

# ■ ECMWF Report on ERS-2 SAR for August 2003 ■

**Title:** Report on ERS-2 SAR wave height data.

**By:** *Saleh Abdalla*

**Date:** *12 September 2003*

## **Overview:**

On average, about 27 SAR wave mode spectra arrived at ECMWF every 6 hours of which 12.7% have been rejected. The data coverage has been significantly reduced to around 10% of the usual data reception following the failure of the ERS-2 tape recorders. As can be seen in Figure 1, there was no data during time windows of 18:00 UTC on the 24th. and 00:00 UTC on the 25th. of the month. The data started to flow since the 16th. of the month.

The quality of the received data, which are now limited to the **North Atlantic and the western coast of North America**, is as good as usual.

## **Wave Height Comparison (bias):**

ERS-2 global: 0.089 m

ERS-2 northern hemisphere: 0.090 m

ERS-2 tropics: 0.081 m

ERS-2 southern hemisphere: *missing*



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## Remarks:

- The SAR worked normally this month.
- According to ESA (EOHelp message of 4 July 2003), the recording capabilities of ERS-2 are declared permanently unavailable following the failure of the ERS-2 tape recorder on 22 June 2003. The ERS-2 tape recorders were used to record the ERS-2 Low Rate mission globally for a period of 8 years of continuous acquisition. The global coverage is, therefore, discontinued. The ERS-2 Low Rate mission will be continued within the visibility of ESA ground stations over Europe, North Atlantic, the Arctic and western North America. ESA has the intention to extend the coverage of the Real Time Low Rate acquisition over the North Atlantic in the near future.

## Definitions:

Four new integrated parameters are used to compare the SAR and the model spectra. These parameters are:

1. The mean wave period based on the ‘-1th.’ moment ( $m_{-1}$ ) defined as:

$$T_{-1} = m_{-1} / m_0$$

where  $m_0$  and  $m_{-1}$  are the zeroth and the ‘-1th.’ moments of the wave spectrum with the  $n$ -th. moment, in general, is defined as:

$$m_n = \int d\theta \int df \cdot f^n \cdot F(f, \theta)$$

$F$  is the wave spectrum in frequency,  $f$ , - direction space. The comparison between ECMWF model and SAR mean wave periods for the whole month is given in Figure 7.



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2. The wave directional spread defined as:

$$\sigma = \sqrt{2[1 - r_1(f)]}$$

$$r_1(f) = \int df \int d\theta \cdot F(f, \theta) \cdot \cos[\theta - \varphi(f)]$$

$$\varphi(f) = \text{atan} \left\{ \frac{\int d\theta \cdot F(f, \theta) \cdot \sin(\theta)}{\int d\theta \cdot F(f, \theta) \cdot \cos(\theta)} \right\}$$

The comparison between ECMWF model and SAR wave directional spread values for the whole month is given in Figure 8.

3. The mean wave propagation direction defined as:

$$\varphi = \text{atan} \left\{ \frac{\int df \int d\theta \cdot F(f, \theta) \cdot \sin(\theta)}{\int df \int d\theta \cdot F(f, \theta) \cdot \cos(\theta)} \right\}$$

The comparison between ECMWF model and SAR mean wave propagation directions for the whole month is given in Figure 9.

4. The spectral peakedness parameter of Goda ( $Q_p$ ) defined as:

$$Q_p = 2m_0^{-2} \int d\theta \int df \cdot f \cdot F^2(f, \theta)$$

The comparison between ECMWF model and SAR spectral peakedness (or roughly, spectral narrowness) values for the whole month is given in Figure 10.



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## Figure captions:

Figure 1: Time series of data reception for ERS-2 Altimeter data for August 2003.

Figure 2: Comparison of ECMWF wave height results with ERS-2 SAR wave height data for August 2003 (global).

Figure 3: Comparison of ECMWF wave height results with ERS-2 SAR wave height data for August 2003 (northern hemisphere)

Figure 4: Comparison of ECMWF wave height results with ERS-2 SAR wave height data for August 2003 (tropics)

Figure 5: Comparison of ECMWF wave height results with ERS-2 SAR wave height data for August 2003 (southern hemisphere)

Figure 6: ERS-2 SAR wave heights: Timeseries of bias (ERS-2 - model) and scatter index (SI).

Figure 7: Comparison of ECMWF mean wave periods with ERS-2 SAR mean wave periods for August 2003 (global).

Figure 8: Comparison of ECMWF wave directional spread with that of ERS-2 SAR for August 2003 (global).

Figure 9: Comparison of ECMWF mean wave directions with those of ERS-2 SAR for August 2003 (global).

Figure 10: Comparison of ECMWF wave peakedness factor with that of ERS-2 SAR for August 2003 (global).

Figure 11: ERS-2 SAR wave heights: Timeseries of daily bias (ERS-2 - model) for the past year.

Figure 12: ERS-2 SAR wave heights: Timeseries of daily root mean square difference (RMSE) for the past year.

Figure 13: Comparison between SAR and ECMWF “2-second wave-period interval equivalent wave heights” for August 2003 (global).

Figure 14: Comparison between SAR and ECMWF “2-second wave-period interval equivalent wave heights” for August 2003 (n. hem.).

Figure 15: Comparison between SAR and ECMWF “2-second wave-period interval equivalent wave heights” for August 2003 (tropics).

Figure 14: Comparison between SAR and ECMWF “2-second wave-period interval equivalent wave heights” for August 2003 (s. hem.).

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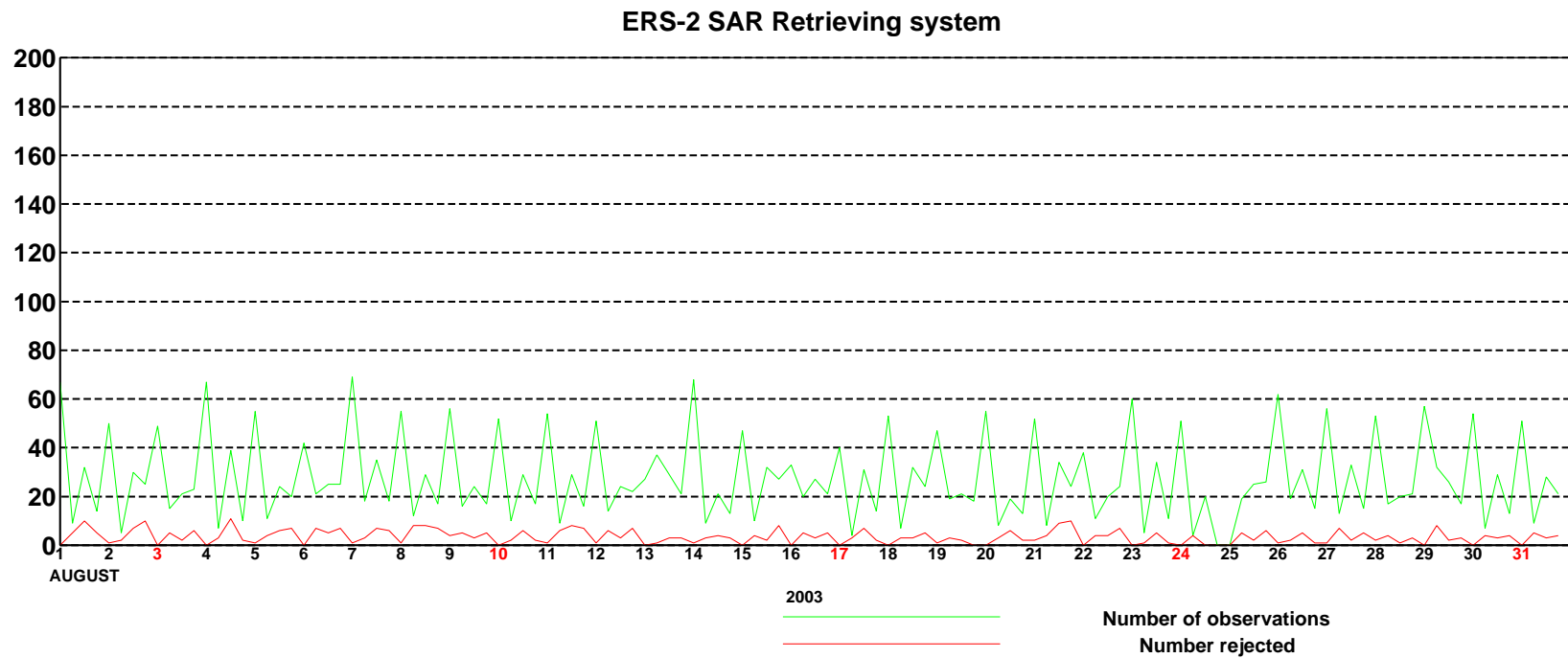


