

Data for Climate Forcast

There are basically two ways to measure the ocean surface temperature: one method uses buoys, the other satellite radiometers. The first measures the bulk temperature at depths of about one metre, the second skin surface temperatures at about 1cm. From the assumption that the sea radiates all the energy incident upon it and the known thermal conductivity of water, I estimate that these can differ at most by about 0.3K. It seems to me difficult to justify the use of expensive satellites in climate forecasting when terrestrial measurements obtain the same data to about 0.1%.

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