



The Skill Assessment of Weather and Research Forecasting and WAVEWATCH-III Models During Recent Meteotsunami Event in the Persian Gulf

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OPEN ACCESS

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Specialty section:

This article was submitted to
Physical Oceanography,
a section of the journal
Frontiers in Marine Science

Received: 13 December 2021

Accepted: 10 February 2022

Published: 11 March 2022

Citation:

Rahimian M, Beyramzadeh M and
Siadatmousavi SM (2022) The Skill
Assessment of Weather
and Research Forecasting
and WAVEWATCH-III Models During
Recent Meteotsunami Event
in the Persian Gulf.
Front. Mar. Sci. 9:834151.
doi: 10.3389/fmars.2022.834151

This study aims to use a fully realistic high-resolution mesoscale atmospheric and wave model to reproduce met-ocean conditions during a meteotsunami in the Persian Gulf. The atmospheric simulations were performed with the Weather and Research Forecasting (WRF) model by varying planetary boundary layer, microphysics, cumulus, and radiations parameterizations. The atmospheric results were compared to the meteorological observations (e.g., air pressure and wind speed) from the coastal and island synoptic and buoy stations of the nearest area to the meteotsunami event. The results show that using Mellor-Yamada-Nakanishi-Niino (MYNN) scheme for planetary boundary and surface layer had the best performance for stations over the water, whereas applying Mellor-Yamada-Janjic scheme for planetary boundary and Eta similarity surface layer had the best performance for stations over the land. For wave simulations, the WAVEWATCH-III model was employed with the well-known WAM-Cycle4 formulation and a more recent ST6 package. Six WRF experiments and ERA5 wind data were used to force the wave models. The new error parameter was introduced to identify the optimum wind data for wave simulation. EXP4 configuration which uses the MYNN scheme for planetary boundary and surface layer was led to minimum error, while ERA5 severely underestimated H_s and T_p parameters. For the first time, the Gaussian Quadrature Method (GQM) was implemented in the WAVEWATCH-III model and combined with a depth scale to be used in the Persian Gulf. This method is more accurate for non-linear wave-wave interaction than the default Discrete Interaction Approximation (DIA) method. Lower coefficients for dissipation term were required for GQM and the resulted bulk wave parameters were improved compared to the DIA method. The calibrated ST6 formulation with GQM resulted in a more realistic prediction of wave spectrum than the default settings of the WAVEWATCH-III.

Keywords: meteotsunami, Persian Gulf (PG), ERA5 data, ST3, ST6, DIA, GQM

INTRODUCTION

The Persian Gulf is one of the most important oil tanker highways in the world, which has been protected from waves induced by tropical storms and tsunamis over the past few decades (El-Sabh and Murty, 1989; Al-Hajri, 1990; Lin and Emanuel, 2016). Although the easterly coastal region in Iran is more susceptible to tsunami by active faults in the Indian Ocean, there is no major earthquake fault in the Persian Gulf region that can produce large tsunami (Ambraseys, 2008). Moreover, tsunami waves produced in the Indian Ocean rarely propagate into the Persian Gulf (Rabinovich and Thomson, 2007; Heidarzadeh et al., 2008); hence, harsh weather is not common in this region (Nadim et al., 2008; Modarress et al., 2012). On 19 March 2017, an unexpected ~3-m-long wave struck the northern shores of the Persian Gulf, and at least five people were killed in the port of Dayyer (see **Figure 1** for its location). It also led to extended damages to ships, residential areas, and coastal facilities adjacent to this port (Salaree et al., 2018; Heidarzadeh et al., 2020; Kazeminezhad et al., 2021). Salaree et al. (2018) conducted a field study on the damaged coastline and reconstructed the initial picture of the whole event. They explained the physical mechanisms generating the strong long waves during this event and concluded that a meteorological tsunami was responsible for this event. Heidarzadeh et al. (2020) studied this meteorological event using satellite imageries, atmospheric reanalysis products, and *in situ* measurements, including sea level data and high-resolution air pressure data along the southern Persian Gulf. The rainfall intensity, maximum reflection, and echo top height images provided by the weather radar confirmed that a strong convergent system, including the middle and upper troposphere, had entered the northern Persian Gulf approximately 4 h before the event and moved to the east (Kazeminezhad et al., 2021). Then, 2 h before its landfall, the convection system deformed into a narrow and long hurricane with 70–130 km length, less than 10 km width, and a transverse speed of 24 m/s.

Meteotsunami are shallow-water waves or water level fluctuations due to atmospheric interactions, which typically last from minutes to hours (Monserrat et al., 2006). The development of these long waves depends upon several factors and has a multi-stage process; but meteotsunami generally begin with a sudden change in air pressure and/or wind (the effect of atmospheric turbulence) and are usually accompanied by mesoscale systems such as frontal passages, storms and strong winds (squalls), thunderstorms and gravitational waves of the atmosphere (Monserrat et al., 2006; Shi et al., 2020). The occurrence of meteotsunami long waves, especially when followed by high energetic wind-induced waves cause severe damage to the coastal environment, destroy infrastructure, and are potentially considered a large threat for local people since they are generally unexpected (Rabinovich, 2020).

Concerning the nature of the meteotsunami phenomenon, simulation of meteotsunami requires a high-resolution atmospheric model to provide a precise estimation of wind stress and pressure disturbances at the sea level (Shi et al., 2019). In addition, having an unembellished atmospheric model is critical in the accurate simulation of meteotsunami

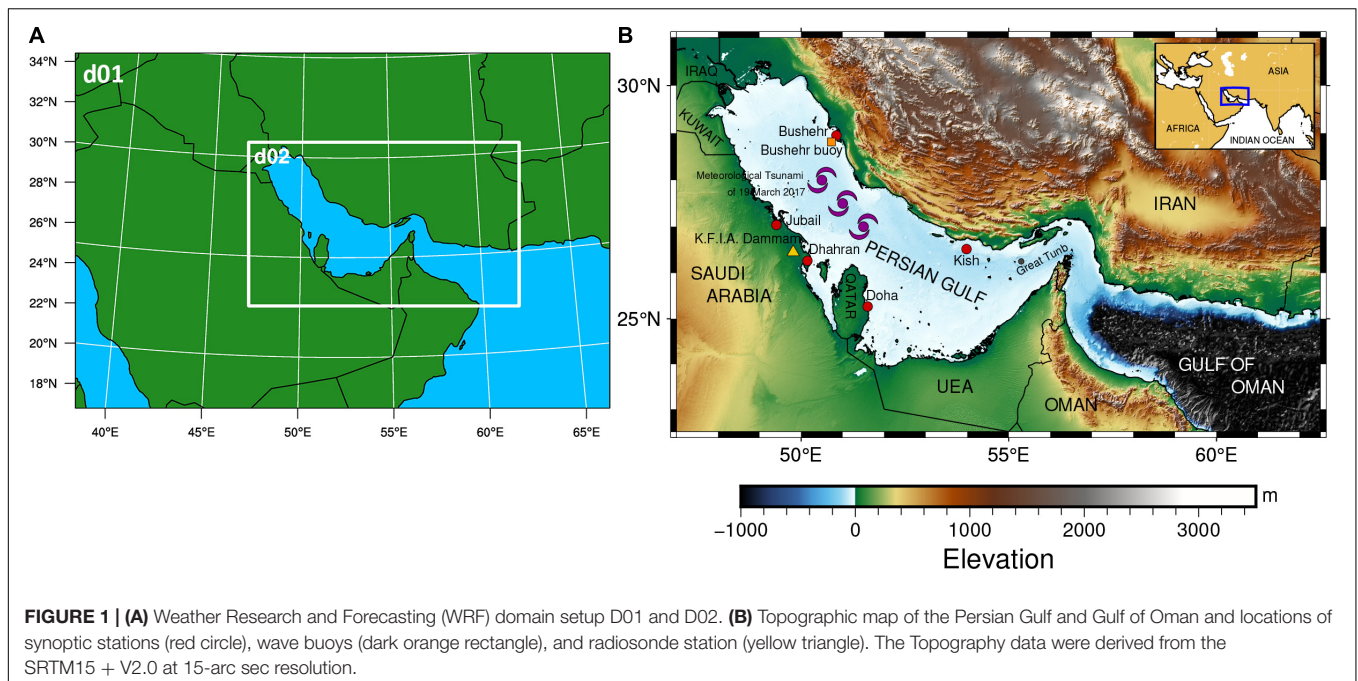
waves (Horvath et al., 2018; Shi et al., 2019) which depends on various factors such as grid resolution, physics, initial conditions, and selected boundaries in the simulation (Borge et al., 2008). Considering the non-linear and turbulent nature of the atmosphere, small differences in initial condition or model parameters lead to different representations of perturbations (Shi et al., 2019, 2020; Mourre et al., 2021). A common approach to deal with these sensitivities and forecast uncertainties in numerical weather models is to use an ensemble prediction (Borge et al., 2008; Horvath and Vilibić, 2014; Mourre et al., 2021). Horvath and Vilibić (2014) in their study on meteotsunami Boothbay, examined the sensitivity of high-resolution weather conditions and its relationship with model parameters, time step, initial and boundary conditions, and nested strategy. Belušić et al. (2007) studied meteotsunami events in the Adriatic Sea in 2003 and found that the wave-convection system is very sensitive to the microphysics used in the model. Mourre et al. (2021) evaluated different physical parameterizations in the implementation of a high-resolution atmospheric-ocean model with a nested network to predict a meteotsunami that occurred in Ciutadella (Spain). The results indicate the success of the extensive expansion of ensemble simulations regarding the prediction of the ultimate magnitude of meteotsunami. However, the small-scale characteristics of these disturbances were highly sensitive to the tuning parameters, which led to significant differences in the magnitude of the simulated response at sea level.

This study aims to assess the performance of different parameterizations for physical processes in a high-resolution numerical model in simulating the meteorological characteristics and wind-induced waves during the dominance of meteotsunami in the Persian Gulf. These simulations were carried out using Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model to determine the atmospheric parameters, and WAVEWATCH-III model to determine the wave spectrum. The wind and wave regimes of the Persian Gulf for a 31-yearly period were evaluated by Kamranzad (2018). The results indicated that monthly mean and extreme wave height for Bushehr station in March were lower than 6 m and higher than 3 m, respectively. As will be shown in section “Skill Assessment of WAVEWATCH-III,” the recorded wave height exceeds 1.5 m during the dominance of the meteotsunami (19–20 March); hence, the skill assessment of the WAVEWATCH-III model using different wind data is another goal of the study. The weather stations and buoy measurements were used for the models’ assessment. The study area, modeling system, and experimental approach are described in section “Materials and Methods”. Section “Results” includes the skill assessment of models, followed by conclusions in section “Conclusion.”

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area and Observations

The Persian Gulf is a semi-closed marginal sea on a continental shelf extended in a northwest-southeast direction and is located within the 24–30°N latitude and 47–52°E longitude, respectively



(see **Figure 1**). The average depth of this water body is 37 m and it has access to the Gulf of Oman as well as the Indian Ocean through the Strait of Hormuz. The length of the Persian Gulf is approximately 1,000 km, its maximum width is 336 km and its maximum depth is approximately 90 meters near the Great Tunb Island; Also, the west and south side of the Persian Gulf is relatively shallow and has mild slopes (Reynolds, 1993). The Strait of Hormuz restricts the interaction of the Persian Gulf with open oceans (Liao and Kaihatu, 2016). Nayak et al. (2016) showed that the waves formed in the Gulf of Oman have negligible effects on the evolution of waves in the Persian Gulf due to energy loss during their crossing the Strait of Hormuz.

