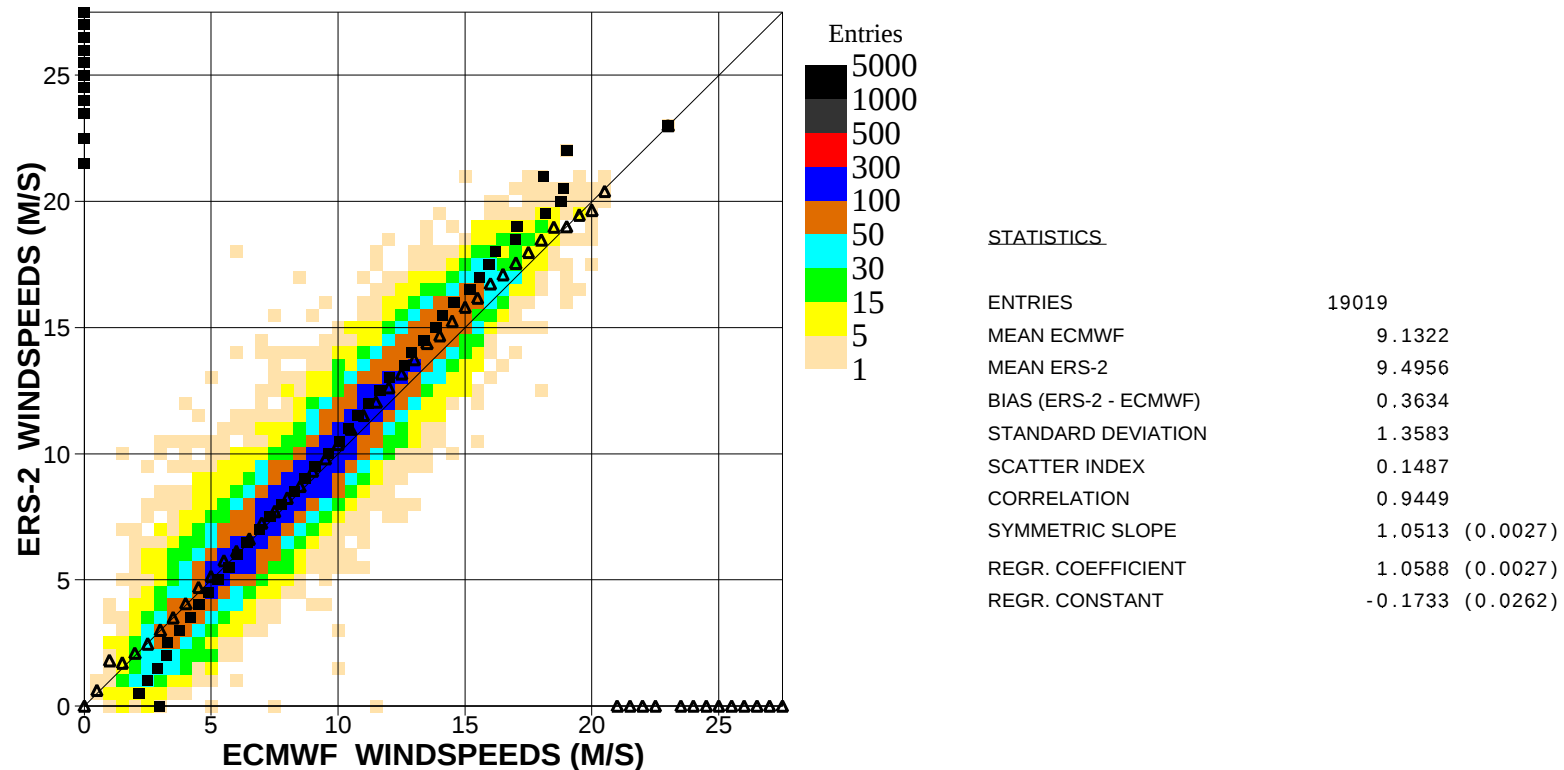


Figure 9. Comparison of ECMWF wind speed results with ERS2 Altimeter wind speed data for July 2002 (s.hem.)

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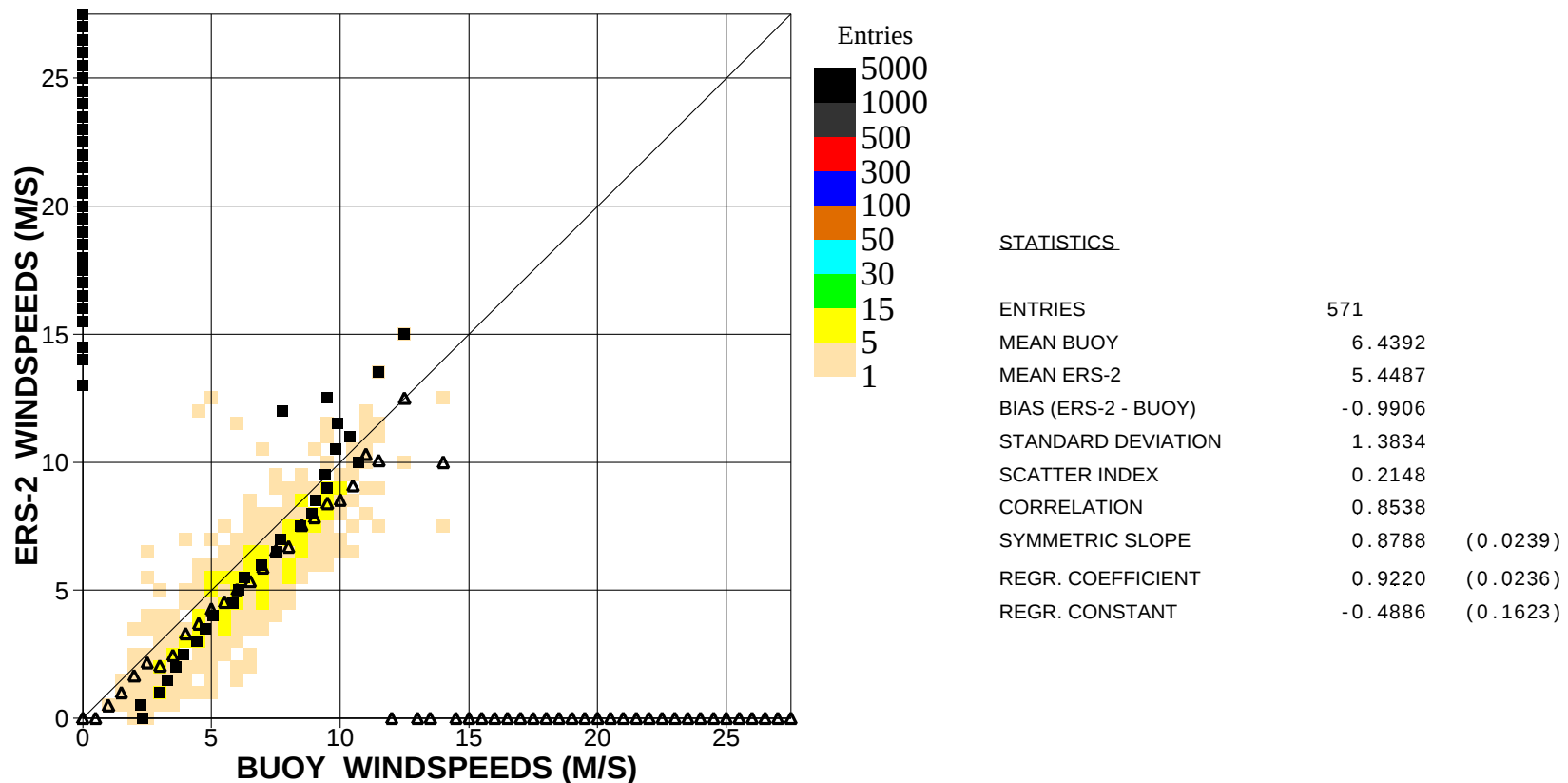


Figure 10. Comparison of buoy wind speed observations with ERS2 Altimeter wind speed data for July 2002 (global)

