

## NOTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

# Application of the Taiwan Strait Nowcast System (TSNOW) to the Rescue Mission of A Crashed Jetliner CI-611 North of Penghu

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### ABSTARCT

A sophisticated three-dimensional fine-resolution (3 km × 3 km) Taiwan Strait Nowcast System (TSNOW) is being developed in the National Center for Ocean Research (NCOR) with applications to marine search and rescue, disaster mitigation and environment protection, etc. At present, TSNOW has simulated barotropic tidal sea levels and tidal currents. Climatological mean currents have also been combined with tidal components. During the 2002 China Airlines CI-611 aviation accident event over the Taiwan Strait, TSNOW was timely used for searching floating objects and possible survivors, and recovering debris and sunken wreckage of the crashed jetliner. Experiences gained from that exercise prompted us to set up a three-stage of model operation to provide information for future rescue missions.

(Key words: Taiwan Strait, Nowcast system, Marine rescue and search)

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In the island of Taiwan, human, industrial and economic activities are intimately linked to the surrounding seas. The resources and disasters brought by the sea affect many facets of lives. To better manage the maritime affairs requires better understanding of the ocean. It is therefore important to establish an operational oceanic nowcast model.

The National Center for Ocean Research (NCOR), a center established by the National Science Council of R.O.C. in 1997, has undertaken a major effort to develop a fine-resolution Taiwan Strait Nowcast System (TSNOW) with goals of making timely predictions of

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