Mixed tides with a height of 1 to 2 m dominate most of the Persian Gulf (Akbari et al., 2016). The climate of the Persian Gulf is divided into two important seasons and two transitional periods. The summer season happens from May to September. In contrast, the winter season starts in November and finishes in March (Athar and Ammar, 2016). The winds are mainly from the northwest throughout the year. In winters, between November and February, wind speeds (mean value ~ 5 m/s) are stronger than in summer (mean value ~ 3 m/s) (Thoppil and Hogan, 2010). The most famous climatic phenomenon in the Persian Gulf region is the north-northwest wind called Shamal wind. It is a monsoon, systematic, continuous, and strong wind in the Persian Gulf. In summer, it blows mainly between May and July while in winter, it occurs between December and early March. However, this phenomenon is often not accompanied by coastal floods and generally causes waves between 0.25 to 0.4 meters in the northernmost coastal areas of the Persian Gulf (Thoppil and Hogan, 2010; Kazeminezhad et al., 2021).

The meteotsunami on 19 March 2017 occurred during a calm and cloudy day (Heidarzadeh et al., 2020). At 8:00 AM (+ 4:30 GMT), large long waves affected an area of about 100 km on the northern coasts of the Persian Gulf and caused more than 1 km

of inundation in coastal and urban zones of Dayyer and Kangan. Pieces of evidence and field studies show that the height of the forerunner low-frequency wave exceeded 3 m near the port of Dayyer and has caused extensive damages in terms of life and economy in this region (Salaree et al., 2018).

Atmospheric systems generally produce meteotsunami with a spatial scale of hundreds of kilometers and a time scale of several hours, which is called mesoscale systems. Because small disturbances of atmospheric pressure (less than 1 hPa) and wind speed changes (10 m/s) in mesoscale systems usually cause disturbances at sea level on a scale of several centimeters, reinforcement mechanisms are required for large meteotsunami. Wave velocity in shallow water is highly dependent on water depth. Most meteotsunamis are reported to occur in semi-enclosed environments such as gulfs, which indicates the importance of the shape and geometry of the region (Williams, 2020). Appropriate bathymetry condition (water depth less than 100 m) and appropriate mesoscale atmospheric phenomenon [e.g., fronts reported by Heidarzadeh et al. (2020)] led to the 2017 meteotsunami event in the Persian Gulf.

The data from several synoptic stations and one radiosonde station were used to validate the simulation results in the period of 15–23 March 2017. Surface data were obtained from 5 airport synoptic stations via Hourly Global Surface (DS3505) datasets of the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC). Also, hourly data from Bushehr wave recorder buoy were provided by the Port and Maritime Organization of Iran¹. Upper air atmospheric station data from the radiosonde data archive of NOAA-ESRL database were available from the King Fahd International Airport (K.F.I.A.-Dammam) WMO station code 40417, which were retrieved from the Wyoming radiosonde database². All these

¹<http://www.pmo.ir/en/home>

²<http://weather.uwyo.edu>

stations are shown in **Figure 1B**. Among many parameters recorded at synoptic stations, wind speed and air pressure are more important for a meteotsunami study (Šepić et al., 2015; Vilibić et al., 2016; Horvath et al., 2018; Shi et al., 2019, 2020).

In addition to these ground meteorological data, hourly ERA5 reanalysis data were available *via*³. This dataset has been produced by the European Center for Middle-range Weather Forecast (ECMWF) with a 31-km resolution over the Persian Gulf. The variations in air pressure measured at different stations were compared to the ERA5 data during the period 15–23 March 2017 in **Figure 2**.

Fluctuations of atmospheric pressure on 19 March are following the period in which meteotsunami has occurred. Recorded pressure changes at Bushehr (synoptic and buoy) stations, Kish (synoptic and buoy), Daharan, Doha, and Jubail on 15–23 March 2017 are shown in **Figure 2**. Average air pressure begins to decrease at the end of 18 March 2017 and reaches its minimum value in the middle of 19 March in the shown period. At northern stations of the Persian Gulf, such as Bushehr and Kish, air pressure changes sharply and decreases by 4–8 hPa a few hours after the collision of tsunami-like waves (6:00 UTC). At Jubail and Daharan stations located in the southern part of the Persian Gulf, ~2 hPa decrease in air pressure occurred last hours of 18 March followed by another drop in a range of 4 hPa, early morning on 19 March. It indicates that the low-pressure front was moving from the southwest of the Persian Gulf to its northeast part. The synoptic conditions of the Persian Gulf region and its areas at 4:00 and 6:00 AM on 19 March 2017 are shown in **Figure 3** when tsunami-like waves were formed and hit the northern coasts of the Persian Gulf. Parameters such as average sea level pressure, the 10 m wind vectors, and wind gusts were obtained from the reanalysis dataset of ERA5. Since the cyclone was located in the northwest of the Persian Gulf at this moment, ERA5 data show the northeast wind direction over the Persian Gulf; i.e., in the opposite direction to the waves reaching the northern coasts of the Persian Gulf. The wind direction has been evaluated at Bushehr and Kish stations and the same pattern was observed. Thus, the ERA5 results were of good quality during this event based on stations located in the northern part of the Persian Gulf (both synoptic station and buoy of Bushehr). No strong gust wind was observed at these hours over the Persian Gulf; hence it is more likely that long waves during this meteotsunami phenomenon were created by atmospheric pressure fluctuations, which was in accordance with previous studies (Heidarzadeh et al., 2020; Kazeminezhad et al., 2021).

Modeling System

The wind and wave simulations were performed as explained in this section.

Wind Model

In this study, the fully compressible, non-hydrostatic mesoscale Advanced Research WRF (ARW) version 4.3⁴ (Skamarock et al., 2019) is used on a Lambert conformal

projection during 15–23 March 2017. It uses the Arakawa-C grid and a terrain-following hybrid sigma–pressure coordinate in the vertical direction for solving the governing equations. Runge–Kutta scheme is also utilized for the discretization in time-space. The model incorporates several parameterization schemes for physical processes including microphysics, cumulus convection, planetary boundary layer, land surface, and short and longwave radiations. In this study, WRF is configured with two nested domains with a horizontal grid spacing of 9 km (D01) and 3 km (D02), with 231 × 220 and 502 × 304 grid points (see **Figure 1A**). The domain center was located on the Kish Island. The vertical structure in both domains consists of 45 vertical levels from the sea surface to 50 hPa with varying vertical resolution such that, grid sizes are smaller near the ground and become coarser with increasing altitude.

High-quality initial and boundary conditions are crucial to have accurate simulations. These data were derived from the ECMWF IFS CY41r2 High-Resolution Operational Forecasts dataset⁵, which has 0.08° spatial and 6-h temporal resolution. The time step of the model simulation was set as 27 s in D01 and as 9 s in D02. The WRF Preprocessing System (WPS) in version 4.0.3⁶ was used to prepare the input data for the model together with the WPS V4 Geographical Static Data. To improve the accuracy of geographical data in the model, the modified IGBP 21-category, 15 arc-seconds, MODIS LULC database was adopted. The domain size and computational period were selected according to Heidarzadeh et al. (2020). The model was initialized at 6:00 PM on 14 March 2017, and the first 6 h of the simulation were taken as spin-up time.

Although the wind field of atmospheric models has high quality on the oceans and offshore areas, their performance in semi-closed and closed areas with complex geomorphology still needs improvements. The wind speed from a model in such conditions is less than observations in many cases (Cavaleri and Bertotti, 2003, 2006). Factors such as the position and size of the simulation domain, spatial resolution, and initial conditions affect the model results. In addition to selecting the appropriate dynamic configuration, testing and selecting the appropriate physical parameterization also reduce the uncertainties of atmospheric models in calculating the wind field (Belušić et al., 2007; Vilibić et al., 2008, 2016; Šepić et al., 2009; Horvath and Vilibić, 2014; Horvath et al., 2018; Linares et al., 2019; Shi et al., 2019, 2020; Mourre et al., 2021). There are many physical designs in the WRF model which make it flexible for different climatic conditions with optimal performance for a range of temporal and spatial resolutions (Skamarock et al., 2019).

A subset of physical parameterization including the planetary boundary layer (PBL), cumulus (CU), and the microphysics (MP), which has been used in previous meteotsunami studies, were used to optimize the model performance (Belušić et al., 2007; Šepić et al., 2009; Renault et al., 2011; Horvath and Vilibić, 2014; Horvath et al., 2018; Denamiel et al., 2019; Shi et al., 2019; Mourre et al., 2021). To be more specific, the following schemes have been used; (MP): the Thompson

³<http://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/datasets/reanalysis-datasets/era5>

⁴<https://github.com/wrf-model/WRF>

⁵<http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds113.1>

⁶<https://github.com/wrf-model/WPS/releases>

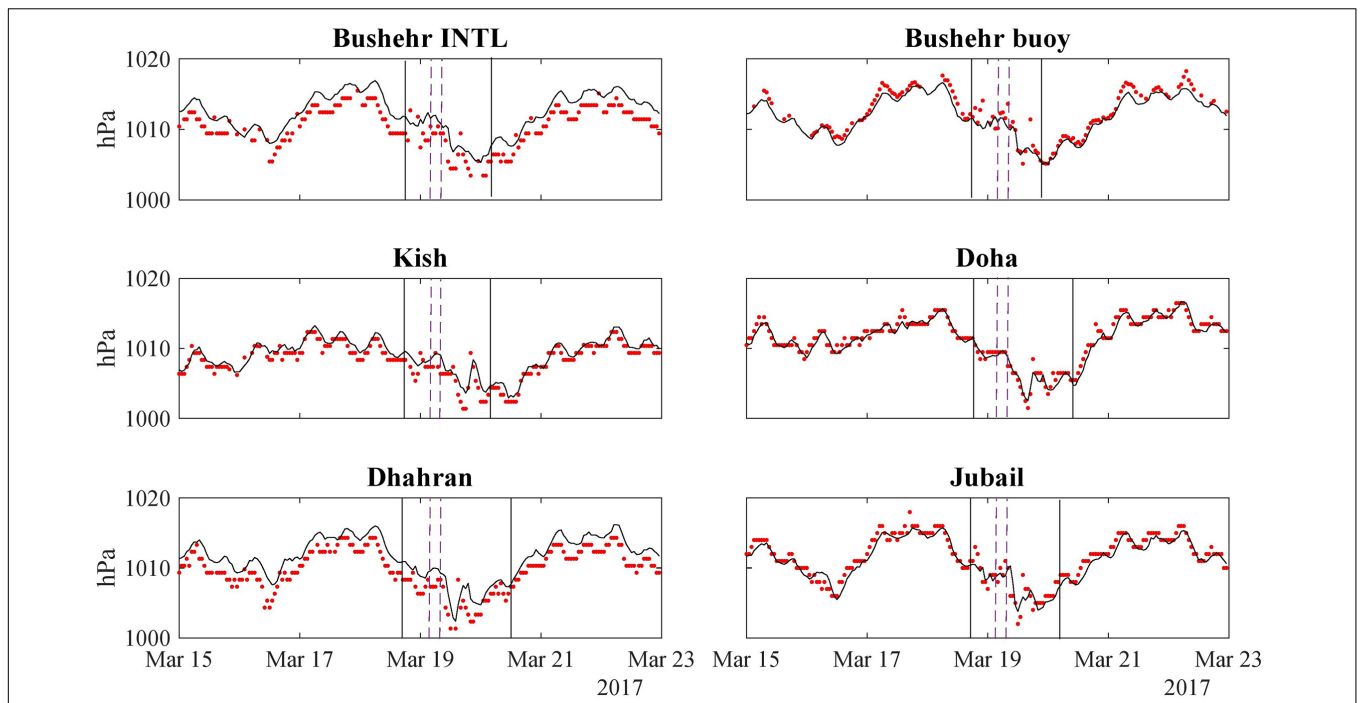


FIGURE 2 | Atmospheric air pressure records during 15–23 March 2017, at the Persian Gulf coastal stations. The red dotted lines denote measured data from synoptic and buoy station and the black continuous line denote ERA5 data. The black lines denote distinct air pressure disturbances and the purple dashed line indicates the time of the Persian Gulf meteotsunami.