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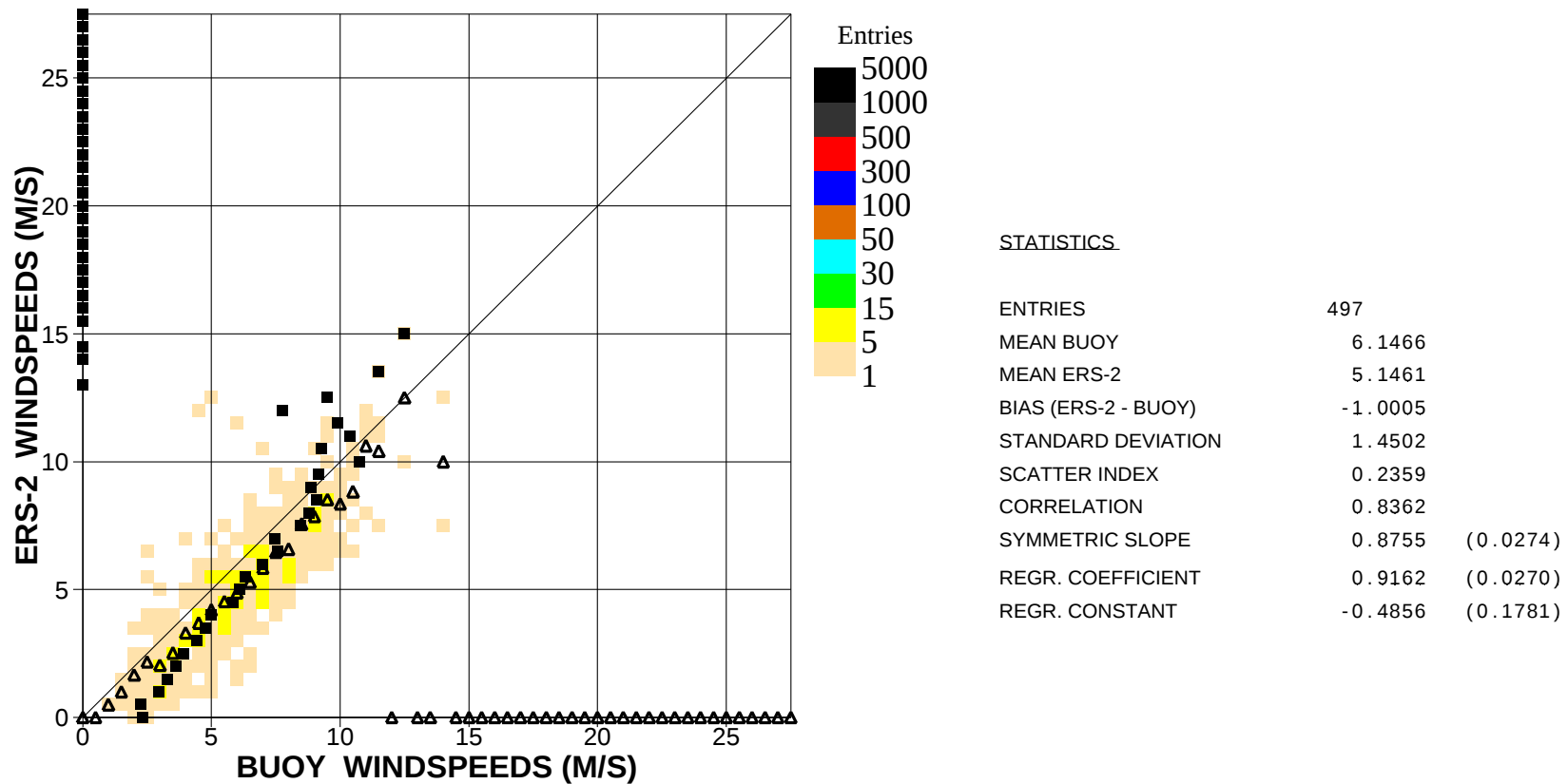


Figure 11. Comparison of buoy wind speed observations with ERS2 Altimeter wind speed data for July 2002 (n.hem.)

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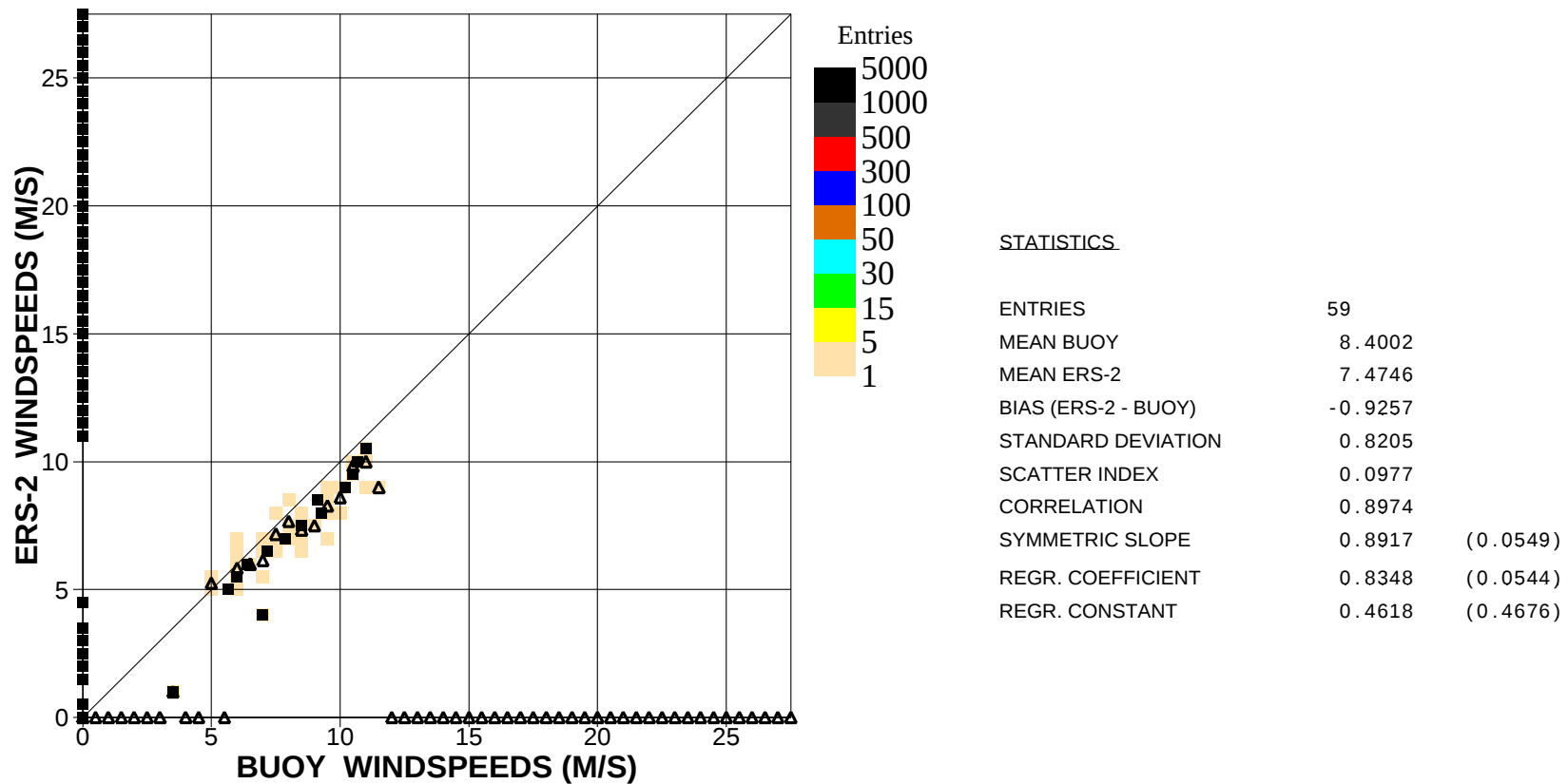


Figure 12. Comparison of buoy wind speed observations with ERS2 Altimeter wind speed data for July 2002 (hawaii)