Figure 1: Time series of data reception for ERS-2 SAR wave mode spectra for August 2003

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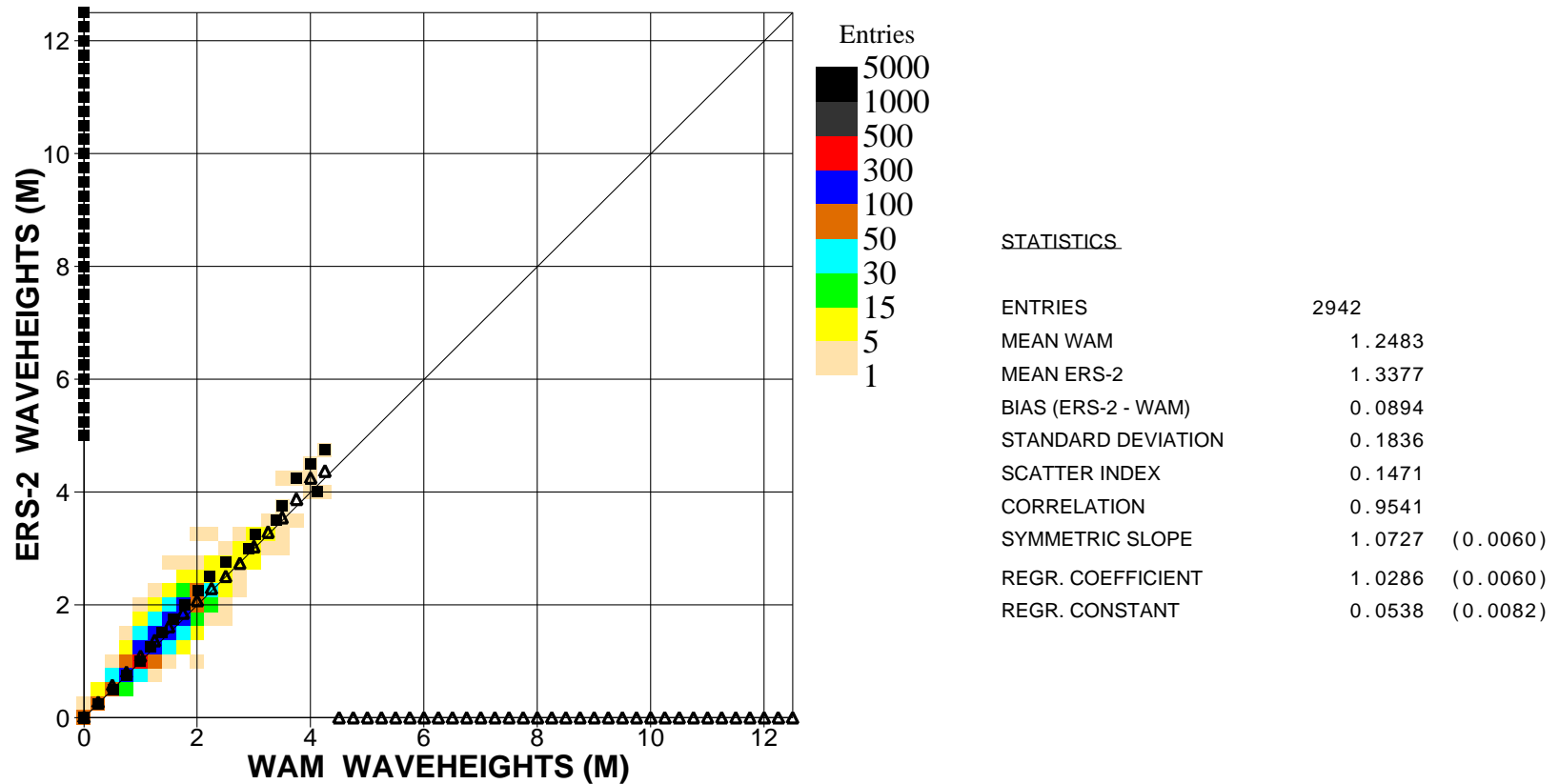


Figure 2: Comparison of ECMWF wave height results with ERS2 SAR wave height data for August 2003 (global)

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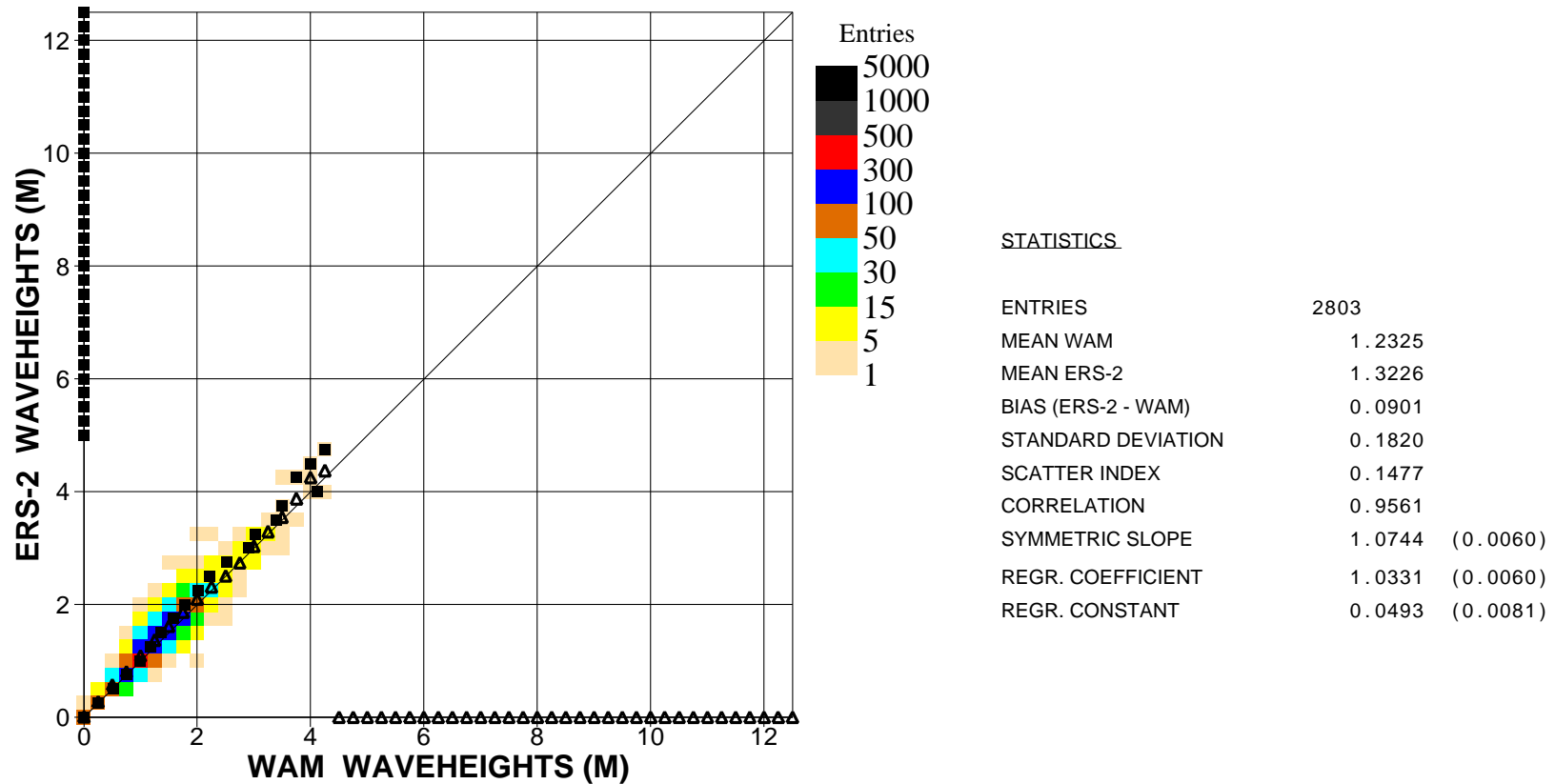


Figure 3: Comparison of ECMWF wave height results with ERS2 SAR wave height data for August 2003 (n.hem.)