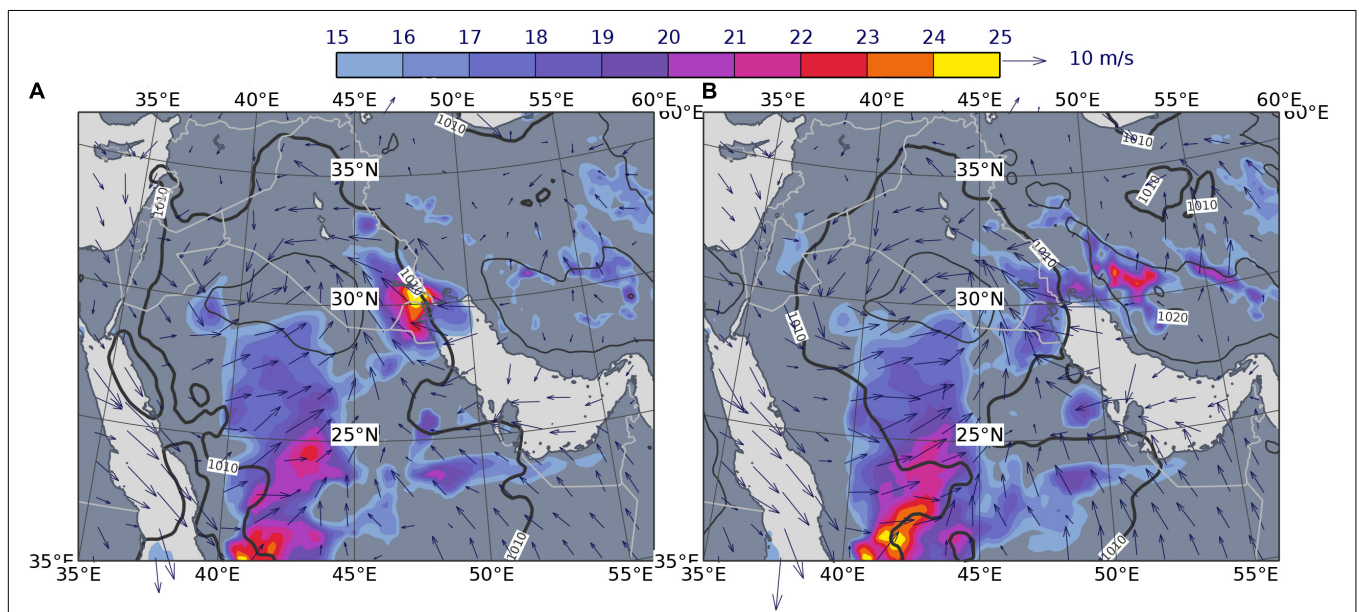


FIGURE 3 | Mean sea level pressure contours, wind vectors at 10 m, and wind gust (shown by colors) at (A) 4:00 AM UTC; (B) 6:00 AM UTC.

6-class graupel scheme (Thompson et al., 2008) and the WSM6-class scheme (Hong and Lim, 2006); (CU): the Grell–Devenyi ensemble scheme (Grell and Dévényi, 2002), the New Tiedtke Scheme (Zhang and Wang, 2017) and the Kain–Fritsch scheme (Kain, 2004); (PBL): the Yonsei University scheme

(Hong et al., 2006), the Mellor–Yamada–Janjic (MYJ) scheme (Janjić, 1994) and the Mellor–Yamada–Nakanishi–Niino (MYNN) 2.5 scheme (Nakanishi and Niino, 2006). The YSU PBL scheme was used along with the revised MM5 similarity theory surface layer (Jiménez et al., 2012), while the MYJ and MYNN PBL

scheme was used along with the Eta similarity scheme (Monin and Obukhov, 1954) and MYNN scheme (Nakanishi and Niino, 2006) respectively. For all simulations, the Noah-MP (Niu et al., 2011) land surface scheme was used. The Goddard scheme for shortwave (Chou and Suarez, 1994) and the Rapid Radiative Transfer Model [RRTM; Mlawer et al. (1997)] for longwave radiation was used. Since domain resolution was less than 5 km, the cumulus parameterization was switched off for the local domain in all simulations according to Athukorala et al. (2021). The parameterization schemes incorporated into the model are summarized in **Table 1**.

Wave Model

The WAVEWATCH-III (hereinafter WWIII) is a state-of-the-art, phase-averaged model which numerically solves the conservation of wave action as below:

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \frac{S_{tot}}{\sigma} \tag{1}$$

The left-hand side of Eq. (1) includes the local rate of change in wave action, wave propagation in x and y dimensions, and wave propagation in σ and θ spaces. The wave action N is equal to $\frac{E}{\sigma}$, where E is wave energy density and σ is the angular frequency. The term S_{tot} incorporates a sink and source terms among which the exponential wind-wave growth (S_{in}), non-linear quadruplet (S_{nl}), and dissipation due to white capping (S_{ds}) are important in deep waters (WAVEWATCH III Development Group WW3DG, 2016).

Several packages are available for S_{in} and S_{ds} in WWIII. Janssen (1991) parameterized wind input term as a function of $\frac{u_*}{C}$, wave-supported stress, and wind logarithmic profile; where u_* is friction velocity and C is phase speed velocity, respectively. This method needs an iterative process to obtain u_* which is valid simultaneously in both wave-supported stress and wind profile. This method is known as WAM-Cycle4 or $ST3$ formulation in WWIII.

The whitecap dissipation in $ST3$ includes weighted linear and non-linear dependency to wave numbers using δ_1 and $\delta_2 = 1 - \delta_1$ coefficients. The C_{ds} is a tuning parameter in this formulation while \bar{k} , $\bar{\sigma}$, $\bar{\alpha}$ are mean wave number, mean angular frequency and mean steepness, respectively.

$$S_{ds}(k, \theta) = C_{ds} (\bar{\alpha}^2) \bar{\sigma} \left[\delta_1 \frac{k}{\bar{k}} + \delta_2 \left(\frac{k}{\bar{k}} \right)^2 \right] N(k, \theta) \tag{2}$$

In this research δ_1 and C_{ds} will be considered as tuning parameters.

The most recent package for wind input and energy dissipation implemented in WWIII is $ST6$. The wind input term includes two parts that depend on wave direction (θ), wind direction (θ_w), wind velocity (U), and C . The w_1 part controls the wind input term when $\cos(\theta - \theta_w)$ is greater than 0; otherwise w_2 will be dominant which includes ‘negative wind input’ (Donelan et al., 2006).

$$w_1 = \max^2 \left\{ 0, \frac{U}{C} \cos(\theta - \theta_w) - 1 \right\},$$

$$w_2 = \min^2 \left\{ 0, \frac{U}{C} \cos(\theta - \theta_w) - 1 \right\} \tag{3}$$

$$w = w_1 - a_0 w_2 \tag{4}$$

In this study, a_0 was set to 0.09 according to Liu et al. (2017). In Eq. (3), U could be scaled with $32u_*$ to avoid overestimation of energy levels at high frequencies (Liu et al., 2019). This scale was used in many recent research [e.g., Christakos et al. (2020), Kalourazi et al. (2020), Beyramzadeh et al. (2021)].

The whitecap dissipation in $ST6$ includes T_1 term which presents the inherent breaking term, and T_2 term which describes the cumulative effects of short-wave breaking due to longer waves [Rogers et al. (2012), Zieger et al. (2015)]:

$$S_{ds}(k, \theta) = [T_1(k, \theta) + T_2(k, \theta)] N(k, \theta) \tag{5}$$

These T_1 and T_2 terms have tuning coefficients a_1 and a_2 which were used for calibration.

Wind vectors, bathymetry, and open boundary conditions are crucial for wave models. Besides six introduced wind experiments presented in **Table 1**, the original ERA5 wind data were used as wind input for wave simulations. The temporal resolution for all wind data was 1 hour. Both $ST3$ and $ST6$ formulations were used to reproduce H_s and T_p . Default values for tuning parameters in $ST3$ were $C_{ds} = -4.5$ and $\delta_1 = 0.5$. For $ST6$ formulation, $a_1 = 4.75 \times 10^{-6}$ and $a_2 = 7 \times 10^{-5}$ were default values. These $ST3$ and $ST6$ formulations were calibrated against AD measurements and altimeter data using ERA5 wind in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman by Beyramzadeh et al. (2021) (hereafter BSD2021). Their suggested values for tuning parameters were also used which are $C_{ds} = -1.5$ and $\delta_1 = 0$ for $ST3$, and $a_1 = 1.05 \times 10^{-7}$ and $a_2 = 1.74 \times 10^{-6}$ for $ST6$. Therefore, ERA5 wind data will be

TABLE 1 | List of the physical options for WRF modeling.

Ensemble	Microphysics	Cumulus	Planetary boundary layer	Longwave radiation	Shortwave radiation	Surface layer physics	Land Surface physics
EXP1	Thompson	New Tiedtke	YSU	RRTM	Goddard	Revised MM5	Noah-MP
EXP2		Grell-Devenyi	MYJ	RRTM	Goddard	Eta Similarity	Noah-MP
EXP3		Kain-Fritsch	MYNN	RRTM	Goddard	MYNN	Noah-MP
EXP4	WSM6	Kain-Fritsch	MYNN	RRTM	Goddard	MYNN	Noah-MP
EXP5		New Tiedtke	YSU	RRTM	Goddard	Revised MM5	Noah-MP
EXP6		Grell-Devenyi	MYJ	RRTM	Goddard	Eta Similarity	Noah-MP

assessed using two sets of coefficients: (1) described default tuning values for *ST3* and *ST6* formulations (2) suggested calibration values by BSD2021 for the Persian Gulf.

The bathymetry data were extracted from The General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) which were released with high spatial resolution 0.004° in 2019. Hourly boundary conditions were extracted in the form of directional wave spectra from a global wave modeling. Directional wave spectra were implemented along the southern (23°N , $59.2^\circ - 61^\circ\text{E}$) and eastern (61°E , $23^\circ - 25.2^\circ\text{N}$) open boundaries of the computational domain. More details about the global model were presented in BSD2021.

The computational grid in the WWIII model covers $47.2^\circ - 61^\circ\text{E}$ and $23^\circ - 31^\circ\text{N}$ using a rectangular grid with $0.04^\circ \times 0.04^\circ$ resolution. Following Siadatmousavi et al. (2012), 30 frequencies with geometrical distribution were considered in the range of 0.04–0.63 Hz. Moreover, 36 directions with 10° resolution were applied. Four time-steps are needed in the WWIII model: (1) maximum global time-step was set as 360 s; (2) the maximum CFL time-step for x-y was set as 180 s; (3) the maximum CFL time-step for k-theta was set as 360 s; (4) time-step for source term was set as 30 s.