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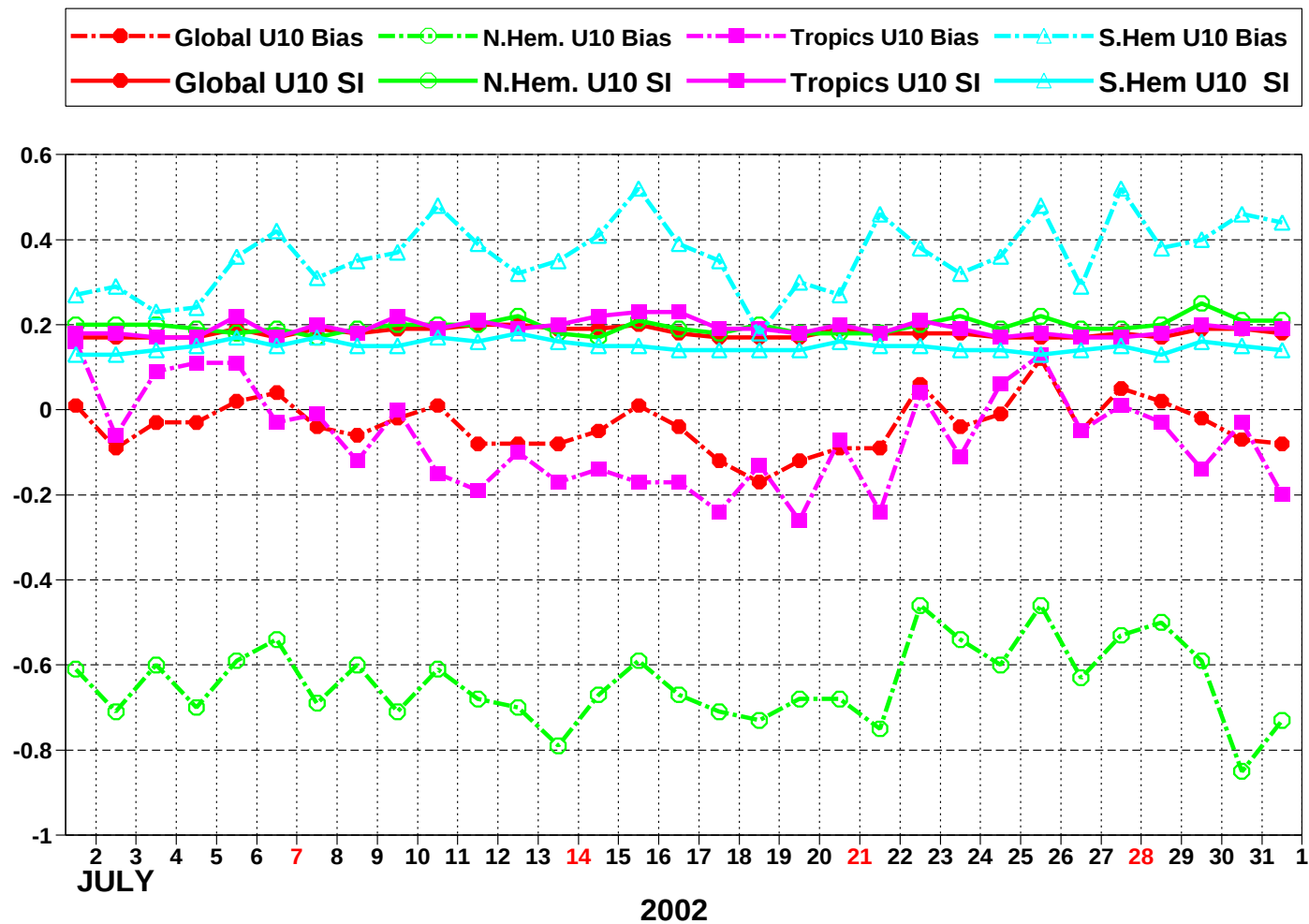


Figure 13: ERS-2 Altimeter wind speeds: Timeseries of bias (ERS-2 - model) and scatter index (SI)

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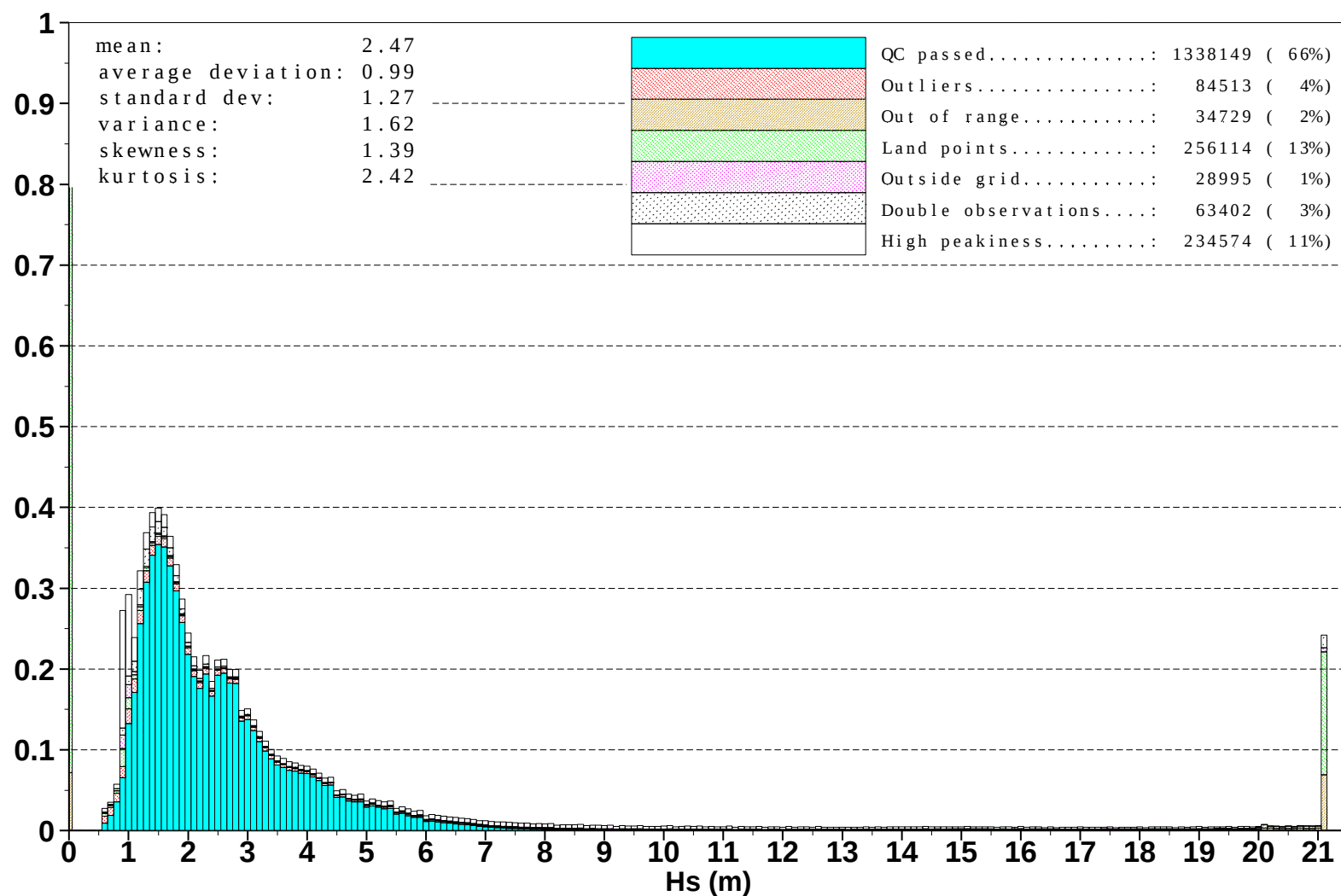


Figure 14: Distribution of the ERS-2 Altimeter wave heights after QC for July 2002

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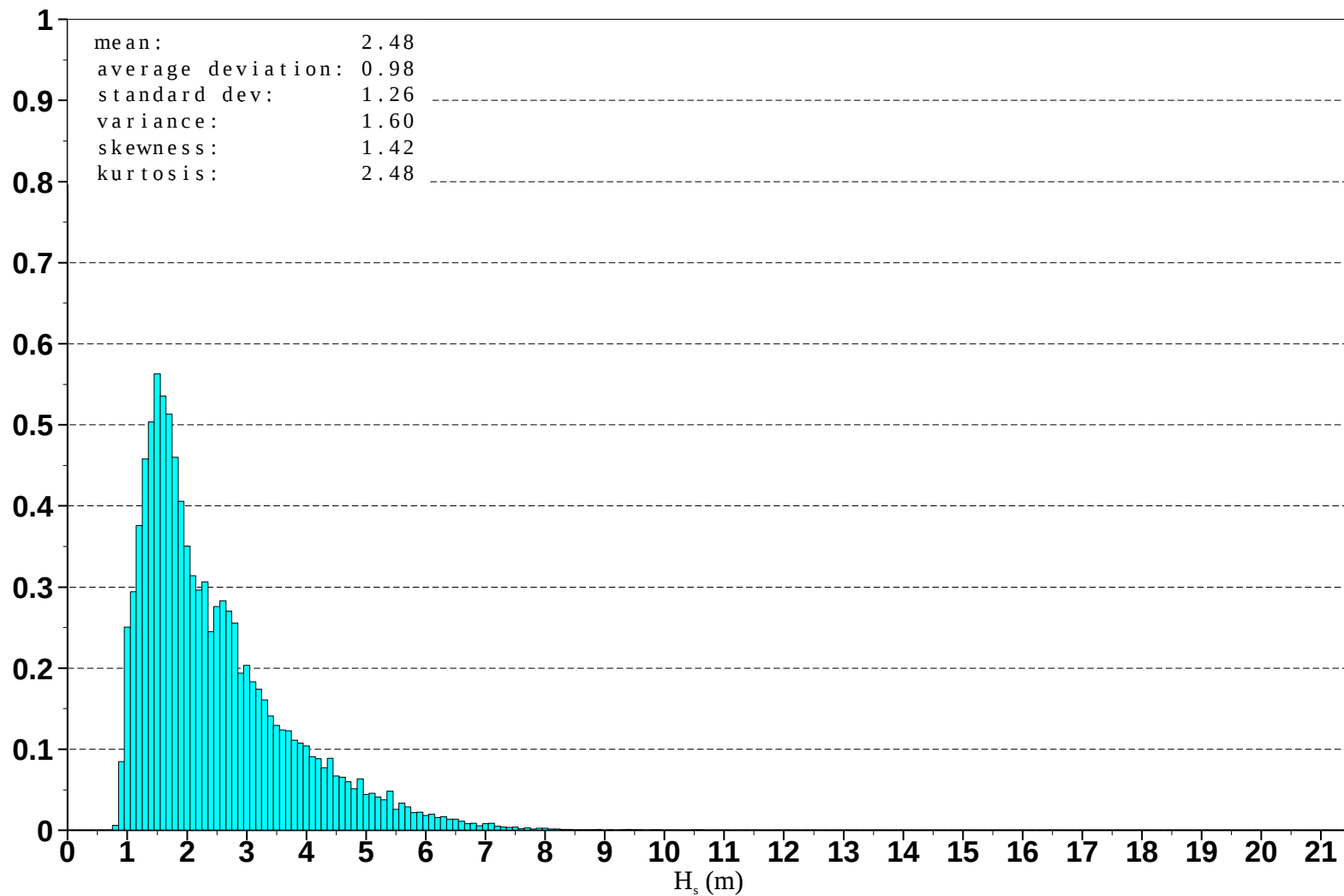