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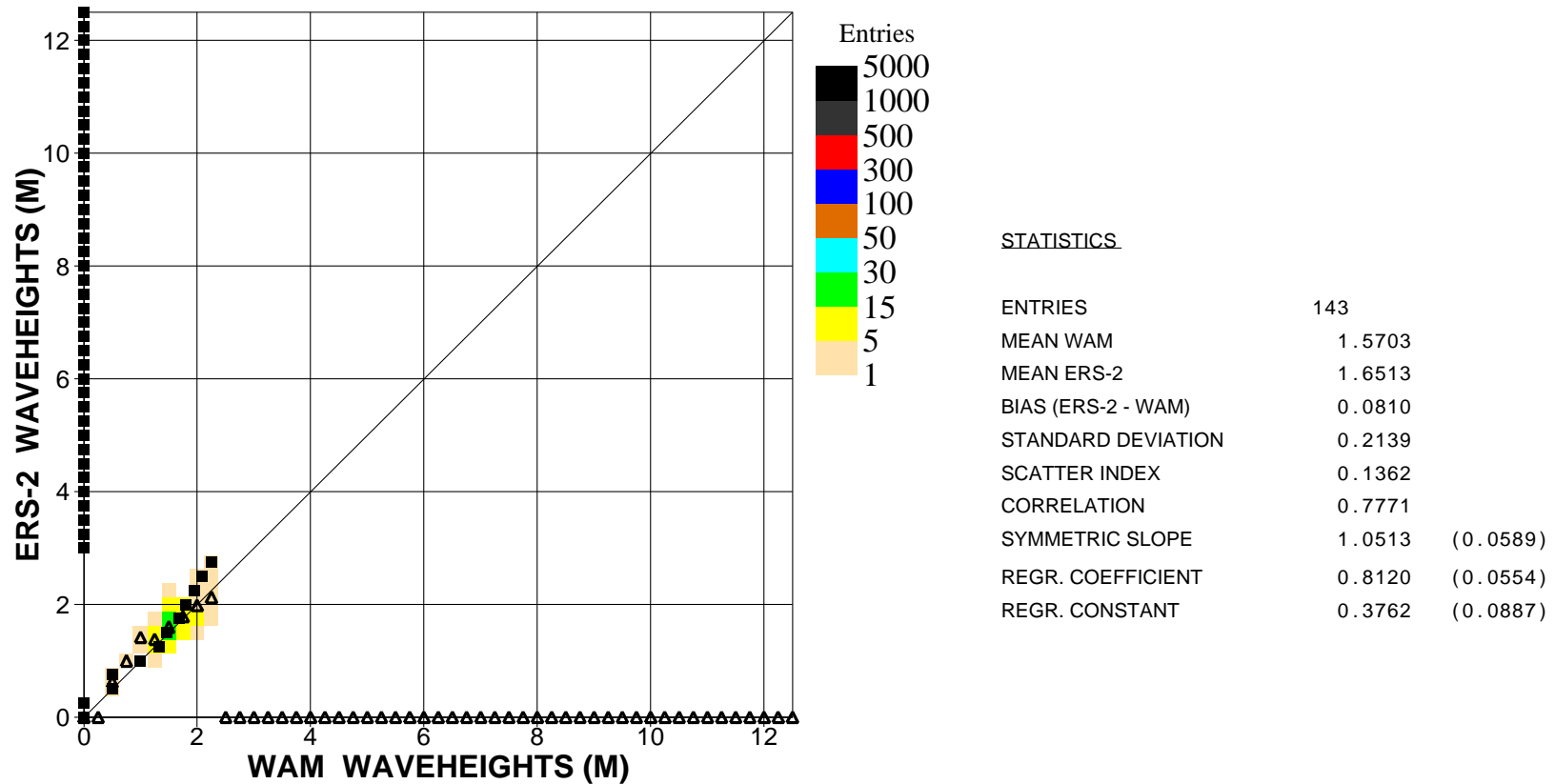


Figure 4: Comparison of ECMWF wave height results with ERS2 SAR wave height data for August 2003 (tropics)

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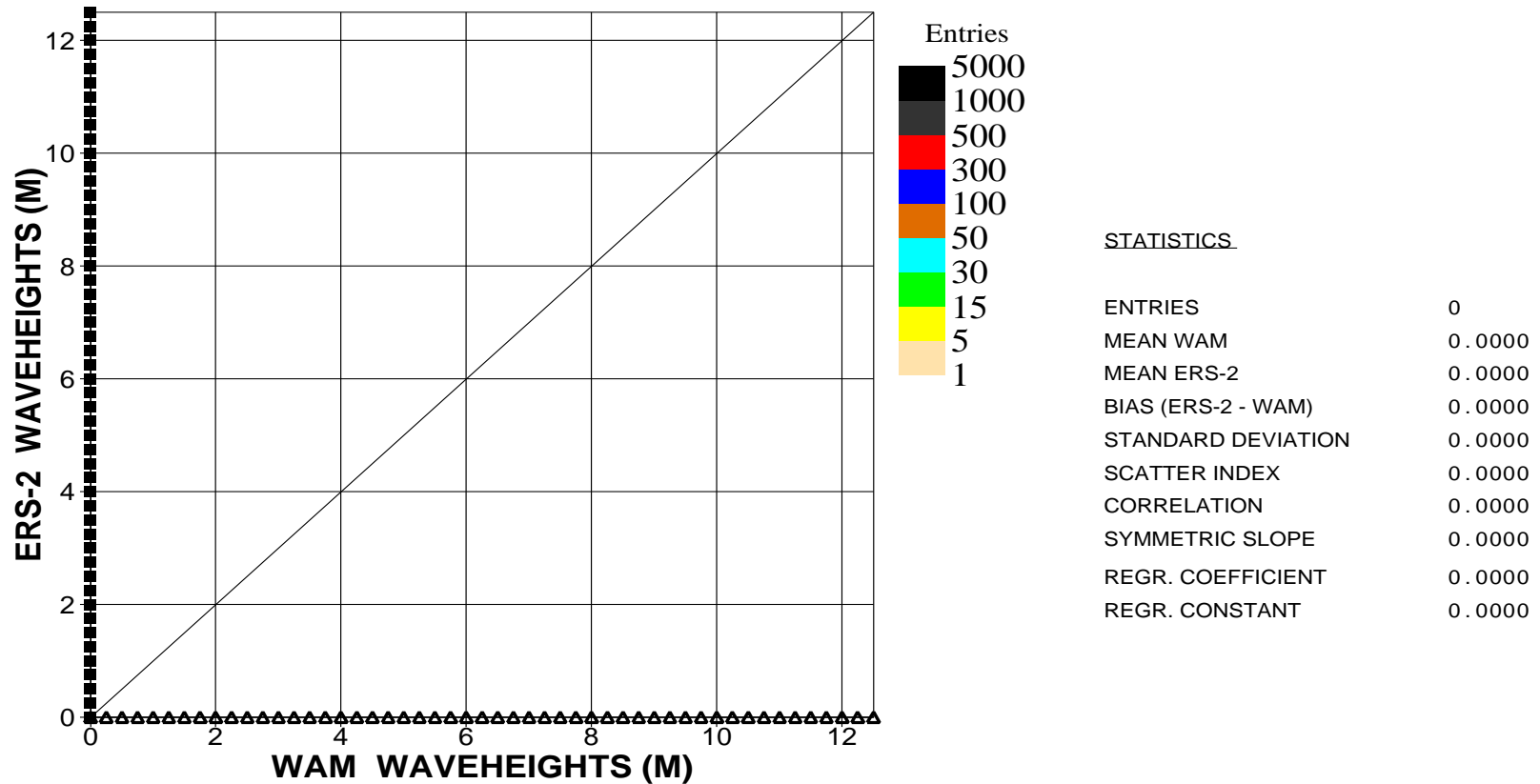


Figure 5: Comparison of ECMWF wave height results with ERS2 SAR wave height data for August 2003 (s.hem.)

