MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN
METEOROLOGY AND PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY

THE CIRCULATION AND VARIABILITY IN THE WESTERN ARCTIC OCEAN-MODEL RESULTS

Jeffrey S. Dixon-Lieutenant, United States Navy
B.S., State University of New York College at Oswego, 1991
Master of Science in Meteorology and Physical Oceanography-September 2003
Advisor: Wieslaw Maslowski, Department of Oceanography
Second Reader: Stephen Okkonen, University of Alaska

Circulation in the western Arctic Ocean is not well understood. To address some of its outstanding questions, volume transport and property fluxes are investigated using a coupled ice-ocean model of the pan-Arctic region configured at a 1/12-degree and 45-level grid. Results for analyses are from the last 23 years of a 70-year integration forced with realistic 1979-2001 atmospheric data. Velocity at three depth intervals, mean transports, and fluxes are investigated to identify the main current pathways and directions. Variability is determined by comparison of results a decade apart.

Mean velocity fields describe a climatological circulation pattern that is cyclonic in nature with increased intensity during the late 1980s and early 1990s. The meander through the Chukchi Borderland Pass is the main pathway for boundary flow across the Chukchi Plateau. The northern Chukchi Plateau is modeled as a region of major volume, heat, and freshwater transport into the Canada Basin interior. It also appears to be an area of net upward heat transport, which may be available for melting ice. Northward flow along the eastern side of the Northwind Ridge is identified as a mechanism for advection of freshwater from the Chukchi shelves into the interior.

KEYWORDS: Arctic Ocean, Oceanography, Modeling

PREDICTABILITY OF JAPAN/EAST SEA (JES) SYSTEM TO UNCERTAIN INITIAL/LATERAL BOUNDARY CONDITIONS AND SURFACE WINDS

Chin-Lung Fang-Lieutenant Commander, Taiwan, R.O.C. Navy
B.S., Chinese Naval Academy, 1992
Master of Science in Meteorology and Physical Oceanograph-September 2003
Advisor: Peter C. Chu, Department of Oceanography
Second Reader: Steve Haeger, Naval Oceanographic Office

Numerical ocean modeling usually composes various initial- and boundary-value problems. It integrates hydrodynamic and thermodynamic equations numerically with atmospheric forcing and boundary conditions (lateral and vertical) from initial states of temperature, salinity, and velocity. Past observations, historical datasets, and climatological datasets of the ocean have contributed greatly to the knowledge of the data fields of initial condition, atmospheric forcing, and boundary conditions. Change in either initial or boundary condition leads to a variety of model solutions. It is necessary to specify realistic initial and boundary conditions to achieve better understanding and prediction of the ocean behavior. However, uncertainty often exists in both initial and boundary conditions. Up to now, most studies on ocean predictability have usually been for one particular type of model input uncertainty within the three types of uncertainty (initial conditions, open boundary conditions, atmospheric forcing function). This thesis investigates the response of ocean model to the three types of model input uncertainty simultaneously using Princeton Ocean Model (POM) implemented for the Japan/East Sea (JES).

KEYWORDS: Initial Conditions, Wind Forcing, Lateral Boundary Transport, POM, JES

AN ESTIMATION OF THE ABILITY TO FORECAST BOUNDARY LAYER MIXING HEIGHT AND WIND PARAMETERS THROUGH FORECAST VERIFICATION OVER FORT ORD

Claude F. Gahard-Lieutenant, United States Navy
B.S., Western Washington University, 1993
Master of Science in Meteorology and Physical Oceanography-September 2003
Advisor: Wendell A. Nuss, Department of Meteorology
Second Reader: David S. Brown, Department of Meteorology

Conducting controlled burns at Fort Ord requires specific meteorological and operational criteria. A minimum five-mile per hour offshore wind flow in conjunction with a minimum lower vertical mixing height of 1500 feet is meteorologically required. Burn contractor operational constraints require these meteorological parameters to be forecast 72 hours prior to burn. In this thesis, forecast verification percentage baselines for offshore and onshore winds were established. These 24, 48, and 72 hour forecasts were verified by 1200 UTC analyses at 850 mb and profiler observations. The observations were from the surface to 1500 feet. From these baselines the forecast skill when including a second burn prescription parameter, lower vertical mixing height, is inferred. Resulting forecast verification percentages using profiler observations of offshore wind flow were less than 40% at all forecast durations. Results indicate that during the burn season (July through December) the synoptic scale forecasts do not adequately represent the local wind field over Fort Ord. As the burn season progresses, synoptic scale forcing becomes stronger and mesoscale forcing weakens over Fort Ord, favoring forecast verification with profiler observations. Lastly, the inferred forecast skill of both offshore wind flow from the surface to 1500 feet and the minimum vertical lower mixing height simultaneously at all durations is 10%.