Figure 15: Distribution of ERS-2 Altimeter wave heights after along track averaging for July 2002

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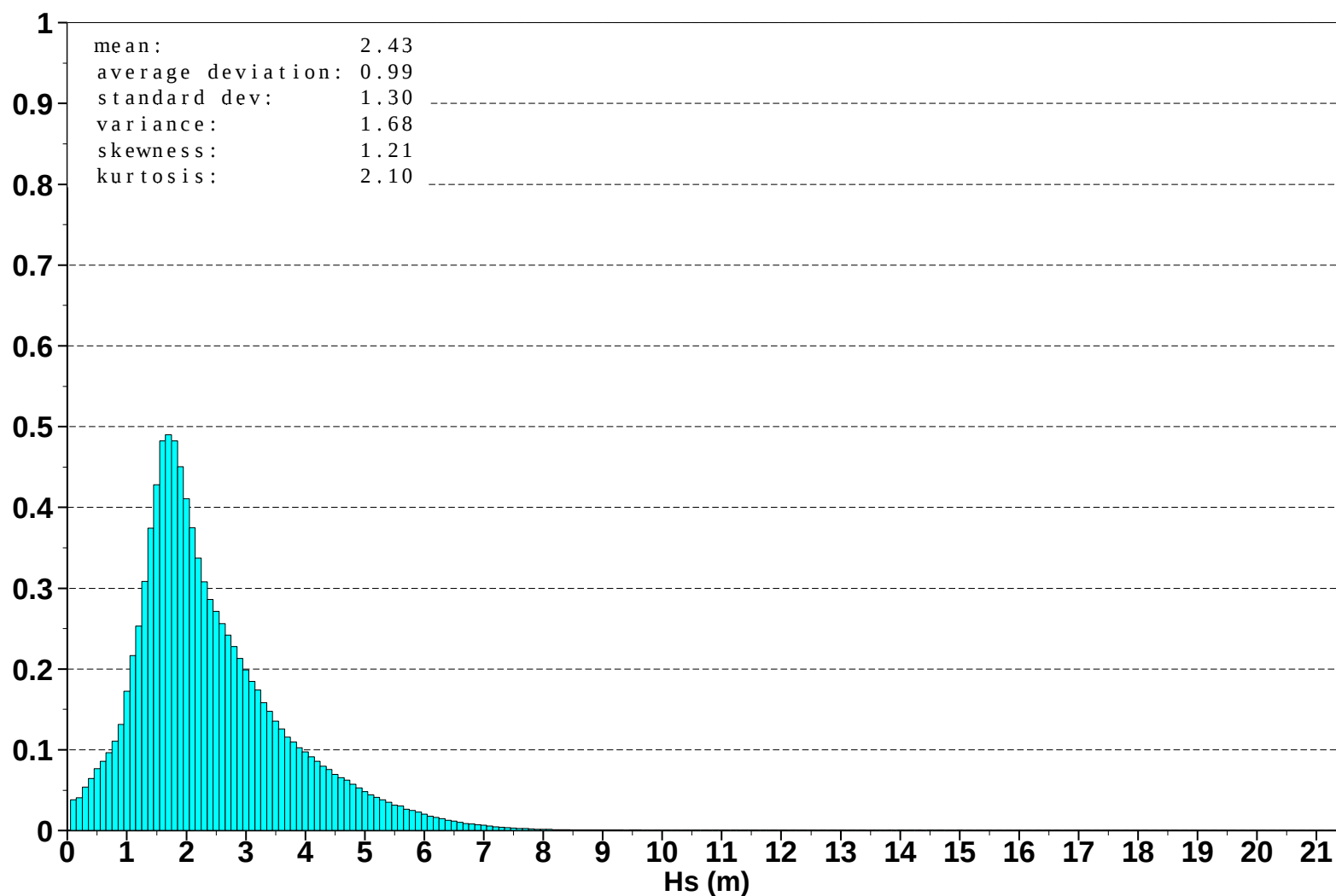


Figure 16: Global distribution of ECMWF wave heights for July 2002



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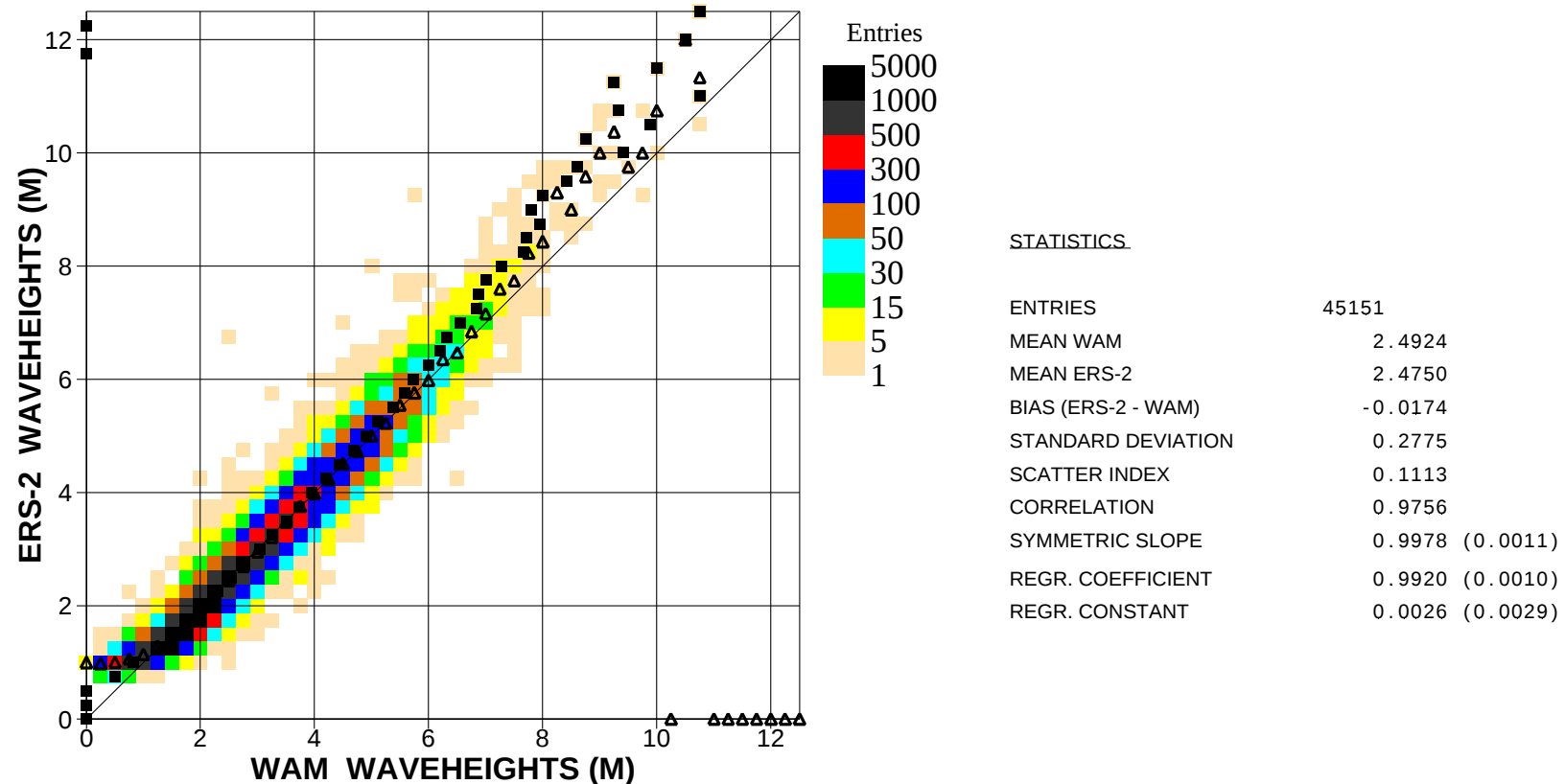


Figure 17. Comparison of ECMWF wave height results with ERS2 Altimeter wave height data for July 2002 (global)

