MWR-2231 (DS) Horvath
Reviewer C 6/20/07

Recommendation: Accept subject to major revision

General Comments

I found this paper an interesting one, documenting in detail the tracks of the cyclones that appear in the Adriatic Sea. The authors used a manual subjective technique applied to 4 years of 6-hourly ECMWF operational analysis. They identify 4 types of tracks, each of them with two slightly different sub-categories.

The paper is well written and easy to follow, and the figures are clear. Yet, I have one major concern on the paper outcome that has to be address before the paper can be published. I also list a few minor points.

Major Comments

After reading the paper, one is convinced on the existence of different cyclone tracks affecting the Adriatic sea area, but I wonder why the authors perform all this work, especially in these days in which "pure" synoptic meteorology forecasts are being replaced by numerical weather prediction.

I imagine that different tracks can produce significantly distinct weather conditions in your target area. Or perhaps, some cyclone tracks are more predictable than others. None of these issues (or others) is addressed in the manuscript, and inclusion of them in the Introduction and more importantly in their final discussion seems very relevant for the paper. I strongly recommend the authors to make the connection between cyclone track and local weather as well as comment on the predictability issue. If not, the paper lacks of a solid, attractive motivation other than just constructing other (albeit more robust) cyclone climatology.

Minor Comments

Page 7, 13 line from bottom: "However, if the cyclone was shallow....a strong surface convergence or expressed streamline curvature pattern was recognized"what do you mean by "expressed curvature"?

Page 7, last line of 2nd paragraph. How many hours were the cyclones tracked?

Page 14, 11 line from top: "These cyclone can often reach VISCOUS intensity" What do you mean? Any number to get an idea?