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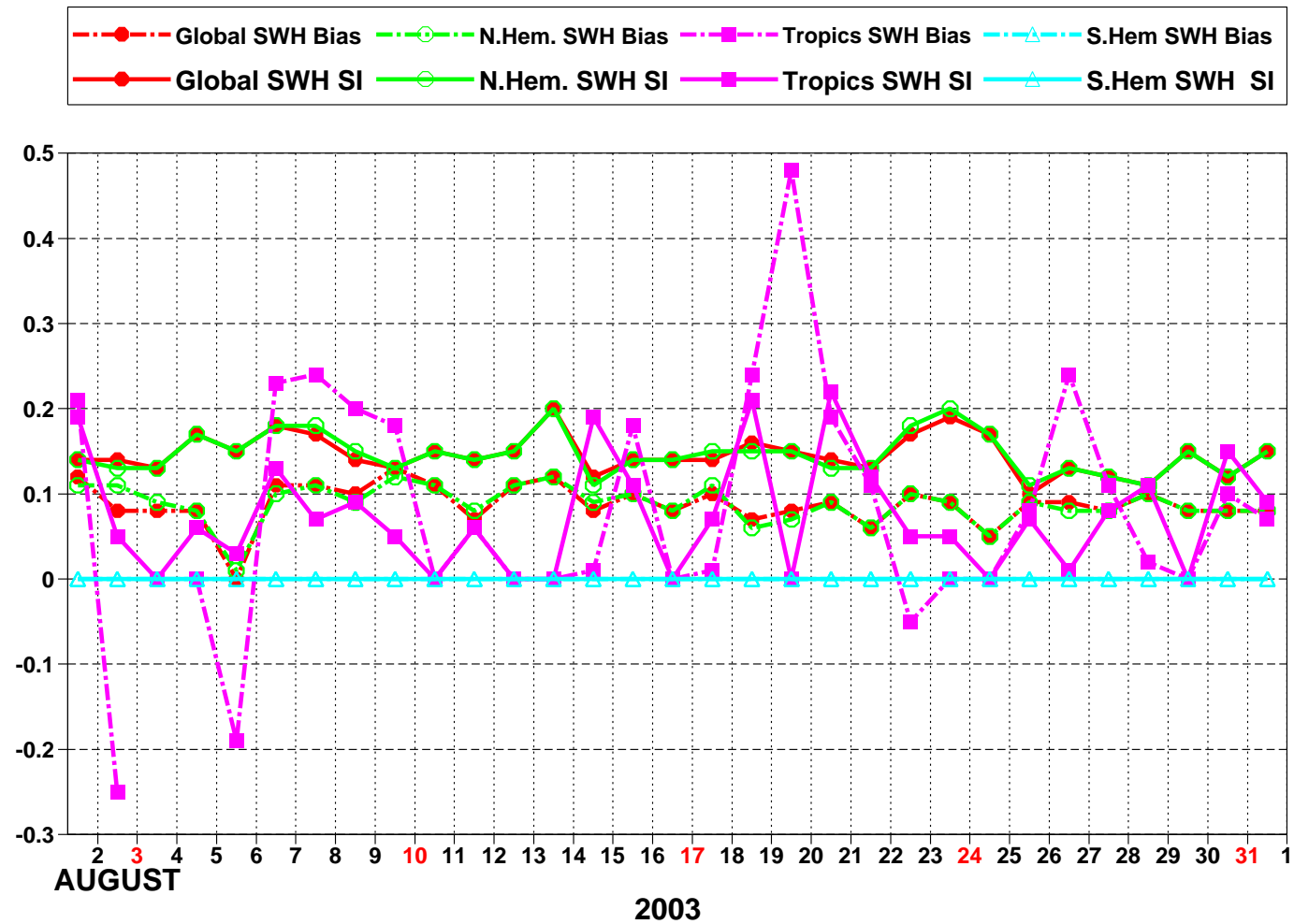


Figure 6: ERS-2 SAR wave heights: Timeseries of bias (ERS-2 - model) and scatter index (SI)

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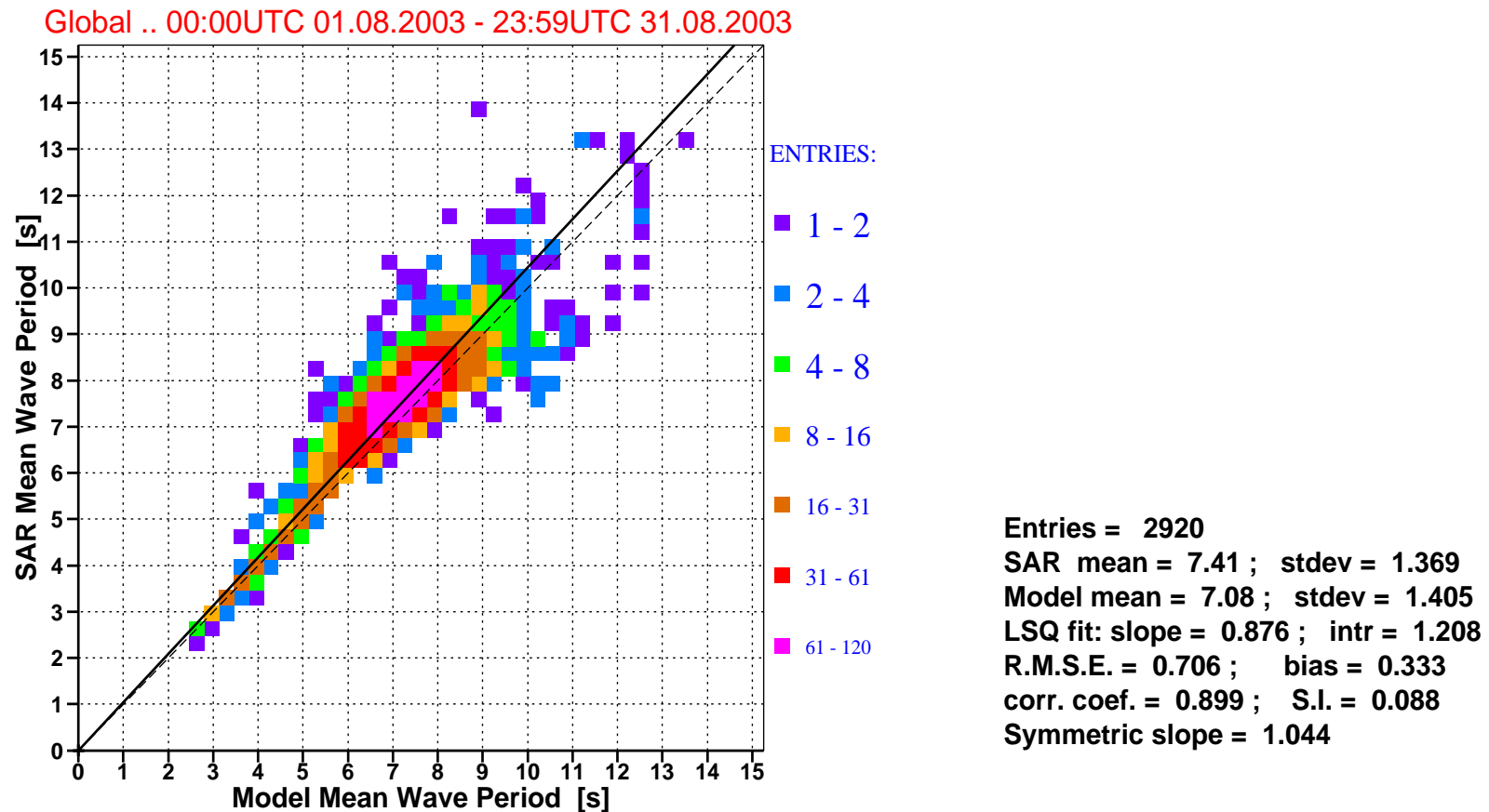


Figure 7: Comparison of ECMWF mean wave periods with ERS-2 SAR mean wave periods for august 2003 (global).