The non-linear quadruplet wave-wave interaction (S_{nl}) mainly controls wave spectrum evolution in wave models. It is the most time-consuming term in simulations; therefore, the DIA (Discrete interaction Approximation) method proposed by Hasselmann et al. (1985) has been presented for operational applications. Resio and Perrie (2008) and Perrie et al. (2013) compared the obtained S_{nl} term for the JONSWAP spectrum with different peak enhancement parameters ($\gamma = 1, 3.3, \text{ and } 7$) against the exact solution (Webb-Resio-Tracy method). For fully developed spectrum ($\gamma = 1$), the positions of positive and negative lobes are identical with the exact solution, but the DIA overestimates (underestimates) positive (negative) lobes. As a consequence, more dissipation and more wind input energy are needed on forward and rear faces, respectively. Simulated S_{nl} term with the DIA deviates from the exact solution with increasing γ parameter. Furthermore, spurious positive and negative lobes have appeared on the rear face of the spectrum. It is inferable that the deficiencies of the DIA method in reproducing S_{nl} the term should be compensated with other sink and source terms (S_{in} and S_{ds}). It is expected that the wind input and whitecap calibration with the DIA method might result in unrealistic coefficient values.

The Gaussian Quadrature Method (GQM) is a recent method to estimate S_{nl} term in deep water conditions, developed by Lavrenov (2001) and implemented as a portable Fortran module in the TOMWAC model by Benoit (2005). The GQM method strongly depends on the integration resolution. Rough, medium, and fine resolutions were evaluated in duration and fetch limited test cases, slanting fetch, and test cases with varying wind direction. More agreement with the exact solution is expected when medium and fine resolutions were applied, while they are more expensive than rough resolution and the DIA method (Benoit, 2005, 2007; Gagnaire-Renou et al., 2009; Gagnaire-Renou et al., 2010). For the first time, the GQM with the medium resolution was implemented in the WWIII model and used to

simulate wind waves during the presence of meteotsunami in the Persian Gulf. Similar to the DIA, this method was combined with a depth scale proposed by Komen et al. (1994) to be used in the shallow water of the Persian Gulf.

Statistical Indices

For this part, three statistical indices were applied to skill assess the WRF and WWIII models against measurements: mean bias error (*MBE*), root mean square error (*RMSE*), and index of agreement (*d*) presented by Willmott (1982):

$$MBE = \frac{\sum(M_i - O_i)}{N} \quad (6)$$

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum (M_i - O_i)^2} \quad (7)$$

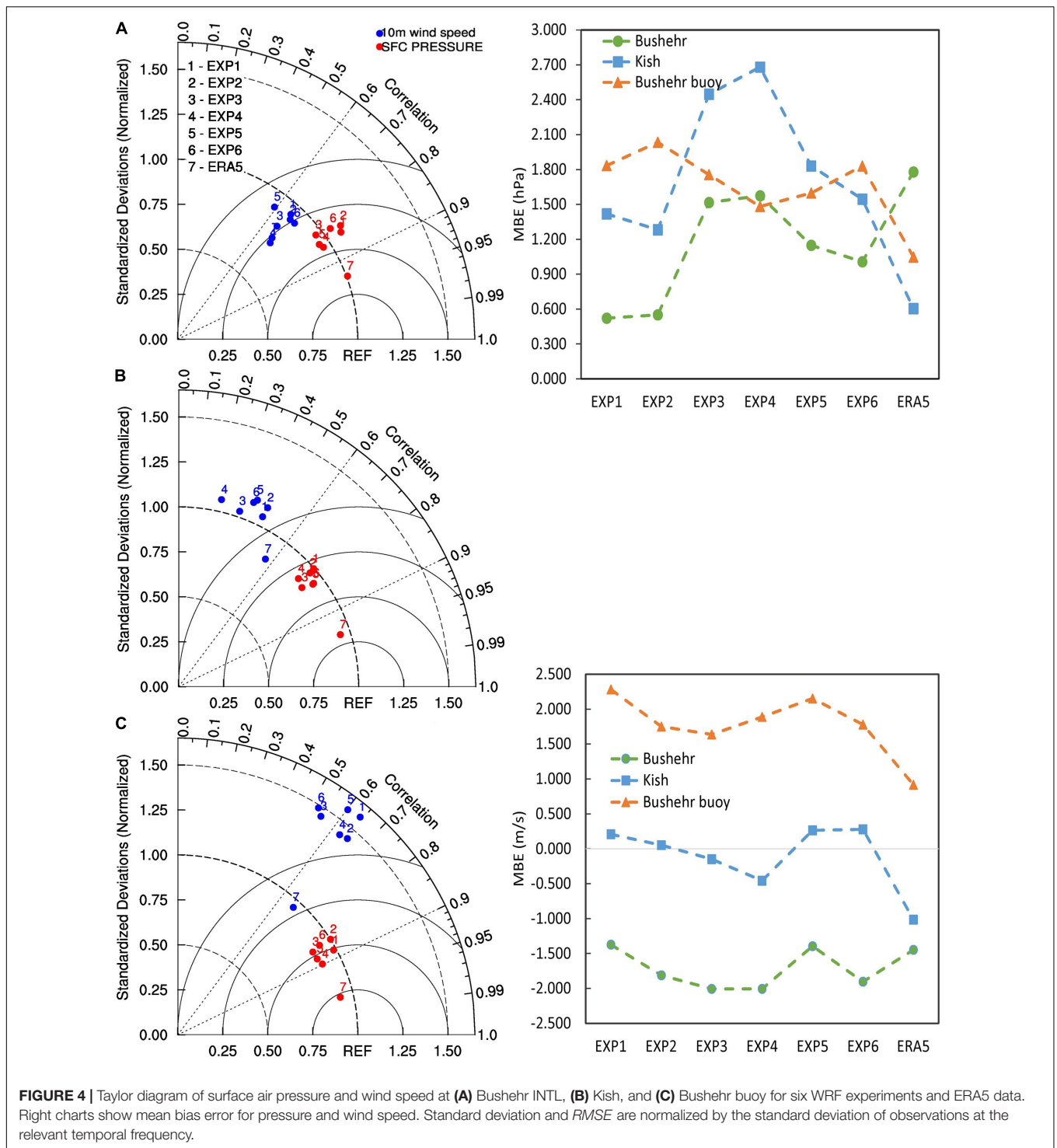
$$d = 1 - \frac{(M_i - O_i)^2}{\sum(|M_i - \bar{O}| + |O_i - \bar{O}|)^2} \quad (8)$$

in which M_i and O_i are modeled and observed data, respectively. N is the total number of observations. All indicators are calculated with hourly data. Note that d is a dimensionless index that quantifies the agreement between the two series of data; the value of d index larger than 0.5 indicates good performance of the model.

RESULTS

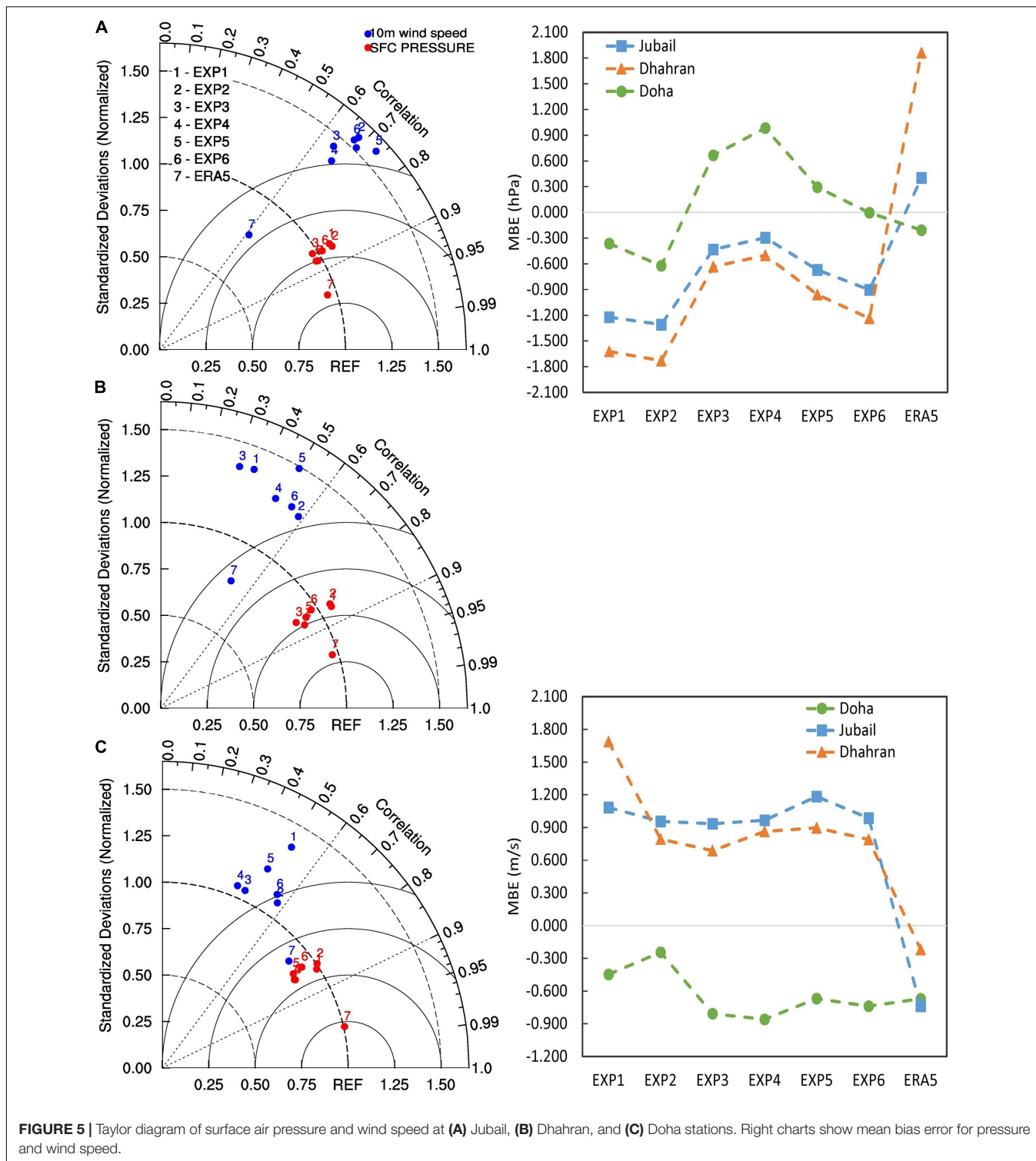
Skill Assessment of Weather and Research Forecasting Model

Taylor diagram and statistical parameters (*MBE*) for different stations and different experiments are designated in **Figures 4, 5**. Also, the value of the agreement coefficient parameter (d) for each station is given in **Table 2**. Taylor diagram is a statistical summary that presents the correlation coefficient, normalized standard deviation and root mean square error (Taylor, 2001). As seen from **Figure 4**, EXP1 and EXP2 were superior to other experiments at Bushehr and Kish stations for predicting wind pressure and speed. The agreement index and the correlation for wind speed for all experiments at Bushehr station were more than 0.6, indicating that all of them had acceptable performance according to Borge et al. (2008). The correlation coefficients between wind speed data from observations and simulations at Kish station were less than 0.5. At Bushehr buoy station, EXP4 had good performance for pressure, and EXP2 and EXP4 had good performance for wind speed. The *MBE* values of surface air pressure at Bushehr synoptic station, Bushehr buoy, and Kish station indicate that pressure values are generally overestimated. No trend exists for wind speed; e.g., the wind speed at Bushehr synoptic station is underestimated while it is overestimated at Bushehr buoy station. At Kish station, unlike other experiments, the *MBE* values for EXP3 and EXP4 were negative. The *MBE* value for EXP2 at this station was close to zero. In general, according to **Figure 4** and **Table 2**, at northern



Gulf stations, EXP3 and EXP4 (using Mellor-Yamada-Nakanishi-Niino scheme for planetary boundary layer and surface layer) slightly overestimated the surface pressure at the ground level stations and underestimated the wind speed. In contrast, over the water body (i.e., at Bushehr buoy), they tend to reduce the amount of surface pressure and relatively increase the wind speed compared to other schemes.

