Anticyclone formation through submesoscale interactions at the shelf break

Jeroen Molemaker, UCLA

ROMS



Multiple Nested Grids



SST off California



Relative vorticity

z = 150 m





Vorticity and Temperature at z = 150 m



 $\boldsymbol{\Pi} = (\boldsymbol{\zeta} + \mathbf{f}) \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} b$



Vorticity z= 250 m

Vertical Structure



Monterey Bay



Cross-shore section





Pushing the envelope of centrifugal instability



Subsurface Anti-cyclones at the end of



PDF of relative vorticity at 150m



Post critical mixing?

* AAI (Yavneh et al., 2001, McWilliams et al. 2004, Molemaker et al. 2005)

* Vertical Shear

 $\boldsymbol{\Pi} = (\boldsymbol{\zeta} + \mathbf{f}) \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} b$



Bottom Pressure torque and Form Stress

$$T = J(p_b, H)$$

$$p_{bH_0} = -\int \frac{\mathcal{T}}{\partial H/\partial n} \, ds.$$



Divergence variance



Mesoscale and SubMesoscale Kinetic energy



Enhanced energy dissipation



Subsurface Anti-Cyclones in an Western Boundary Current



SST near Cape Hatteras



Surface Relative Vorticity







Summary

- A bottom turbulent boundary layer on a slope leads to horizontal shear
- Coastally trapped current can separate
- Instability occurs; sign of shear is critical
- Centrifugal instability leads to vertical exchange and local energy dissipation
- Shear production and separation of slope current is ubiquitous

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