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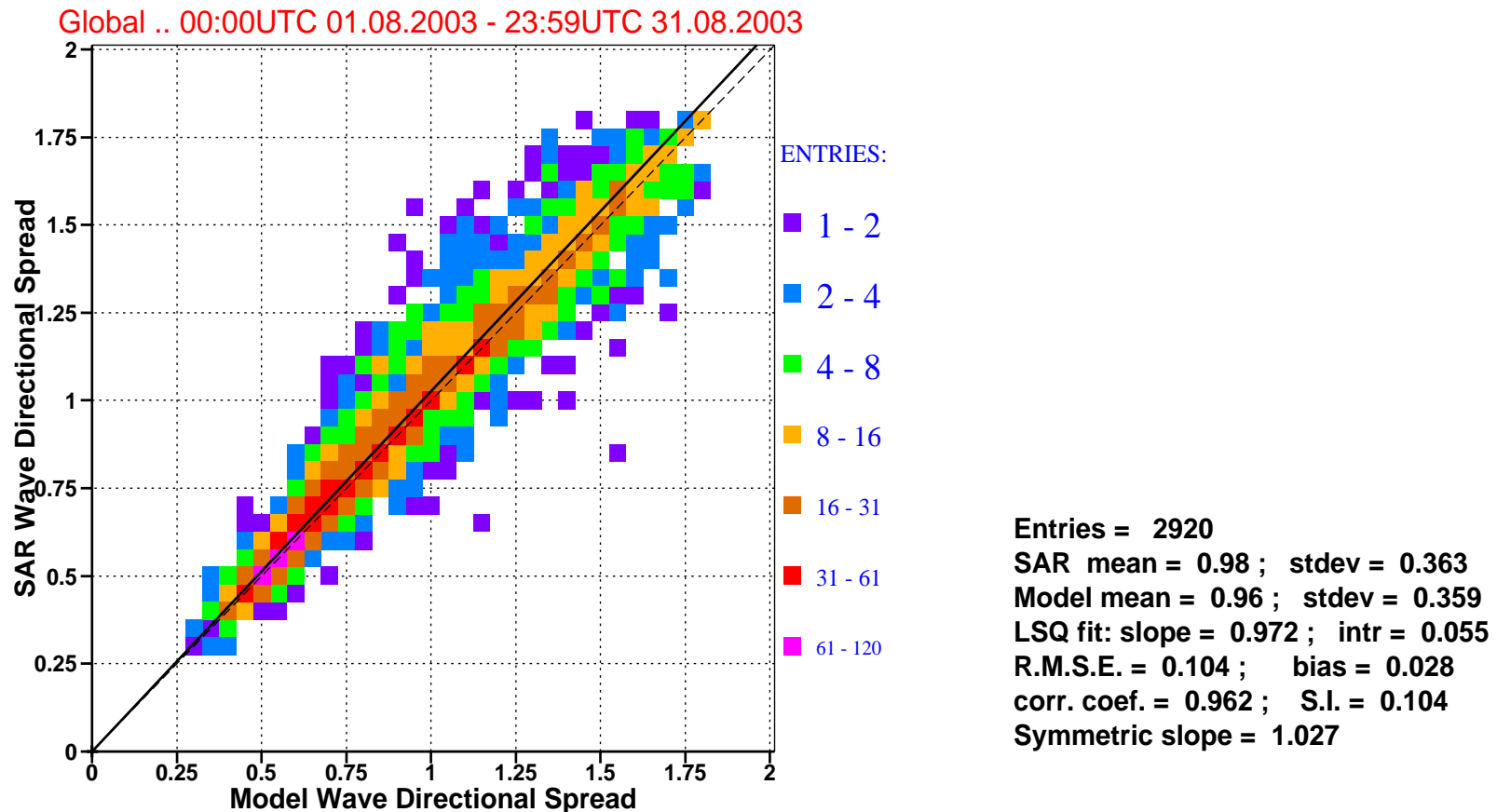


Figure 8: Comparison of ECMWF wave directional spread with that of ERS-2 SAR for august 2003 (global).

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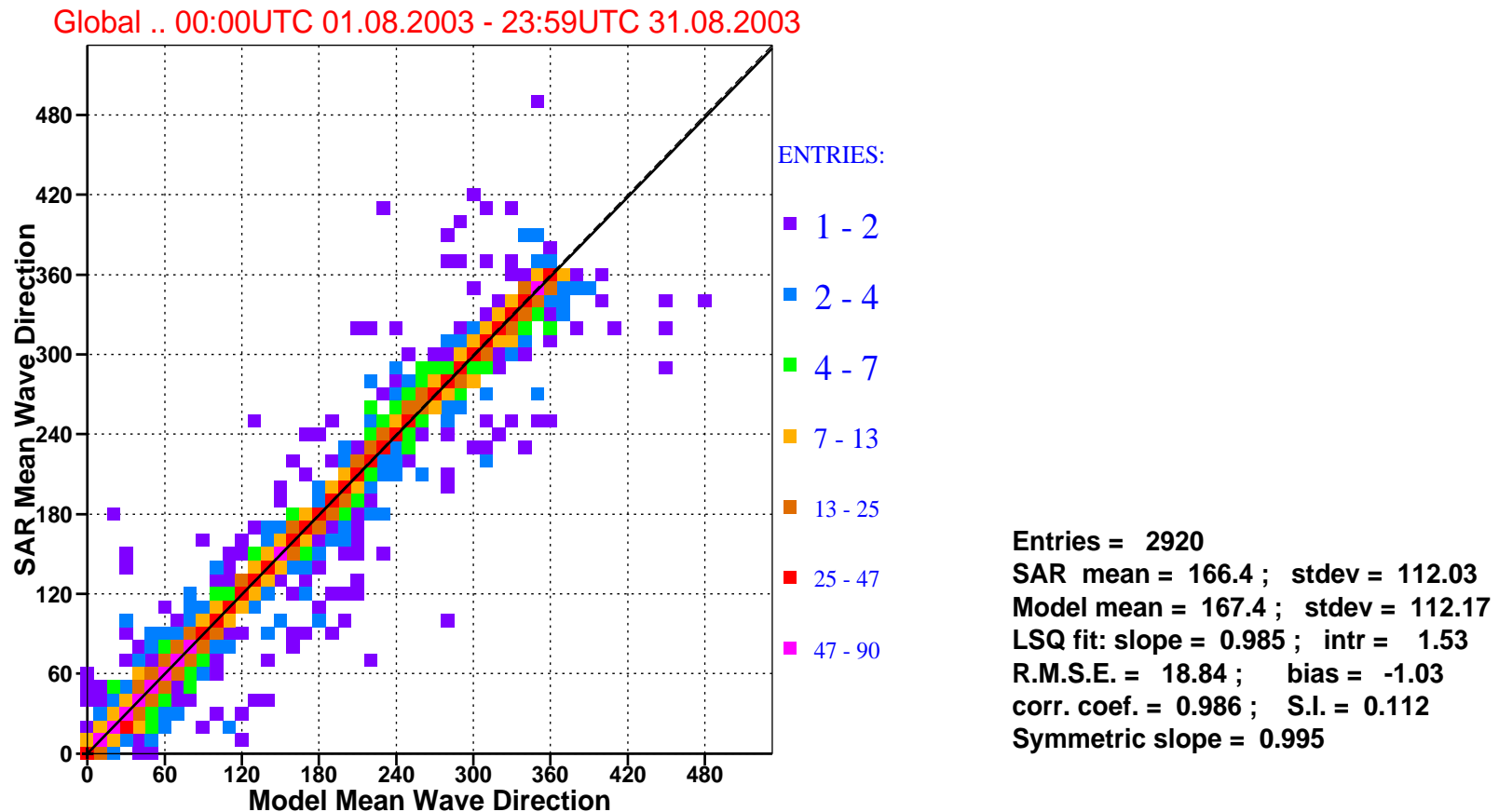


Figure 9: Comparison of ECMWF mean wave directions with that of ERS-2 SAR for august 2003 (global).

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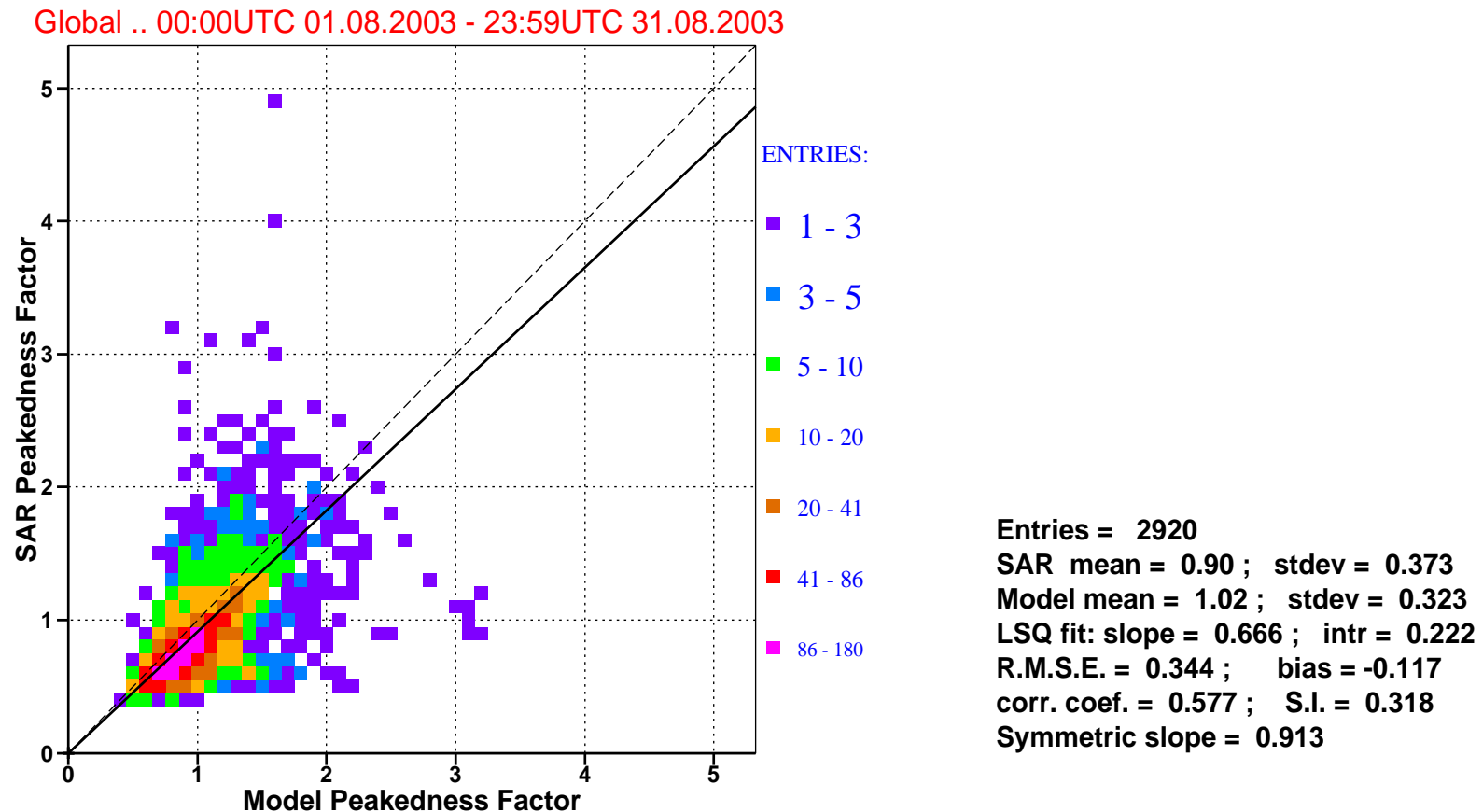