As shown in **Figure 5**, at Daharan, Jubail, and Doha stations, EXP2 and EXP4 configurations were more successful than other combinations for surface pressure and wind speed estimation, respectively. At these ground-level stations, the MYNN boundary layer scheme increased surface pressure and relatively decreased wind speed compared to YSU and MYJ schemes. The results of combining the MYNN planetary boundary layer scheme and the



Thompson microphysics scheme were better than the MYNN and WSM6 microphysics scheme for pressure and wind speed estimation. Unlike stations of the northern Persian Gulf, at these stations (except the three ensembles No. 3, 4, and 5 at Doha station), the estimation of surface pressure was less than the observations. Wind speed was underestimated at Doha station

and overestimated at Jubail and Daharan stations. In general, the MYJ boundary layer scheme, which is a local influenced scheme, resulted in a better estimation of wind speed than two non-local YSU and local MYNN schemas in the Persian Gulf meteotsunami occurrence period. Regarding the index of the agreement for pressure and wind speed obtained from

TABLE 2 | Index of agreement (d) between model results and *in situ* observations at the different synoptic stations and wave buoys considered in the present study.

Parameter	Ensemble	Bushehr INTL	Bushehr buoy	Kish	Jubail	Dhahran	DOHA
				d			
Surface pressure	EXP1	0.903	0.920	0.802	0.887	0.866	0.913
	EXP2	0.892	0.902	0.811	0.888	0.855	0.900
	EXP3	0.828	0.917	0.700	0.914	0.901	0.892
	EXP4	0.846	0.942	0.666	0.930	0.919	0.876
	EXP5	0.870	0.932	0.778	0.921	0.893	0.892
	EXP6	0.869	0.914	0.803	0.904	0.875	0.897
	ERA5	<u>0.852</u>	<u>0.957</u>	<u>0.922</u>	<u>0.964</u>	<u>0.825</u>	<u>0.941</u>
Wind speed	EXP1	0.750	0.673	0.668	0.773	0.537	0.696
	EXP2	0.726	0.727	0.673	0.764	0.727	0.755
	EXP3	0.685	0.660	0.615	0.762	0.562	0.654
	EXP4	0.682	0.703	0.535	0.777	0.666	0.620
	EXP5	0.706	0.688	0.641	0.787	0.657	0.675
	EXP6	0.727	0.661	0.637	0.763	0.703	0.734
	ERA5	<u>0.735</u>	<u>0.772</u>	<u>0.721</u>	<u>0.756</u>	<u>0.694</u>	<u>0.850</u>

The bold numbers show the best experiments at each station which can be easily compared with ERA5 shown underlined.

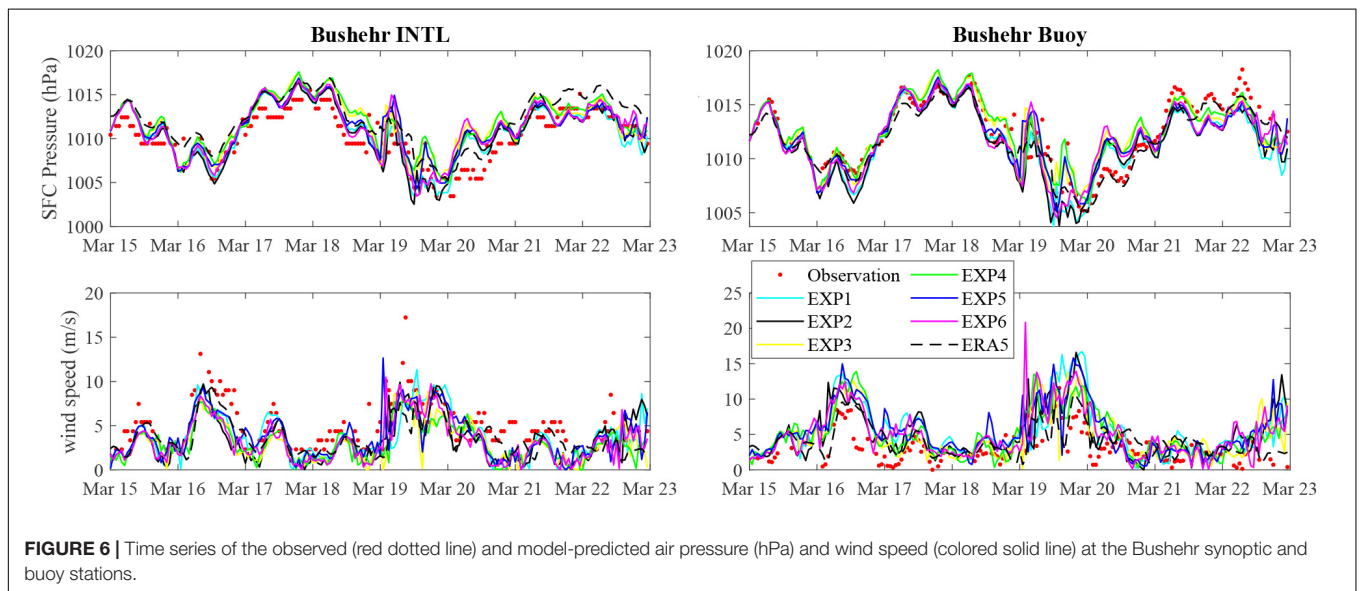


FIGURE 6 | Time series of the observed (red dotted line) and model-predicted air pressure (hPa) and wind speed (colored solid line) at the Bushehr synoptic and buoy stations.

different ensembles of the WRF model as well as ERA5 data, improvements at some stations were obtained using WRF model ensembles compared to ERA5 data.

The time series of pressure and wind speed from different WRF configurations and ERA5 data at two synoptic stations and Bushehr buoy are designated in **Figure 6**. The transverse of a low-pressure system has been resolved by all scenarios on 19 March and 20 March in all simulations.

Regarding *MBE* at these two stations, which is also characterized in **Figure 4**, the predicted pressure values in all simulations were greater than the observations. The EXP4 had better estimates of pressure changes on the water surface than on land. Wind speed time-series changes also indicated that the overall trends of simulations were close to observations; however, all of them underestimated the wind speed during peaks (including meteotsunami occurrence) at the Bushehr synoptic

station. The configurations EXP2 and EXP1 outperformed others in reproducing wind speed at this station. In contrast, all experiments overestimated the wind speed at the Bushehr buoy. The worst-case was EXP6 which predicted 20 m/s wind speed at the moment of meteotsunami occurrence.

The results of the WRF simulated and measured radio-sounding data at 12 UTC on 19 March 2017, are compared and presented in **Figure 7**. In general, all simulations accurately reproduced the temperature and moisture content of the atmosphere but overestimated the moisture content in the upper troposphere. Also, at pressure levels less than 250 hPa, the temperature value was overestimated in all simulations. The same occurred near the ground surface by EXP1 and EXP2 parametrizations. The temperature changes were smooth in EXP3. This configuration showed a sudden temperature inversion in the middle of 500–700 hPa pressure level; however,

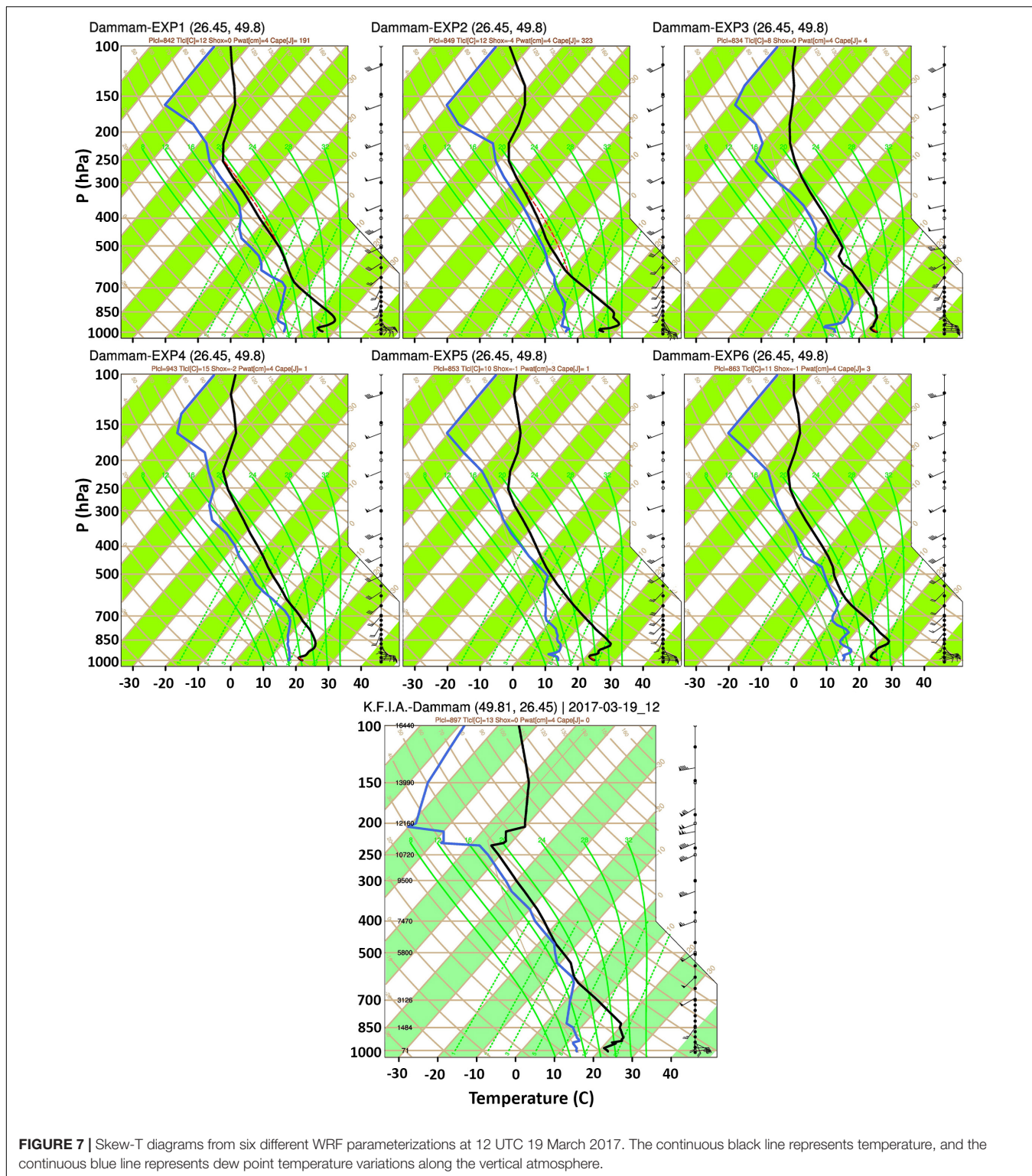


FIGURE 7 | Skew-T diagrams from six different WRF parameterizations at 12 UTC 19 March 2017. The continuous black line represents temperature, and the continuous blue line represents dew point temperature variations along the vertical atmosphere.