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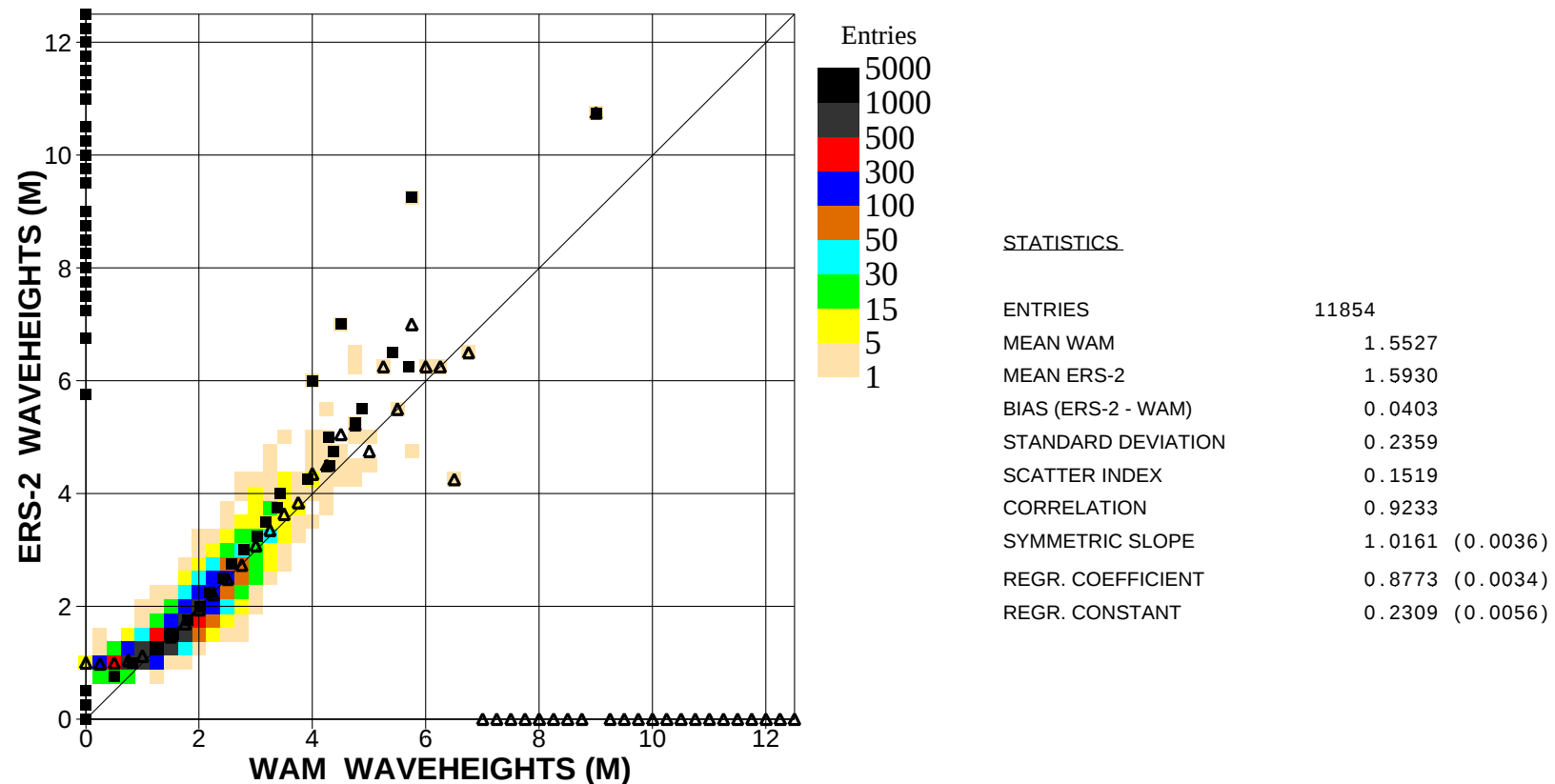


Figure 18. Comparison of ECMWF wave height results with ERS2 Altimeter wave height data for July 2002 (n.hem.)

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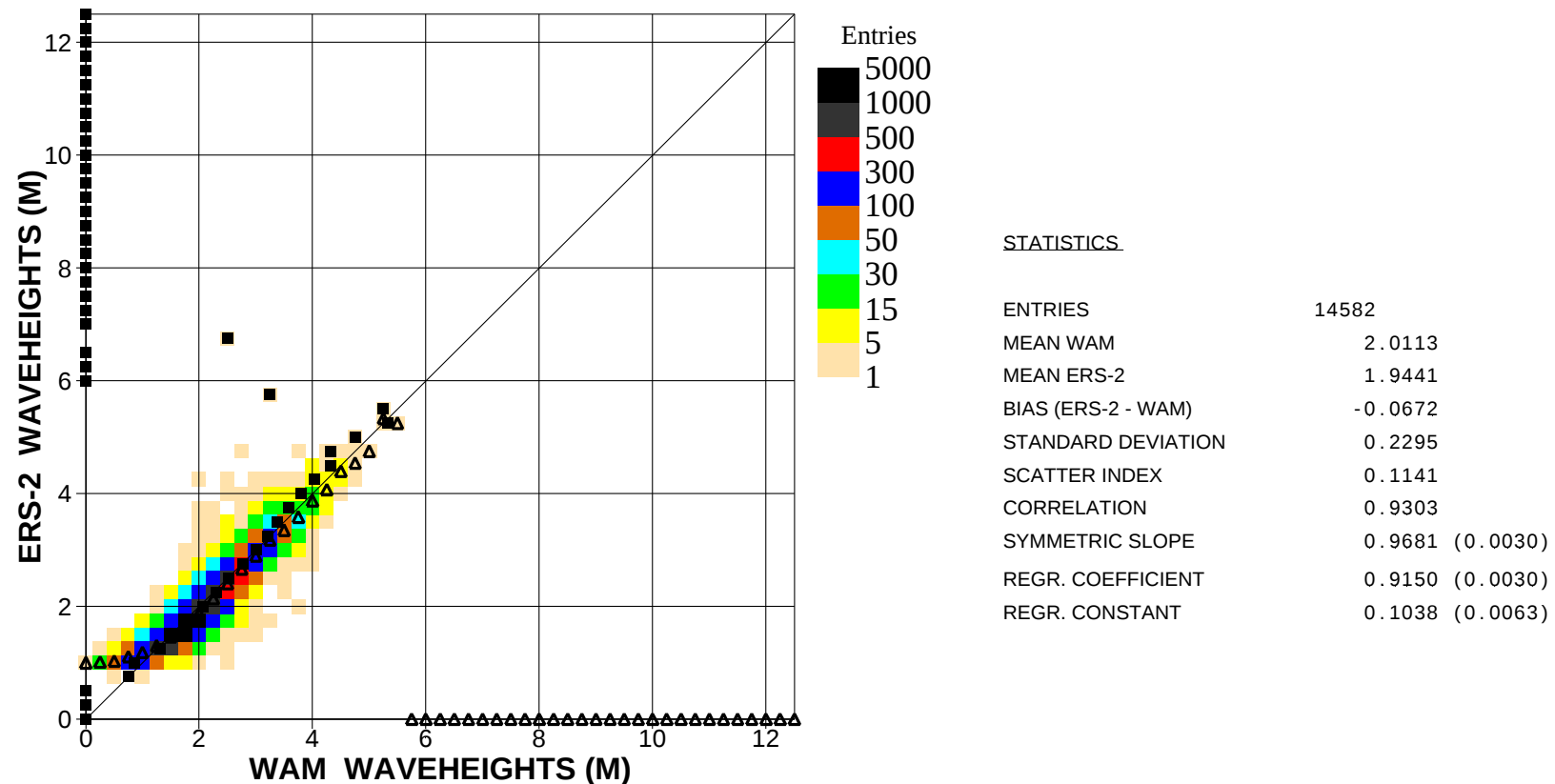


Figure 19. Comparison of ECMWF wave height results with ERS2 Altimeter wave height data for July 2002 (tropics)