Figure 10: : Comparison of ECMWF wave peakedness factor with that of ERS-2 SAR for august 2003 (global).

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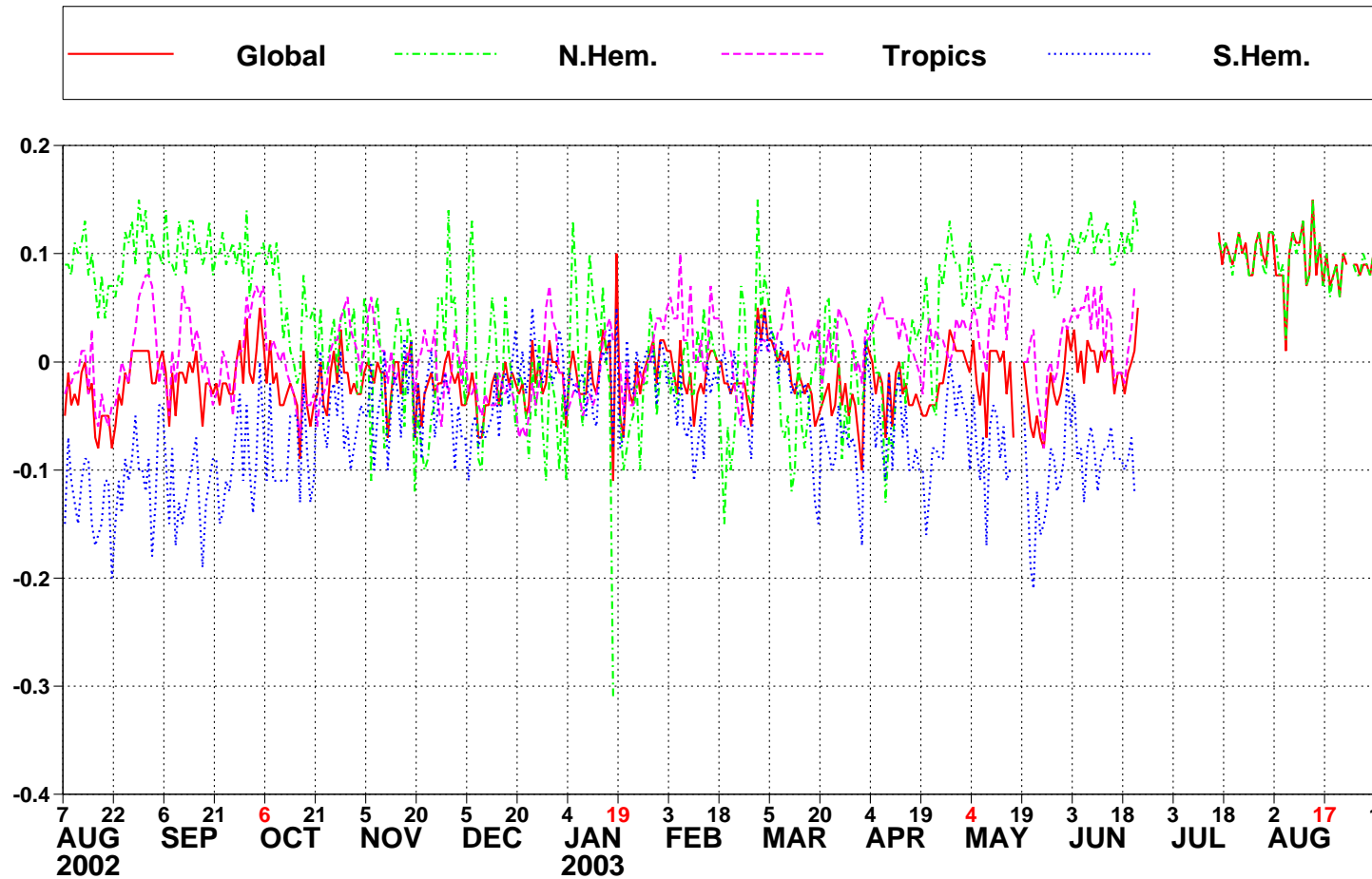


Figure 11: ERS-2 SAR wave heights: Timeseries of daily bias (ERS-2 - model) for the past year.

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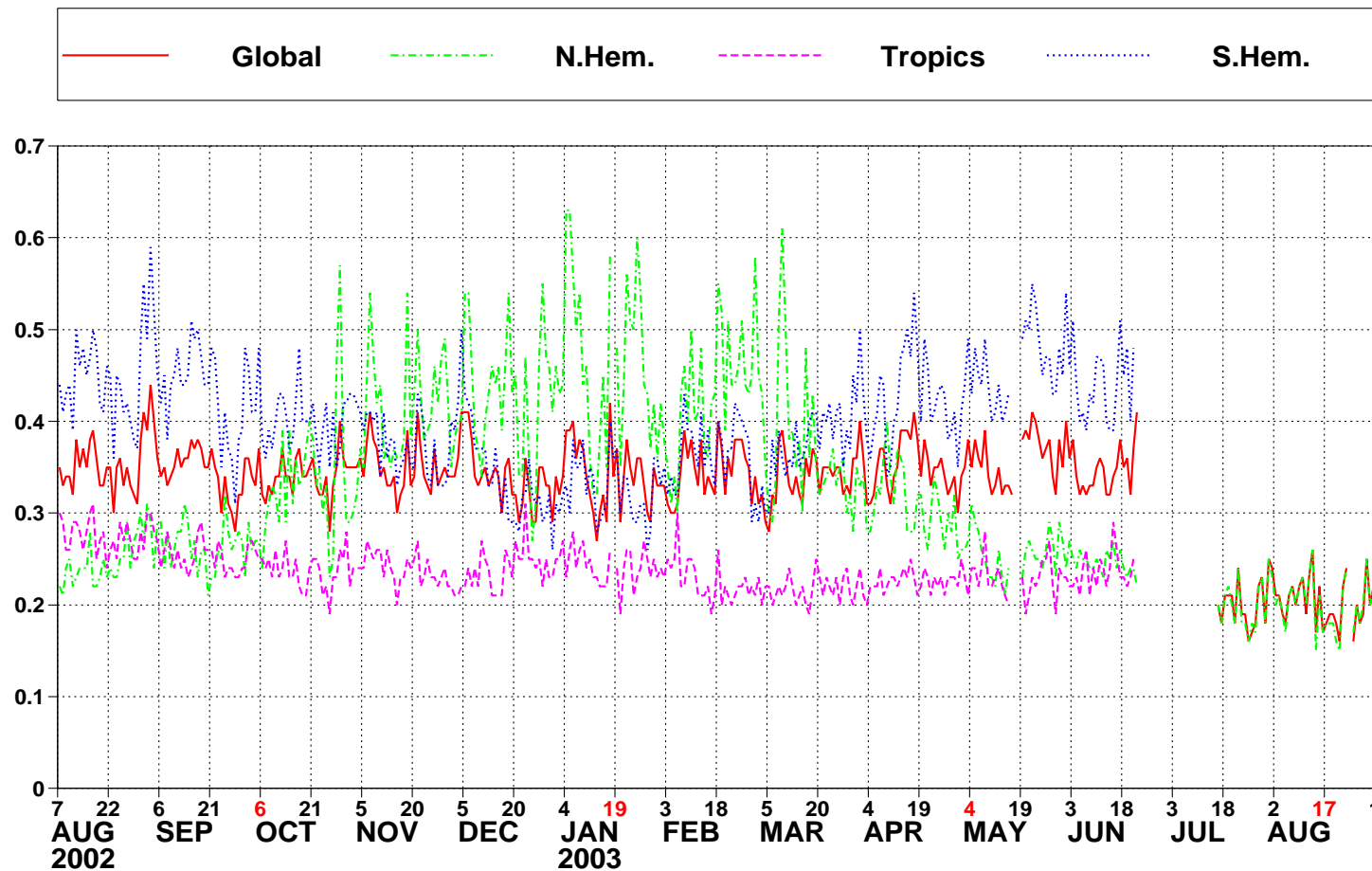


Figure 12: ERS-2 SAR wave heights: Timeseries of daily root mean square difference (RMSE) for the past year.