this configuration was not able to simulate temperature changes in the upper troposphere. EXP2 parameterization had a better ability to estimate moisture content in the atmosphere. The closeness of the dew point temperature to the air temperature at pressure levels of 300–700 hPa was well simulated by this

parameterization. The maximum wind speed was observed at a pressure level of 250 hPa at the measuring station; however, it was estimated to occur close to 500 hPa in all simulations. In sum, the EXP2 configuration (using Mellor-Yamada-Janjic scheme for the planetary boundary layer, Grell–Devenyi cumulus

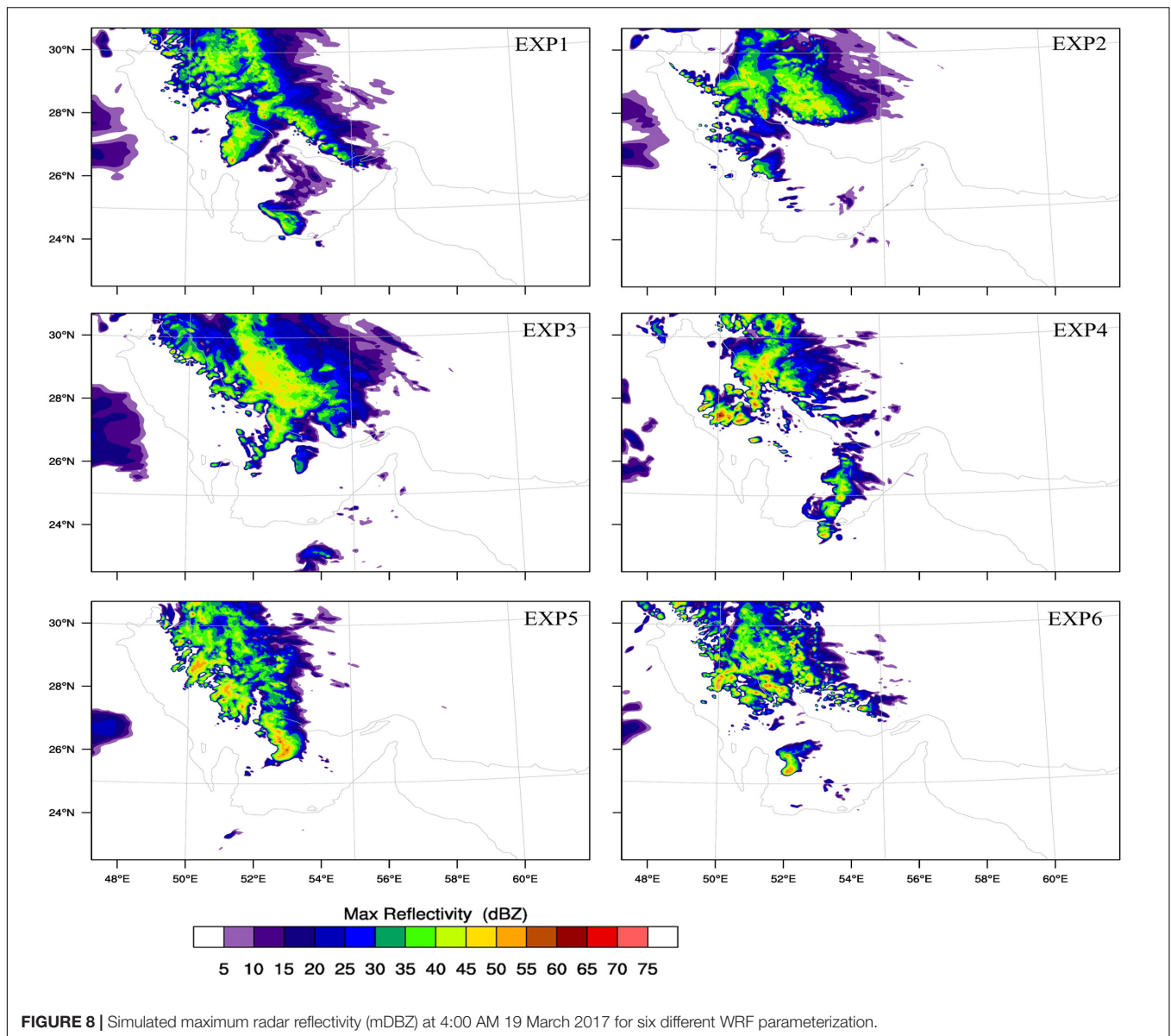


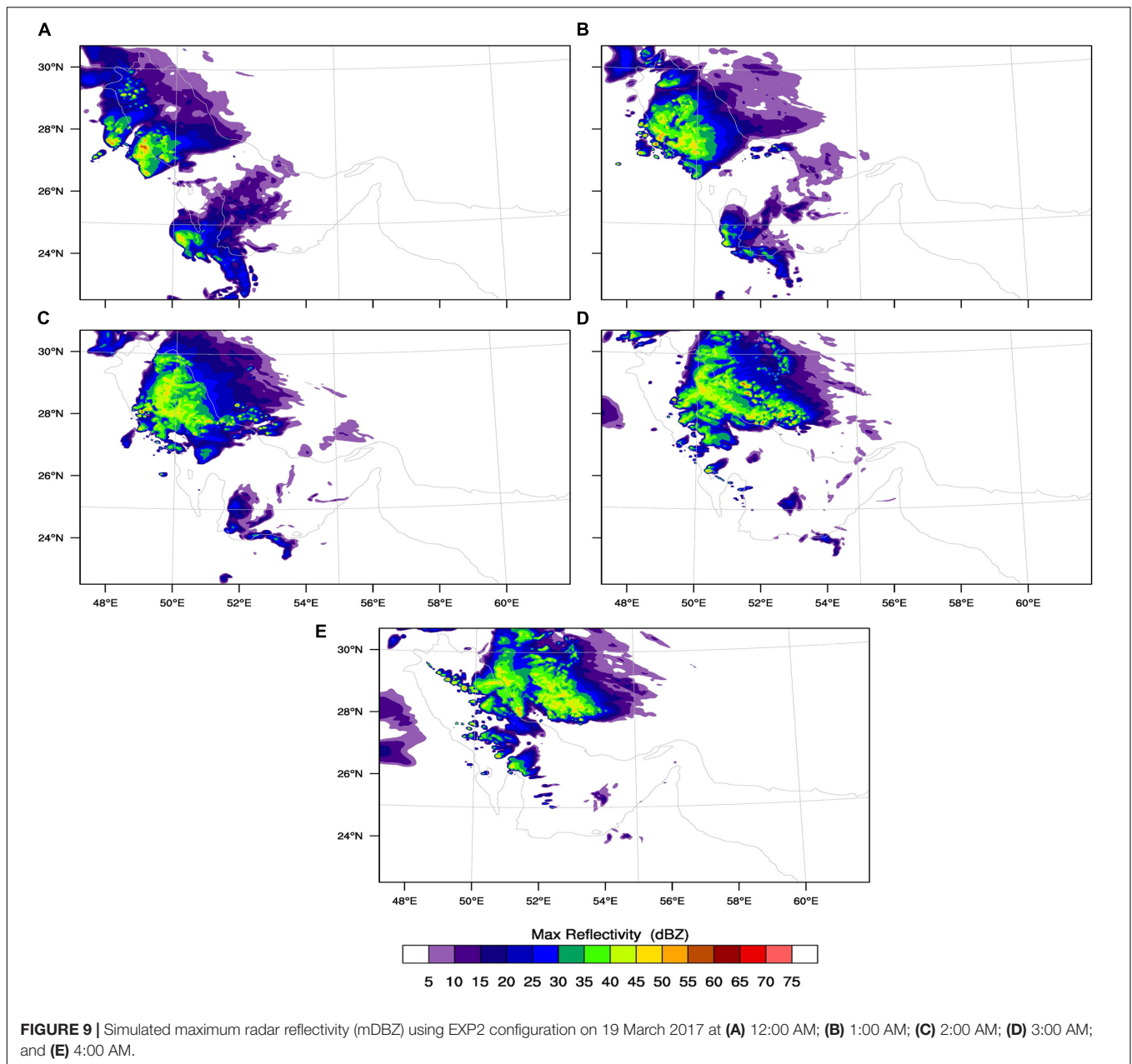
FIGURE 8 | Simulated maximum radar reflectivity (mDBZ) at 4:00 AM 19 March 2017 for six different WRF parameterization.

scheme, and Thompson microphysics scheme) provided the most realistic results regarding atmospheric moisture content and vertical temperature parameter in the Persian Gulf during the period of meteotsunami event on 19 March 2017.

The maximum radar reflectivity has been investigated to further evaluate the intensity and structure of convective clouds and assess the sensitivity of the mesoscale simulations to the choice of the microphysics and convective parameterization (see **Figure 8**). The results from the innermost model domain were used. Note that in both outermost and innermost domains, heat and moisture tendencies were determined by microphysics parameterization. Therefore, the effects of convective parameterization propagated from the outermost domain to the innermost domain. Model-derived maximum radar reflectivity at 4:00 AM 19 March 2017 showed that simulations with WSM6 microphysics produced slightly stronger reflectivity, especially in the southern part of the domain.

Comparisons with radar data showed that in this area, both WSM6 and Thompson microphysics provided excessive reflectivity [cf. Figure 10 in Kazeminezhad et al. (2021)]. Also, simulations with the Kain–Fritsch scheme provided too intense radar reflectivity. The overall shape of maximum reflectivity distribution at this moment was well simulated by EXP2 parametrizations.

The maximum reflectivity index greater than 60 dbz was introduced by Šepić and Rabinovich (2014) and Kazeminezhad et al. (2021) as a signature for convective cells which followed with meteotsunami formation in the domain; however, a lower value of 40 dbz was also considered as a meteotsunami source in the Gulf of Mexico (e.g., Shi et al., 2019). The hourly simulated maximum reflectivity index was presented in **Figure 9** using EXP2 from 12:00 to 4:00 AM UTC 19 March. Two nearly horizontal and vertical convective systems were entered the Persian Gulf at 12:00 AM from west and south, respectively.