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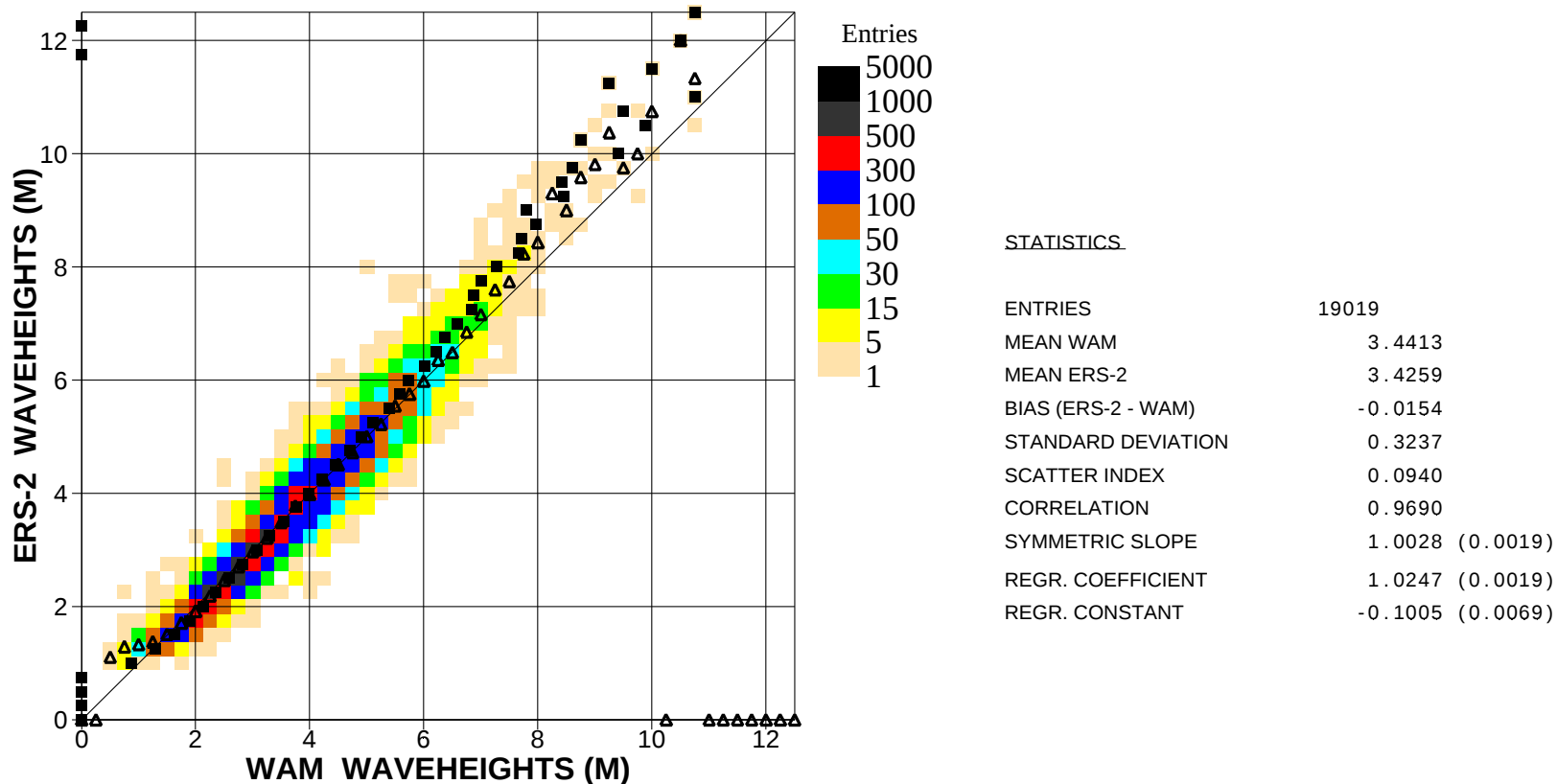


Figure 20. Comparison of ECMWF wave height results with ERS2 Altimeter wave height data for July 2002 (s.hem.)

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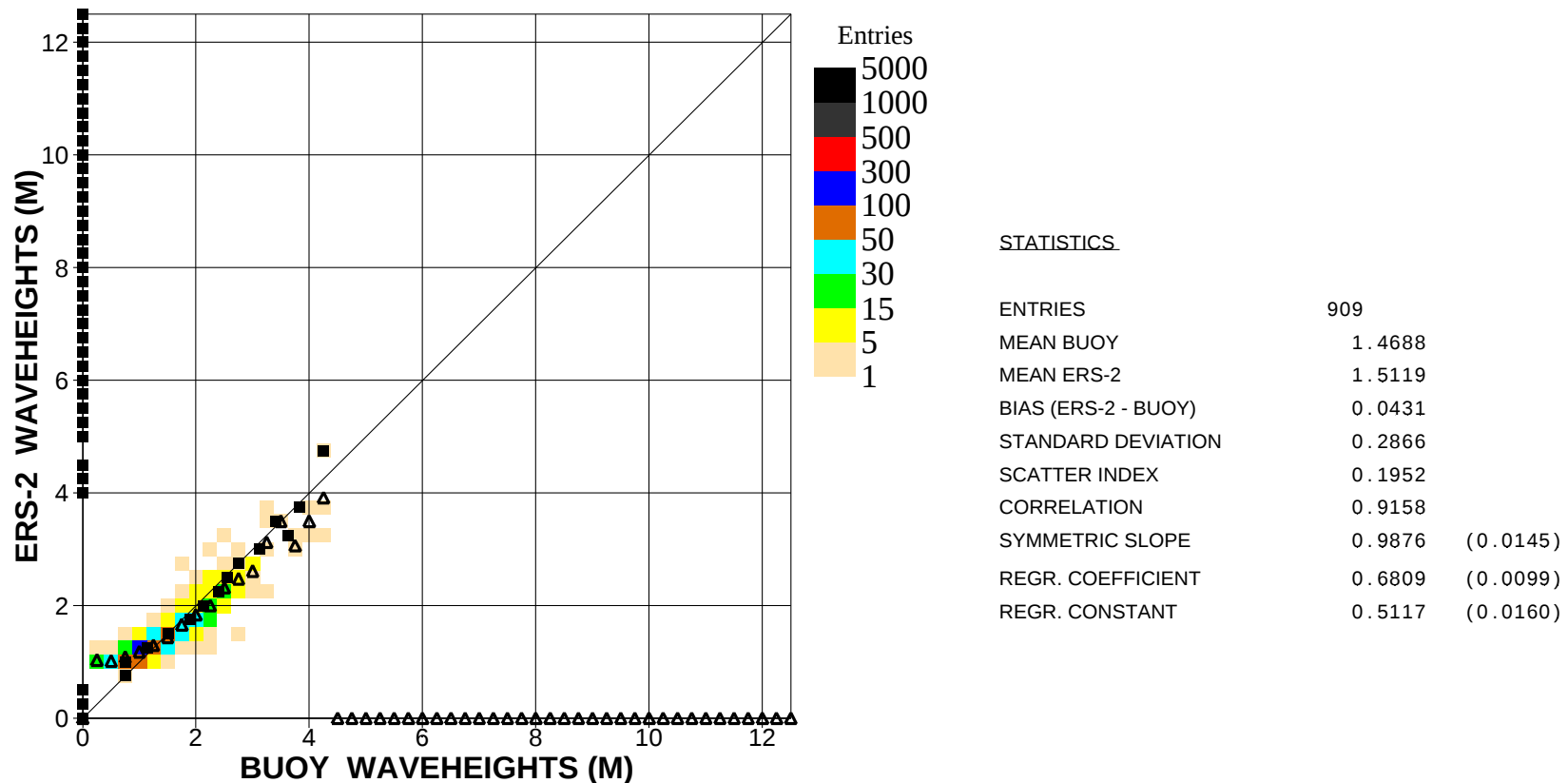


Figure 21. Comparison of buoy wave height observations with ERS2 Altimeter wave height data for July 2002 (global)

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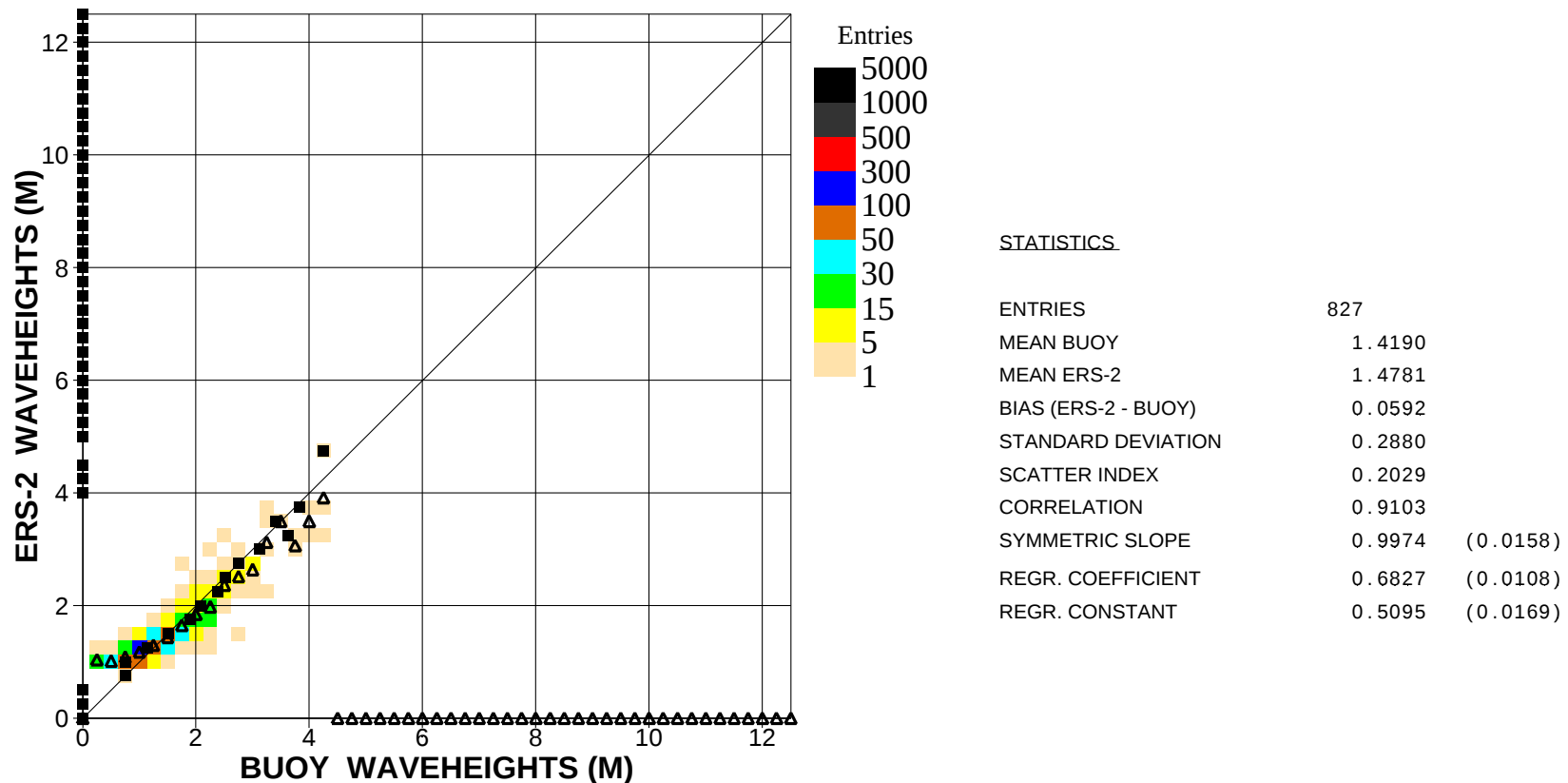