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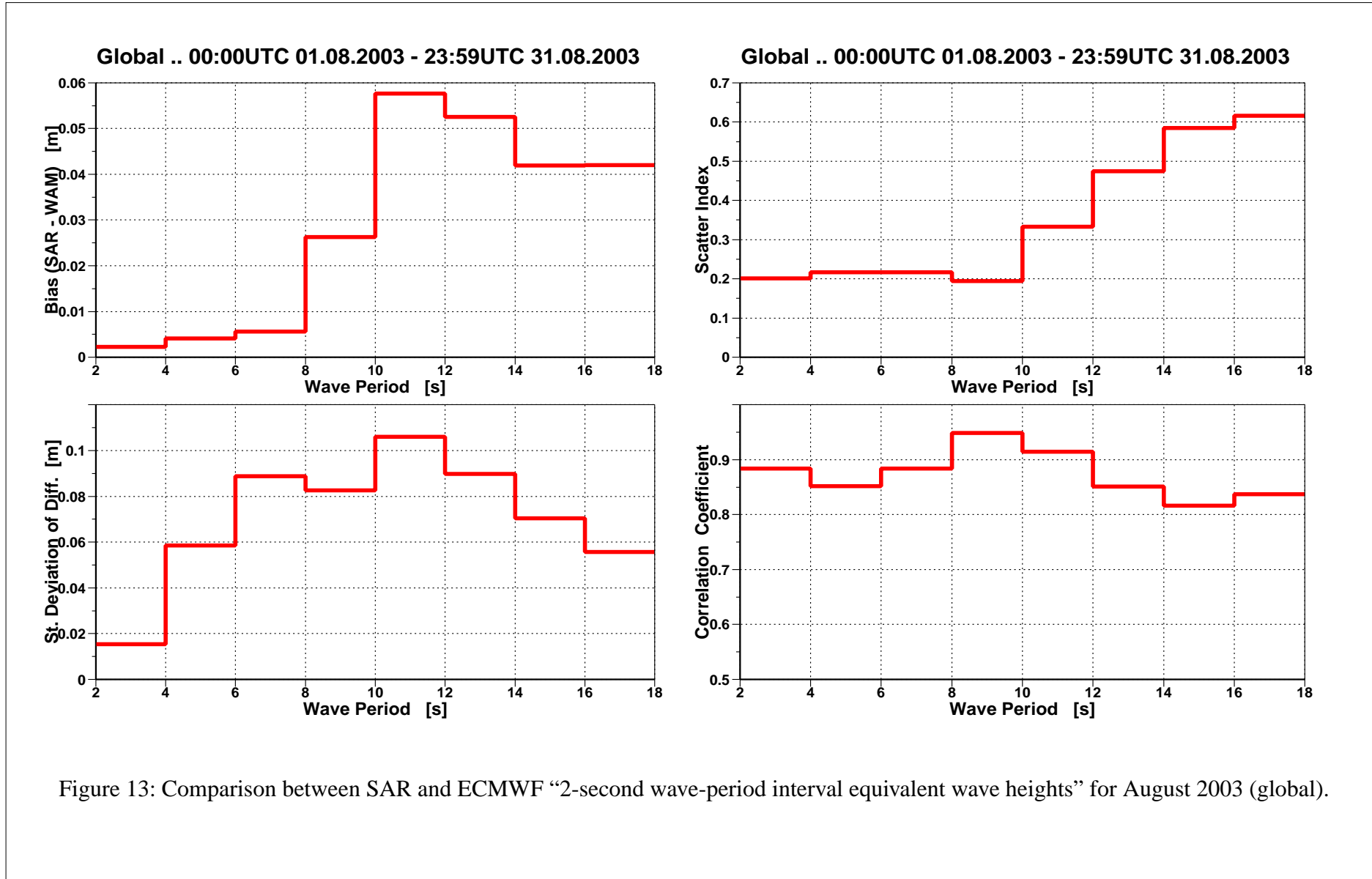
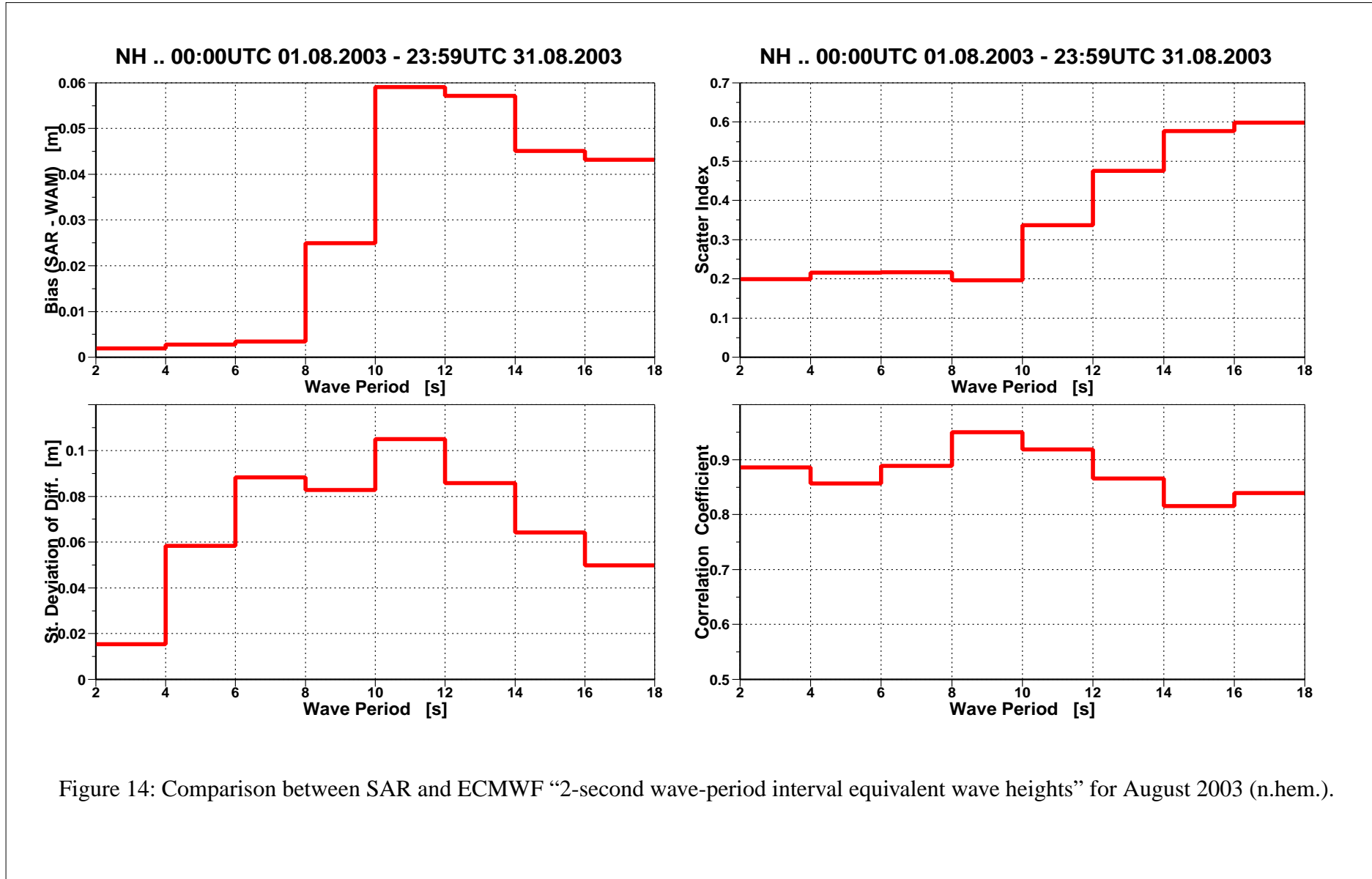


Figure 13: Comparison between SAR and ECMWF “2-second wave-period interval equivalent wave heights” for August 2003 (global).