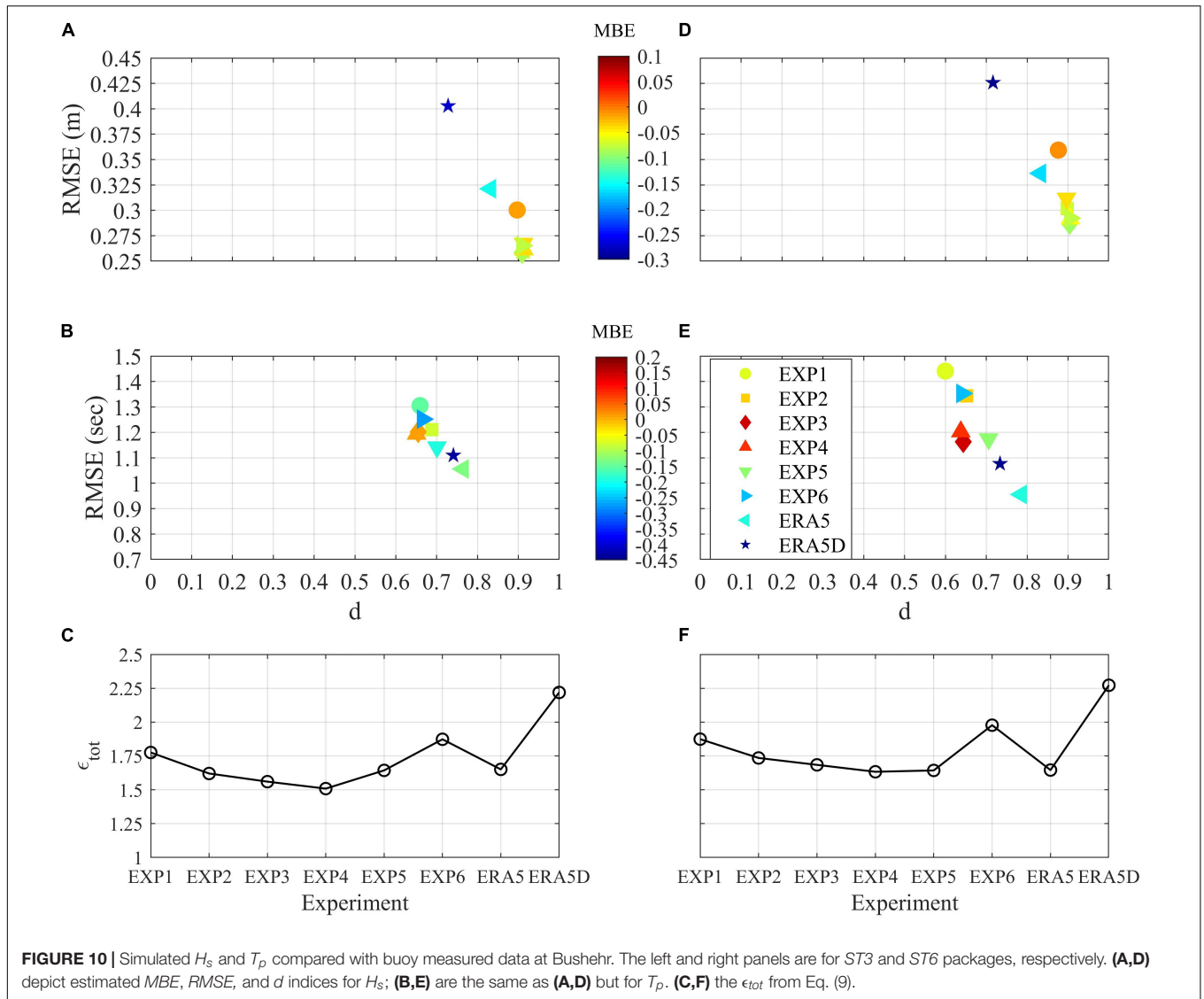
As time passed, the southerly vertical system weakened and eventually disappeared, while the westerly horizontal system strengthened to 55–60 dbz and spatially extended from 1:00 to 02:00 AM. It slightly decreased at 3:00 AM UTC; however, increased to 55–60 dbz at 4:00 AM UTC again as it moved eastward. Described pattern for simulated maximum reflectivity from 12:00 to 4:00 AM is in agreement with Bushehr radar data described by Kazeminezhad et al. (2021).

Skill Assessment of WAVEWATCH-III

In **Figure 10**, Simulated H_s and T_p parameters with *ST3* and *ST6* packages of WWIII model for eight experiments were compared to buoy measurements at Bushehr during 15–23 March. The

performance of the model using WRF experiments was close with small differences; e.g., EXP1 parameterizations resulted in the lowest absolute *MBE* and high *RMSE* for H_s hindcast. Also, EXP3 led to $\sim 0.1 H_s$ underestimation and low *RMSE*. Unlike H_s , EXP1 parameterization has severely underestimated T_p . The most successful configuration for reproducing T_p was EXP3.

Furthermore, ERA5 data with default coefficients of the model (ERA5D hereafter) severely underestimated H_s and T_p parameters. This experiment presented the worst performance in reproducing H_s . Unlike ERA5D, applying ERA5 wind data with the calibrated tuning values (ERA5 experiment) proposed for the Persian Gulf by BSD2021, considerably improved both H_s and T_p predictions. It is worth mentioning that the *ST6* is more



sensitive than $ST3$ to wind experiments. To determine the best configuration, the following error parameter ϵ_{tot} was defined:

$$\epsilon_{tot} = |MBE|_{H_s} + RMSE_{H_s} + |MBE|_{T_p} + RMSE_{T_p} \quad (9)$$

This error parameter was evaluated for eight experiments and results are presented in **Figures 10C,F**. $EXP4$ parameterizations using $ST3$ resulted in the lowest ϵ_{tot} , while $EXP4$, $EXP5$ parameterizations and $ERA5$ experiments using $ST6$ could result in a similar low ϵ_{tot} value at Bushehr buoy; hence $EXP4$ at Bushehr station could be selected as the optimum configuration when either $ST3$ or $ST6$ was applied. $ERA5D$ using both $ST3$ and $ST6$ packages led to high ϵ_{tot} which emphasized the importance of model calibration. The accuracy of $ST3$ was slightly better than $ST6$ at this station which is in accordance with BSD2021.

The time series of simulated and measured H_s , T_p and mean wave direction were presented in **Figure 11**. According to wind evaluations presented in **Figure 10**, $EXP4$ and $ERA5$

parameterizations were selected for further investigations using $ST3$ and $ST6$ formulations. As it is clear, H_s was underestimated by the $ERA5$ experiment at Bushehr buoy during events on 16–17 March and 19–20 March. In contrast, bulk wave parameters from $EXP4$ were in good agreement with the trend of measurements; hence, the $ERA5$ wind data was not suitable for wave hindcast during the dominance of meteotsunami in the Persian Gulf, while $EXP4$ parameterization led to reasonable performance when either $ST3$ or $ST6$ package was used with the default tuning values.

In **Table 3**, simulated H_s and T_p were used to assess the importance of S_{nl} term in the model. In this evaluation, both $ST3$ and $ST6$ packages were used with $EXP4$ wind data. Since the GQM has been applied with $ST3$ and $ST6$ for the first time in this study, a calibration was performed; hence $C_{ds} = -4$ and $\delta_1 = 0$ were obtained for $ST3$, and $a_1 = 2.75 \times 10^{-6}$ and $a_2 = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ were determined for $ST6$. For each package, four setups were considered: (1) Default tuning values for S_{ds} term and the DIA method for S_{nl} term; (2) Default tuning values for S_{ds} term

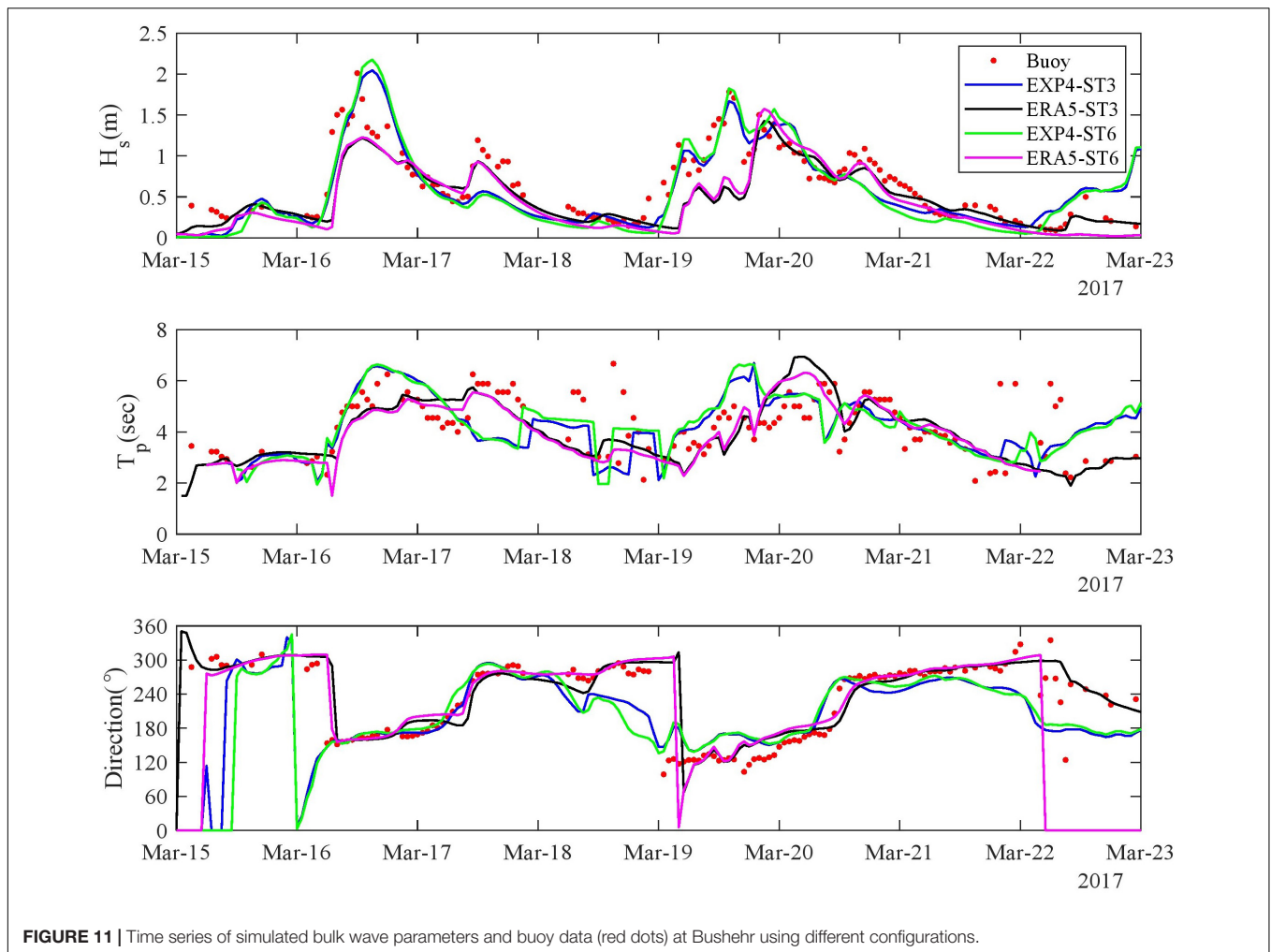


FIGURE 11 | Time series of simulated bulk wave parameters and buoy data (red dots) at Bushehr using different configurations.

and GQM method for S_{nl} term; (3) Calibrated values for S_{ds} and the DIA method for S_{nl} term; (4) Calibrated values for S_{ds} and the GQM method for S_{nl} term.

Following results inferred from **Table 3**: (1) use of calibrated values for C_{ds} and δ_1 ($C_{ds} = -4$ and $\delta_1 = 0$) with the GQM were resulted in $t_{ot} = 1.5085$ which was identical to the employment of default values ($C_{ds} = -4.5$ and $\delta_1 = 0.5$) and the DIA method ($t_{ot} = 1.5087$). The value of $\delta_1 = 0$ with the GQM was in agreement with the findings of Rogers et al. (2003). Default tuning values in S_{ds} term with the GQM and calibrated tuning values for S_{ds} term with the DIA method for S_{nl} term were the worst cases with highest t_{ot} . (2) Similar to $ST3$, obtained tuning values ($a_1 = 2.75 \times 10^{-6}$, $a_2 = 5 \times 10^{-5}$) for $ST6$ when the GQM was considered for S_{nl} term were lower than default values ($a_1 = 4.75 \times 10^{-6}$, $a_2 = 7 \times 10^{-5}$). The GQM using calibrated values outperformed other setups according to t_{ot} ; the improvement was marginal compared to the DIA method with default values though.