KEYWORDS: Forecast Verification, Doppler Wind Profiler Observations, AVN Simulations, Fort Ord, Chemical/Biological Defense

SUBTIDAL CIRCULATION OVER THE UPPER SLOPE TO THE WEST OF MONTEREY BAY, CALIFORNIA

Juan Aguilar Morales-Commander, Mexican Navy
B.S., Naval School, 1985
Master of Science in Meteorology and Physical Oceanography-September 2003
Advisors: Curtis A. Collins, Department of Oceanography
Reginaldo Durazo, UABC, Mexico

Moored current meters were used to describe currents over the continental slope off Monterey Bay, California, from March 1998 to March 2003. The water depth at this location was 1800 m and current observations included depths of 16-88 m, 210-290 m, 305 m and 1200 m, although measurements at 16-88 m were not continuous. Poleward currents dominated the flow between 24 and 305 m. At 305 m the mean flow was 3.9 cm/s toward 334°. Surprisingly, at 1200 m the mean flow reversed and was 0.8 cm/s toward 169°. The principal axis for the flow at 305 m (1200 m) was 349° (350°), the semi-major axis was 9.4 cm/s (5.8 cm/s), and the semi-minor axis was 3.4 (2.0 cm/s). The direction of the principal axis and the mean flow at 1200 m was aligned with the bathymetry to the east of the mooring site.

The seasonal cycle at 305 m was dominated by an acceleration of the poleward flow from a minimum near zero on April 15 to maximum, 25 cm/s, on July 15. This flow resulted in an increase of temperature at 305 m of 1.2° C due to geostrophic adjustment and a corresponding 10 cm increase in sea level due to steric effects. The acceleration of alongshore flow was out of phase with the alongshore pressure gradient, which was greatest in mid-April. At 1200 m, the temperature increase (0.2° C) only lasted from April 15 to June 1, after which equatorward flow increased and temperature decreased.

Mesoscale variability dominated the velocity measurements with maximum variance at about 60-day periods. At 305 m, the eddy kinetic energy was greatest (smallest) in October (December), 40 cm^2/s^2 (4 cm^2/s^2) while at 1200 m the maximum (minimum) occurred in July (February), 5 cm^2/s^2 (0.5 cm^2/s^2). Poleward events were stronger at 305 m while equatorward events were stronger at 1200 m.

The three first empirical orthogonal functions explained 90% of the temporal variability of the horizontal currents. The first, second, and third Z-score represented flow along the principal axis, undercurrent vs. Davidson current, and upwelling modes, respectively. While the seasonal patterns for the

first two modes agreed with seasonal variability described above, the seasonal variability of the upwelling mode (6% of the variance) indicated that the waters between 16 and 88 m flowed onshore during the spring and summer upwelling period.

KEYWORDS: California Current System, Seasonal and Mesoscale Circulations off Monterey, CA

VISIBILITY OVER LAND FROM CONTRAST ANALYSIS OF MULTI-SPECTRAL SATELLITE OBSERVATIONS

Dominick Vincent-Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy
B.S., Texas A&M University, 1994
Master of Science in Meteorology and Physical Oceanography-September 2003
Advisor: Philip Durkee, Department of Meteorology
Second Reader: Carlyle H. Wash, Department of Meteorology

The objective of this thesis is to investigate the viability of using contrast reduction in multi-spectral satellite observations to characterize surface visibility reduction due to heavy aerosol loading. Two methods are explored. First, the spectral distribution of standard deviation of surface reflectance over a homogeneous background (urban, agriculture, or forested) is plotted for three aerosol conditions (dust, smoke, and low aerosol loading). Second, the same cases are analyzed using a pixel-to-pixel differencing of surface reflectance. The spectral distributions of the means for the resulting difference fields are constructed. Each aerosol type was found to exhibit a relatively unique spectral distribution for both methods. Each background was found to exhibit a characteristic amount of contrast in the absence of heavy aerosol loading. The unique spectral characteristics for each aerosol-background combination may be correlated to aerosol optical depths or surface visibilities with corrections for sensor view angle variations, Rayleigh scattering, and masking of clouds and surface water. The spectral distribution-aerosol optical depth correlation can be used to build an empirical model for aerosol optical depth and surface visibility retrievals from satellite observations. This method may be applied to multi-spectral or panchromatic imagery, unlike current aerosol optical depth retrievals over land.

KEYWORDS: Visibility, Aerosol, Satellite Observations, Aerosol Optical Depth Retrieval, Over Land, Contrast