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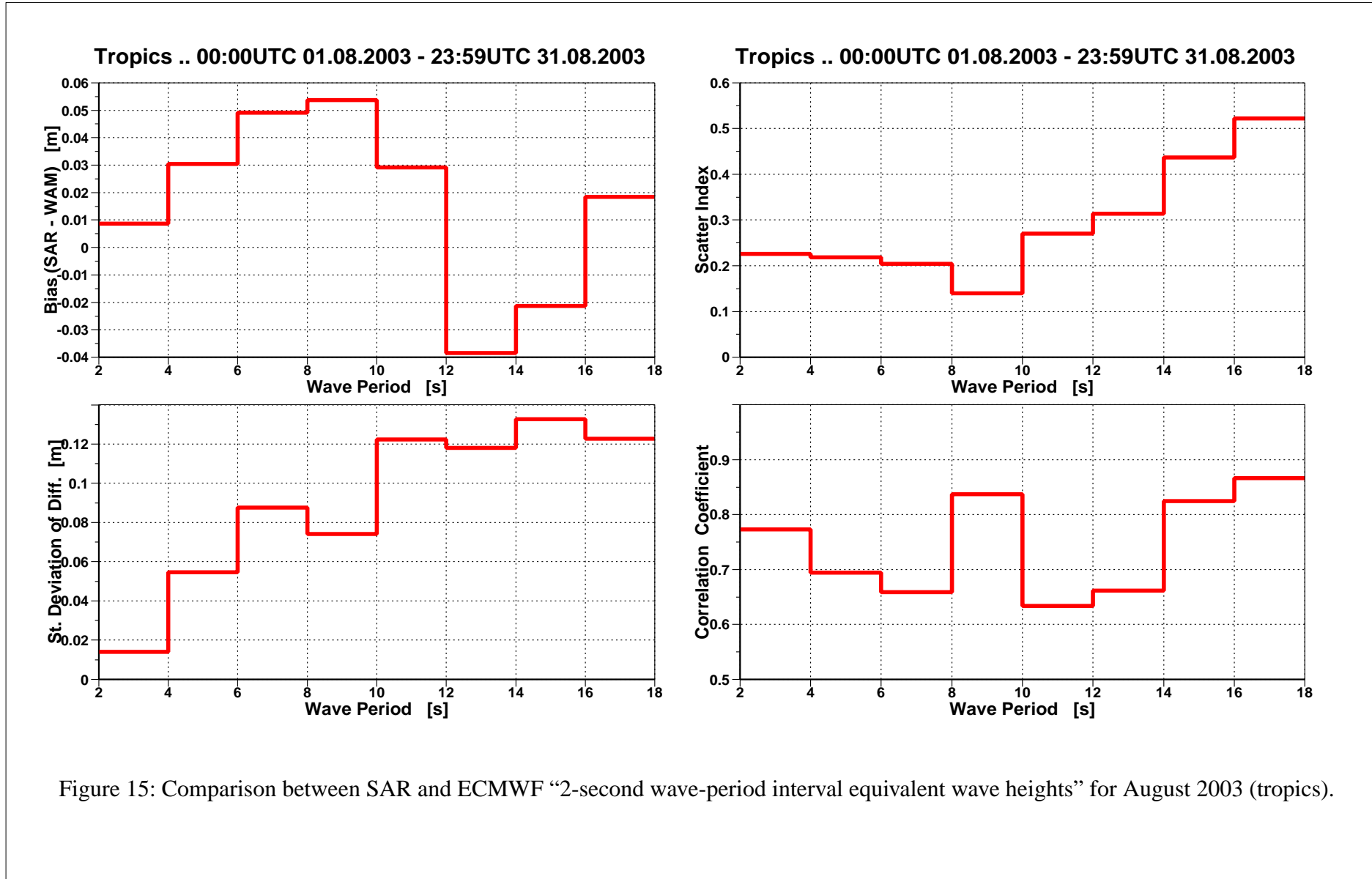


Figure 15: Comparison between SAR and ECMWF “2-second wave-period interval equivalent wave heights” for August 2003 (tropics).

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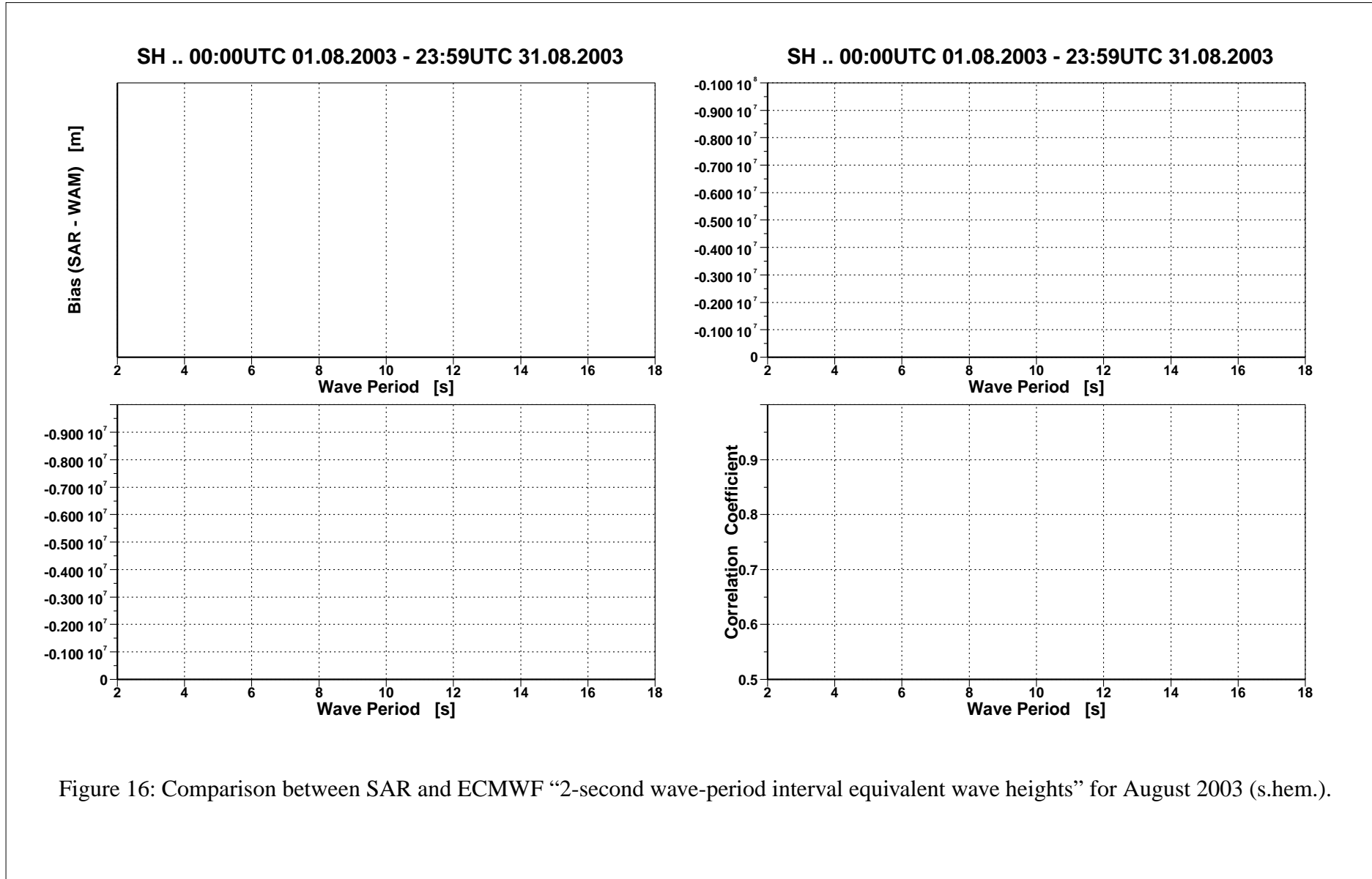


Figure 16: Comparison between SAR and ECMWF “2-second wave-period interval equivalent wave heights” for August 2003 (s.hem.).