Figure 22. Comparison of buoy wave height observations with ERS2 Altimeter wave height data for July 2002 (n.hem.)

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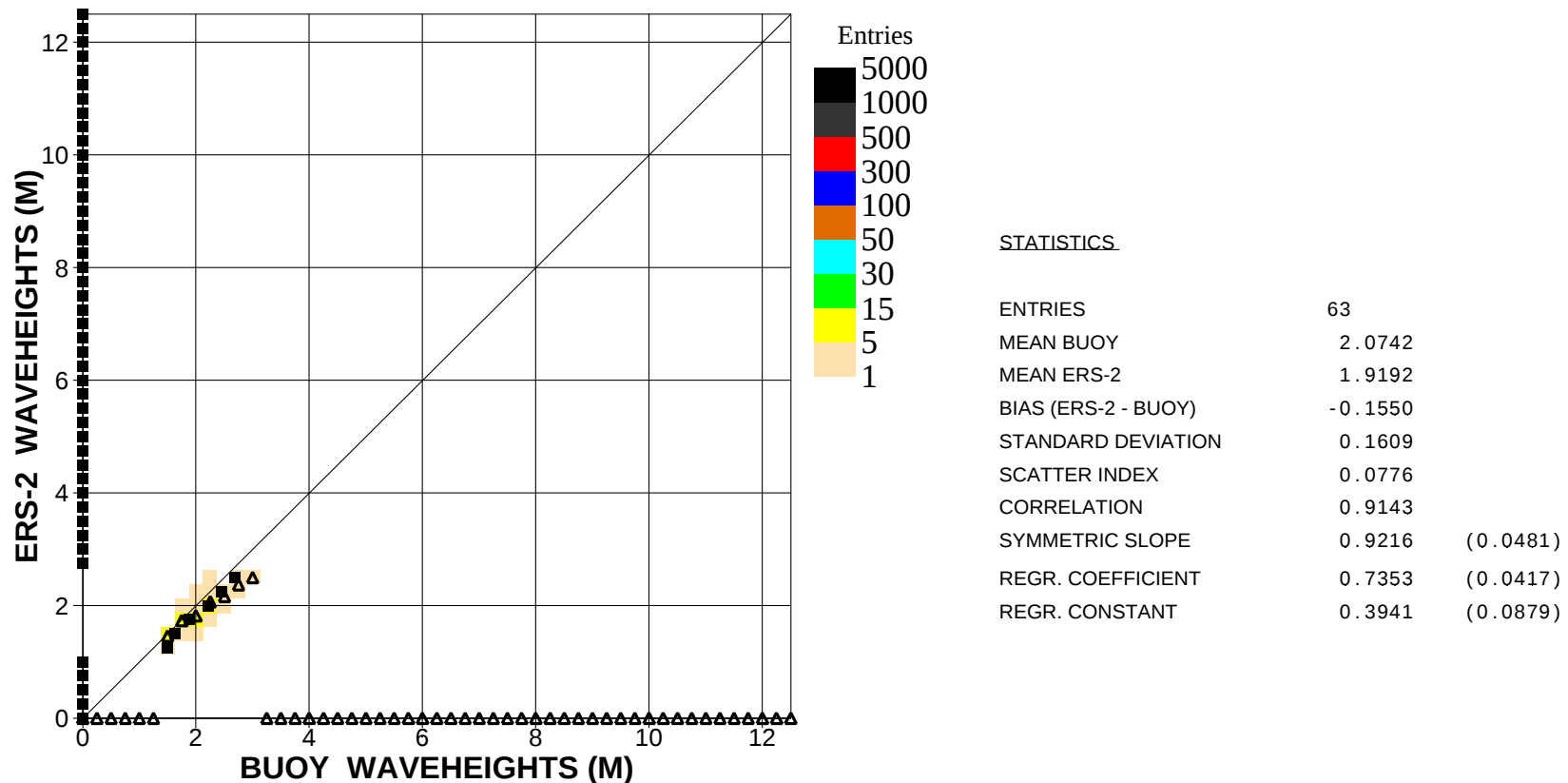


Figure 23. Comparison of buoy wave height observations with ERS2 Altimeter wave height data for July 2002 (hawaii)

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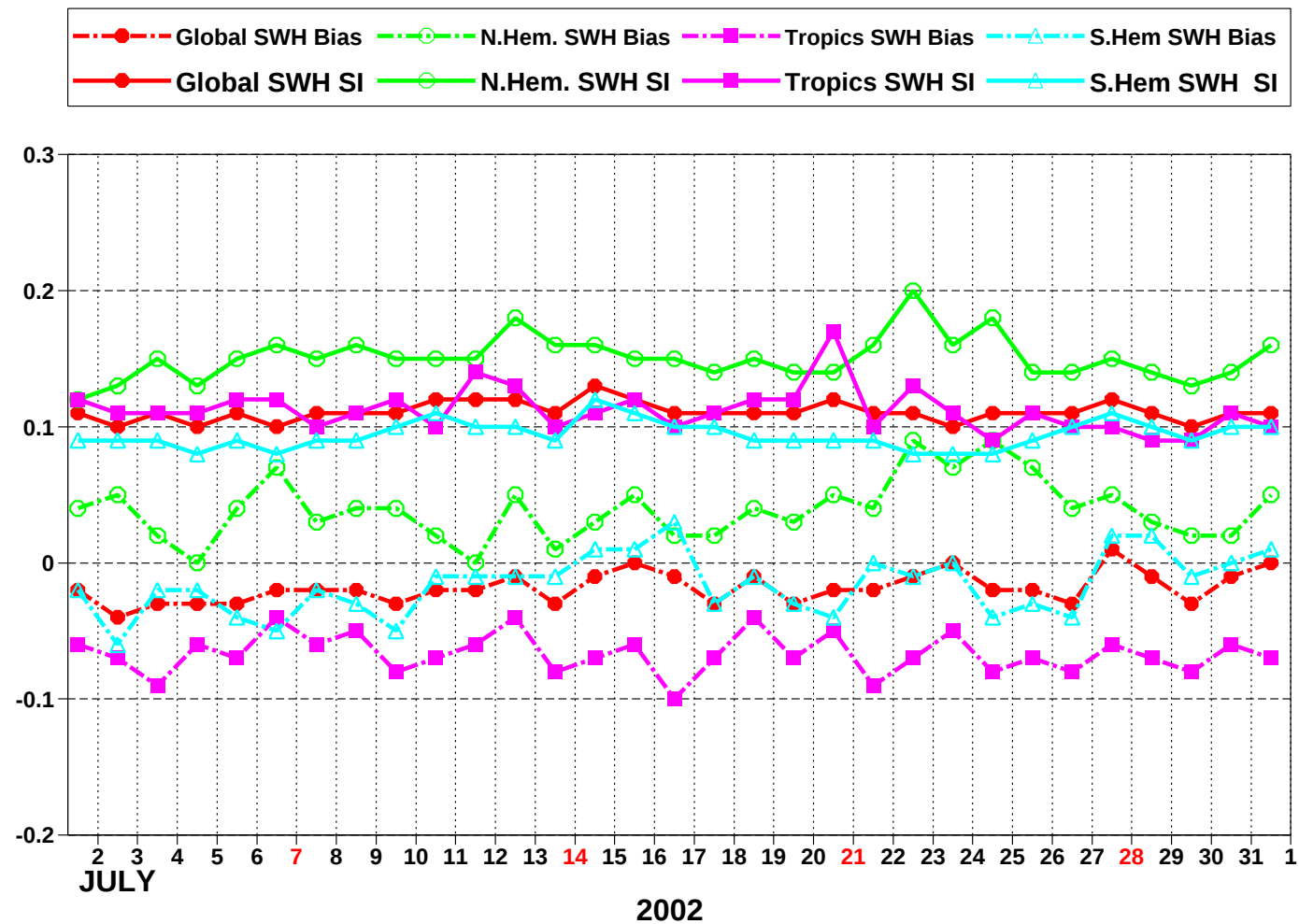


