| Site | Magnitude |  | $u$ |  |  |  |  | $v$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Mean | Max | Mean | Max | Min | Mean | Max | Min |
| ORS | 6.78 | 22.29 | 0.39 | 15.24 | -14.16 | 0.54 | 20.47 | -12.51 |
| Re-analysis |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NRA-2 | 7.55 | 27.24 | -0.05 | 21.53 | -20.52 | 0.22 | 24.17 | -19.6 |
| BSW4 | 8.47 | 37.52 | 0.26 | 21.56 | -26.36 | 0.42 | 31.69 | -21.62 |
| Over-land |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NH | 4.17 | 13.33 | 0.16 | 12.53 | -12.91 | 0.05 | 13.13 | -8.96 |
| SH | 4.99 | 18.24 | 0.38 | 13.32 | -12.74 | 0.37 | 14.53 | -14.00 |
| FD | 3.76 | 12.98 | 0.35 | 10.23 | -12.27 | 0.26 | 9.45 | -8.40 |
| SA | 4.99 | 18.10 | 0.21 | 14.43 | -10.72 | 0.32 | 16.76 | -12.65 |
| LB | 4.67 | 17.50 | 0.18 | 9.6 | -11.2 | 0.43 | 17.50 | -11.62 |
| KN | 5.17 | 16.78 | 0.39 | 14.83 | -12.48 | 0.28 | 15.05 | -13.74 |

Table S2. Regression of Ocean Reference Site (ORS) wind speed, $\boldsymbol{U}_{\text {Sea }}$, with speed at the other locations, $U_{\text {Land }}$, where $U_{\text {Sea }}=a+b U_{\text {Land }}$ and $R$ is the correlation coefficient at $99 \%$ confidence level
$P$-values were zero to three decimal places. See Table 1 for description of sites

| Site | a | b | $R_{99 \% \text { conf }}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Re-analysis |  |  | 0.28 |
| NRA-2 | 4.66 | 0.28 | 0.53 |
| BSW4 | 2.89 | 0.46 |  |
| Over-land | 1.73 | 1.21 | 0.83 |
| NH | 1.76 | 1 | 0.88 |
| SH | 2.48 | 1.14 | 0.72 |
| FD | 2.00 | 0.95 | 0.81 |
| SA | 1.78 | 1.07 | 0.86 |
| LB | 1.80 | 0.96 | 0.86 |
| KN |  |  |  |

Table S3. Rotation angle from north, first (1st) and second (2nd) principal axes and ratios (1st axis : 2nd axis) for each dataset, calculated from 6-hourly wind stress data for 2001-2005

See Table 1 for description of the sites

| Site | Rotation angle | 1st axis | 2nd axis | Ratio |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ORS | 14 | 0.12 | 0.06 | 2.0 |
| Re-analysis |  |  |  |  |
| NRA-2 | 53 | 0.14 | 0.11 | 1.3 |
| BSW4 | 33 | 0.23 | 0.12 | 1.9 |
| Over-land |  |  |  |  |
| SH | 26 | 0.07 | 0.04 | 1.8 |
| SA | 12 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 1.8 |
| LB | 11 | 0.06 | 0.03 | 2.0 |
| KN | 25 |  | 0.04 | 1.4 |


| Site |  | $\tau_{\mathrm{x}}$ |  |  |  | $\tau_{\mathrm{y}}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Median | Std | Skew | Kurt | Median | Std | Skew | Kurt |  |  |  |
| ORS | -0.001 | 0.069 | 1.416 | 13.502 | 0.001 | 0.113 | 2.642 | 18.073 |  |  |  |
| Re-analysis |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\quad$ NRA-2 | -0.004 | 0.134 | 1.993 | 16.245 | 0.000 | 0.126 | 2.676 | 29.466 |  |  |  |
| BSW4 | -0.006 | 0.162 | 3.250 | 69.801 | 0.000 | 0.202 | 6.982 | 126.722 |  |  |  |
| Over-land |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SH | 0.001 | 0.043 | 1.391 | 17.083 | 0.003 | 0.061 | 0.671 | 11.424 |  |  |  |
| SA | 0.001 | 0.045 | 1.847 | 15.507 | -0.002 | 0.065 | 1.715 | 14.858 |  |  |  |
| LB | 0.001 | 0.028 | -0.195 | 12.599 | -0.001 | 0.059 | 2.062 | 14.789 |  |  |  |
| KN | 0.001 | 0.052 | 2.033 | 16.021 | -0.002 | 0.064 | 0.653 | 10.573 |  |  |  |

Table S4. Median, standard deviation (s.d.), skewness (Skew) and kurtosis (Kurt) for the magnitude of wind stress $\left(\mathrm{N} \mathrm{m}^{-2}\right)$ to three decimal places for data between 2001 and 2005

See Table 1 for description of the sites

| Site | Median | s.d. | Skew | Kurt |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ORS | 0.057 | 0.102 | 3.611 | 25.459 |
| Re-analysis |  |  |  |  |
| NRA-2 | 0.073 | 0.143 | 3.743 | 28.861 |
| BSW4 | 0.096 | 0.215 | 9.807 | 177.730 |
| Over-land | 0.034 | 0.055 |  |  |
| SH | 0.032 | 0.060 | 2.910 | 18.988 |
| SA | 0.024 | 0.051 | 3.068 | 19.784 |
| LB | 0.061 | 2.541 | 21.070 |  |
| KN |  |  | 13.427 |  |

Table S5. Median, standard deviation (s.d.), skewness (Skew) and kurtosis (Kurt) for $\tau_{\mathrm{x}}$ and $\tau_{\mathbf{y}}$ for wind stress $\left(\mathbf{N ~ m}^{-2}\right)$ to three decimal places for data between 2001 and 2005

See Table 1 for description of the sites and the text for definition of $\tau_{x}$ and $\tau_{y}$

Fig. S1. The first and second principal axes for each dataset calculated from 6-hourly data for 2001-2005. The fine-dotted line shows the direct north-south and east-west directions.


Fig. S2. Distribution of $\tau_{y}$ for each site. The asterisk (*) indicates the mean value for each site, with the line through $0 \mathrm{~N} \mathrm{~m}^{-2}$ shown.









 superimposed on the plot.



BSW4


Fig. S3. Scatter plot of magnitude of the wind stress $\left(\mathrm{N} \mathrm{m}^{-2}\right)$ obtained from the Ocean Reference Site (ORS) (on the vertical axis) and the re-analysis products and over-land sites (on the horizontal axis) for 2001-2005. Linear regression lines through the origin (dashed) and one-to-one correlation lines (solid) are



Fig. S4. Maximum correlations with lag for the over-land site, using half-hourly data for 2001-2005. The cross, circle and diamond indicate the highest correlation for SH, SA and KN respectively. Note the different vertical axis correlations for $\tau_{\mathrm{x}}$ and $\tau_{\mathrm{y}}$.



Fig. S5. Time series of magnitude of wind speed for the Ocean Reference Site (ORS) (black - same in each plot) plotted with the transformed time series (dashed grey) and the raw time series (solid grey) for each site, using the transformation in Table S5 for a 15-day period from the 14 January 2002.