The wave spectrum evolution simulated by $ST3$ and $ST6$ packages using the GQM and DIA methods were compared in **Figure 12**. Based on results presented in **Table 3**, default tuning values for white capping terms were applied in combination with

the DIA, while calibrated values were considered when the GQM was employed. The highest energy density occurred during 16–17 March. The GQM method in the model has resulted in sharper peaks in the spectrum than the DIA method. As shown in several studies, the spectral peak was estimated smoother and lower than reality by the DIA (Gagnaire-Renou et al., 2010; Rogers and Van Vledder, 2013), and the GQM could improve this deficiency in the wave model.

The energy content close to the peak of the spectrum was also more intense for $ST6$ than $ST3$. During the high energy event of 16–17 March, $ST6$ resulted in higher energy content, even in the high-frequency tail of the spectrum. It is following the results of Kalourazi et al. (2020) who compared different formulations during hurricane Ivan's passage over the Gulf of Mexico. This pattern was also confirmed by ideal and field tests in previous studies (e.g., Zieger et al., 2015; van Vledder et al., 2016). Having more energetic predictions over the entire frequency band also occurred for other events during 19–20 March when $ST6$ with the GQM was used as compared with other combinations.

The main reason for deviation in the model performance by $ST3$ and $ST6$ packages could be explained by the contribution of S_{in} , S_{ds} , and S_{nl} terms to S_{tot} in Eq. (1). The spectrum evolution of

TABLE 3 | The ST3 and ST6 packages using EXP4 wind data with two methods DIA and GQM for S_{nl} term were evaluated against buoy measured data at Bushehr.

Bushehr Buoy		H_s			T_p			
Methods	Setup	MBE	RMSE	d	MBE	RMSE	d	<i>tot</i>
ST3	Default/DIA	-0.0427	0.2612	0.9138	0.0111	1.1937	0.6509	<u>1.5087</u>
	Default/GQM	-0.0873	0.2630	0.9095	-0.1362	1.1636	0.6726	1.6501
	$C_{ds} = -4.0, \delta_1 = 0$ /DIA	-0.0409	0.2656	0.9123	0.1104	1.2006	0.6679	1.6175
	$C_{ds} = -4.0, \delta_1 = 0$ /GQM	-0.0591	0.2650	0.9123	0.0322	1.1522	0.6667	<u>1.5085</u>
ST6	Default/DIA	-0.0525	0.2917	0.9059	0.0861	1.2028	0.6377	1.6331
	Default/GQM	-0.0908	0.2931	0.9019	-0.0393	1.1744	0.6476	1.5976
	$a_1 = 2.75 \times 10^{-6}, a_2 = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ /DIA	-0.0275	0.3020	0.9034	0.1326	1.2121	0.6346	1.6742
	$a_1 = 2.75 \times 10^{-6}, a_2 = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ /GQM	-0.0620	0.2989	0.9026	0.0191	1.1827	0.6436	<u>1.5627</u>

The optimum setups were identified by bold-underlined.

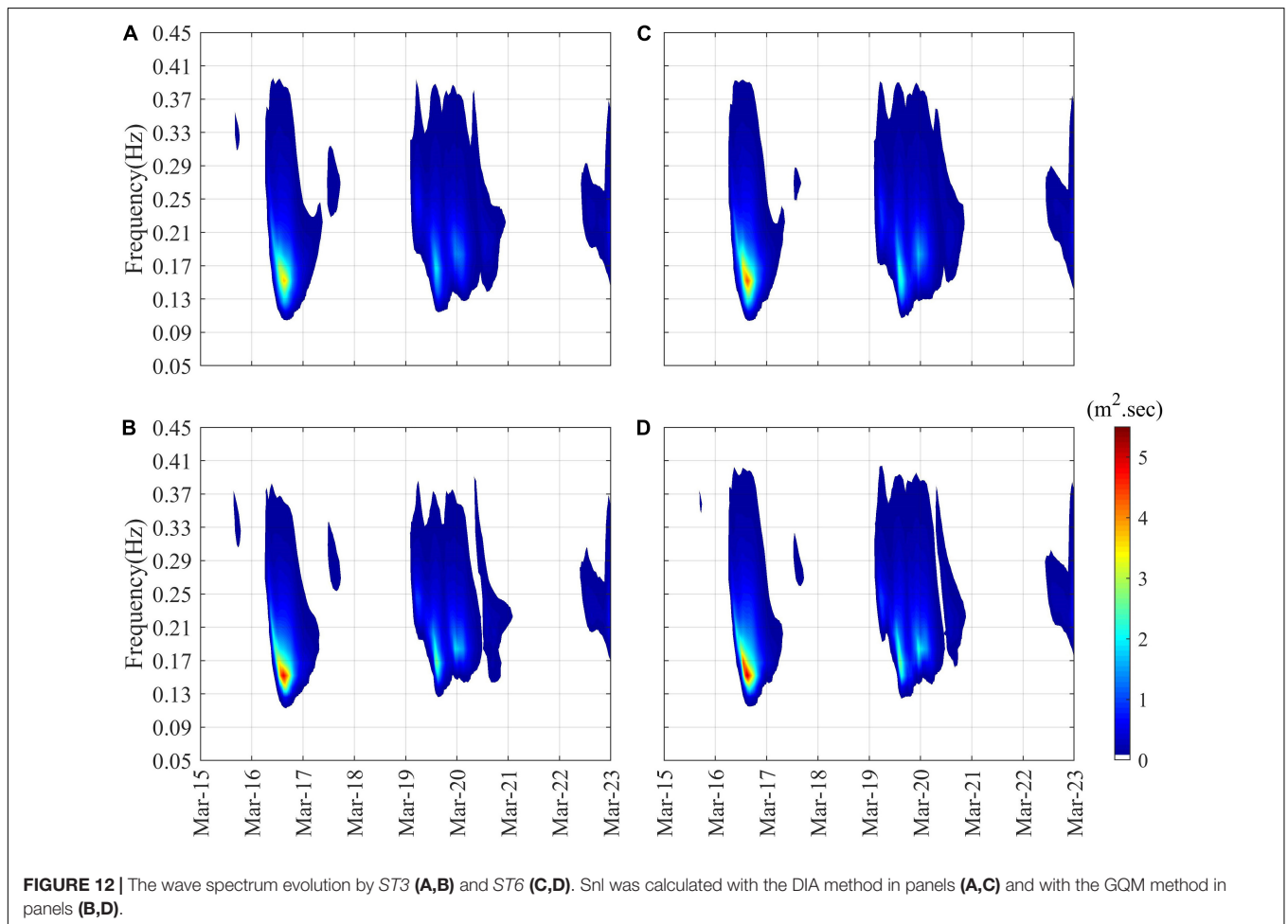


FIGURE 12 | The wave spectrum evolution by ST3 (A,B) and ST6 (C,D). S_{nl} was calculated with the DIA method in panels (A,C) and with the GQM method in panels (B,D).

S_{tot} (not shown here) indicates that the energy content is close to the peak of S_{tot} was higher for ST6 than for ST3. This explains the peak wave period overestimation by ST6. Also, when the GQM was used for S_{nl} instead of DIA, a concentrated positive lobe at slightly higher frequencies occurred. Furthermore, the negative lobe was less extended to higher frequencies for the GQM than for the DIA method. As a consequence, more energy is transferred to high frequencies when GQM was employed which alleviated the wave peak period overestimation.

CONCLUSION

Ensemble prediction is a practical approach to handle uncertainties in numerical model predictions. This is essential during complex meteorological conditions such as meteotsunamis due to the importance of small-scale atmospheric processes (Mourre et al., 2021). This study skill assessed the performance of the WRF physics ensemble of a high-resolution modeling system in retrieving atmospheric processes which led to

recent meteotsunami in the Persian Gulf. Numerical experiments with initial and boundary conditions driven from the ECMWF IFS CY41r2 high-resolution operational analysis database were used to study the detailed representation of surface air pressure and wind speed during 15–23 March 2017 in the Persian Gulf. Six experiments were used with 2 microphysics (Thompson and WSM6), 3 cumulus physics schemes (New Tiedtke, Kain-Fritsch, and Grell–Devenyi), and 3 planetary boundary layer schemes (YSU, MYJ, and MYNN) along with Goddard and RRTM as short-wave and long-wave radiation schemes.

Using Mellor–Yamada–Nakanishi–Niino scheme for planetary boundary layer and surface layer, EXP3 and EXP4 parameterizations overestimated surface pressure at the ground level stations and underestimated the wind speed. However, for stations inside the water body, it results to lower surface pressure and relatively higher wind speed compared to other experiments. The results indicated that combining MYNN planetary boundary layer scheme and the Thompson microphysics scheme provided the most reliable results for pressure and wind speed predictions. Also, wind speed is estimated better for either the MYJ or MYNN boundary layer scheme than non-local YSU during the Persian Gulf meteotsunami event. It implied that the turbulent eddies during this time period were small over the Persian Gulf and localized in nature. In general, EXP4 parameterization (using MYNN scheme for planetary boundary layer and surface layer) had the best performance at stations over water and EXP2 parameterization (using MYJ scheme for planetary boundary layer and Eta similarity for surface layer) had the best performance at stations on land.

Additional numerical experiments were performed to evaluate the sensitivity of WRF simulations to the selection of microphysics and convective parameterization using heat and moisture content in the atmosphere and maximum radar reflectivity. The results showed that all simulations were successful in reproducing temperature and moisture content in the atmosphere, but they overestimated the moisture content in the upper troposphere. Also, simulations with WSM6 microphysics produced slightly stronger reflectivity, especially at the southern part of the domain. Radar data indicated that in that area, both WSM6 and Thompson microphysics provided excessive reflectivity.

Both *ST3* and *ST6* packages in the WWIII model were used with six WRF experiments and ERA5 wind data to reproduce H_s and T_p during 15–23 March 2017. Two sets of tuning parameters were used when ERA5 wind data were used: (1) default tuning values; (2) calibrated tuning values proposed by BSD2021. Buoy measurements at Bushehr were used for model assessments. A new error parameter was introduced to determine the most suitable wind data for the wave model during the dominance of

meteotsunami in the Persian Gulf. The lowest error was obtained when wind data were produced by the EXP4 parameterization. The ERA5 data led to the severe underestimation of H_s and T_p in the model.

For the first time, the exact GQM was implemented in the WWIII model to compensate for the deficiencies of the DIA in deep water. The GQM could be faster than available exact solutions in the third-generation wave models. The preliminary calibration of tuning parameters for S_{ds} the term was performed when the GQM was applied for S_{nl} term in the wave model. It is inferable that slightly better performances of the model relative to the DIA method were achieved when lower tuning values were applied.

Conducting two-way coupling between atmosphere, ocean, and wave models using the new implemented S_{nl} term for reproducing meteotsunami forerunner longwave and its interaction with high-frequency wind waves would be the next step to better study this meteotsunami event.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data analyzed in this study is subject to the following licenses/restrictions: Part of data comes from Iran Meteorological Organization and the Port and Maritime Organization (PMO) of Iran; and any user should directly asked data from them. ERA5 data can be downloaded directly from their website. Requests to access these datasets should be directed to <https://marinedata.pmo.ir/>; <https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/search?type=dataset>.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

MR and SS contributed to conception and design of the study. MR performed WRF and COAWST simulations while MB performed wave modeling. MR and MB provided the first draft of the manuscript and it was finalized by SS. All authors contributed to manuscript revision, read, and approved the submitted version.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the Iran Meteorological Organization for providing synoptic data. The wave buoys data were provided by the Port and Maritime Organization (PMO) of Iran, respectively. ERA5 reanalysis data were downloaded from the ECMWF dataset. We should appreciate Eftekhari who revisited the manuscript from the point of view of the English proficiencies.

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