Figure 24: ERS-2 Altimeter wave heights: Timeseries of bias (ERS-2 - model) and scatter index (SI)

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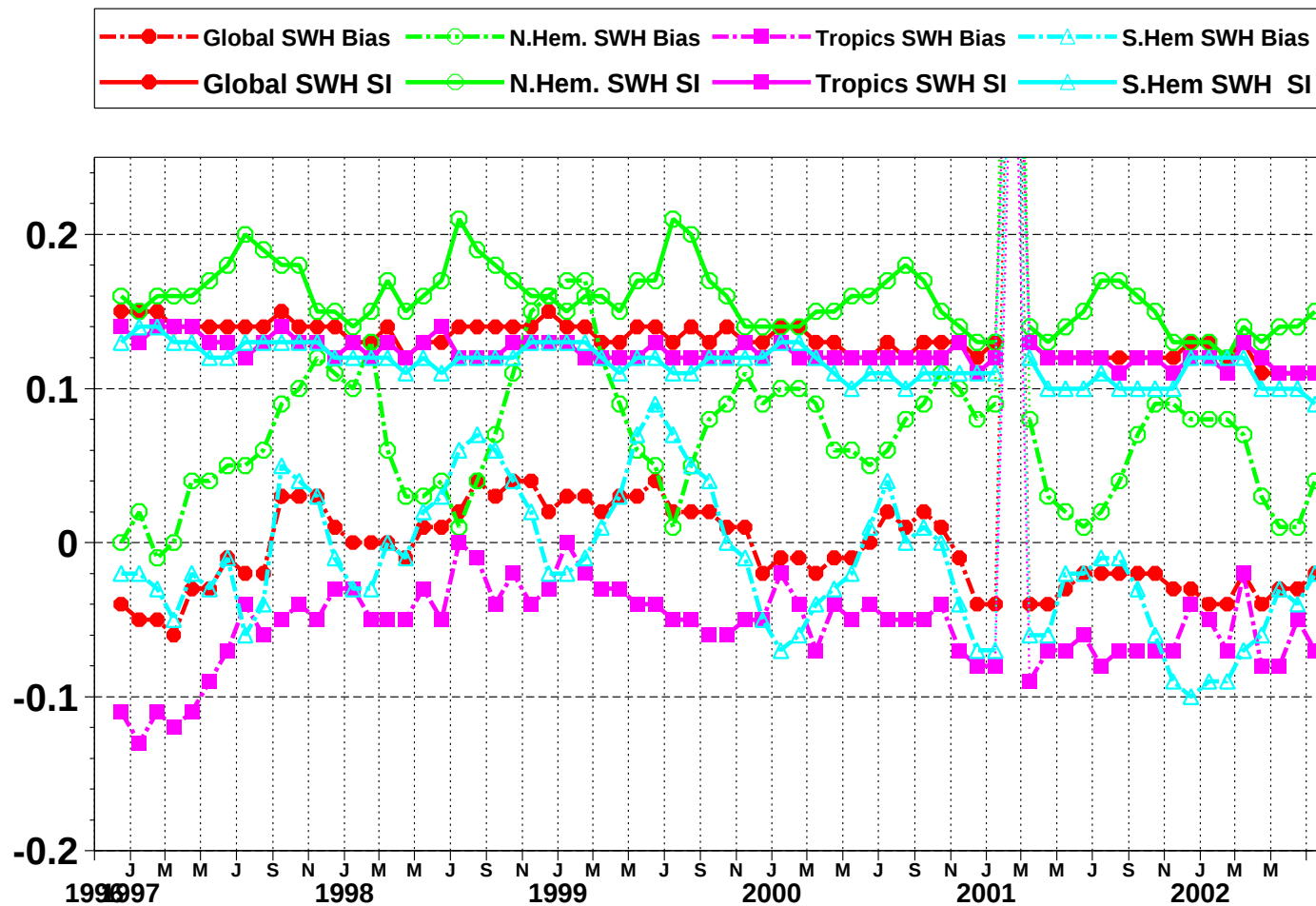


Figure 25: ERS-2 Altimeter wave heights: Timeseries of bias (ERS-2 - model) and scatter index (SI)

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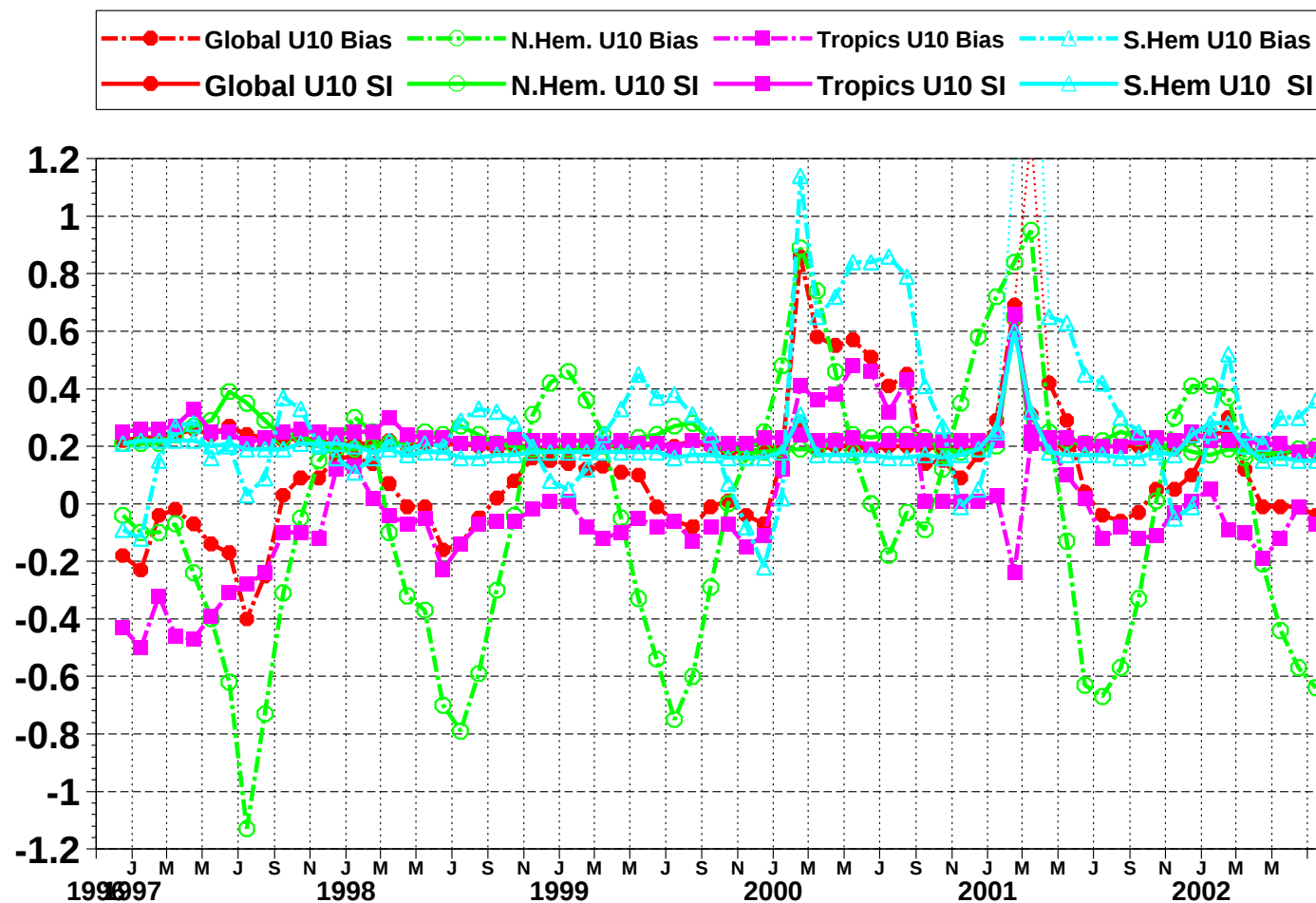


Figure 26: ERS-2 Altimeter wind speeds: Timeseries of bias (ERS-2 - model) and scatter index (SI)