

# State Estimation of the California Current System Using 4DVar Ocean Data Assimilation

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*International Workshop on Multiscale (Un)structured Mesh  
Numerical Modeling for Coastal, Shelf and Global Ocean Dynamics*

**MIT**

**Cambridge, MA**

**August 20, 2010**

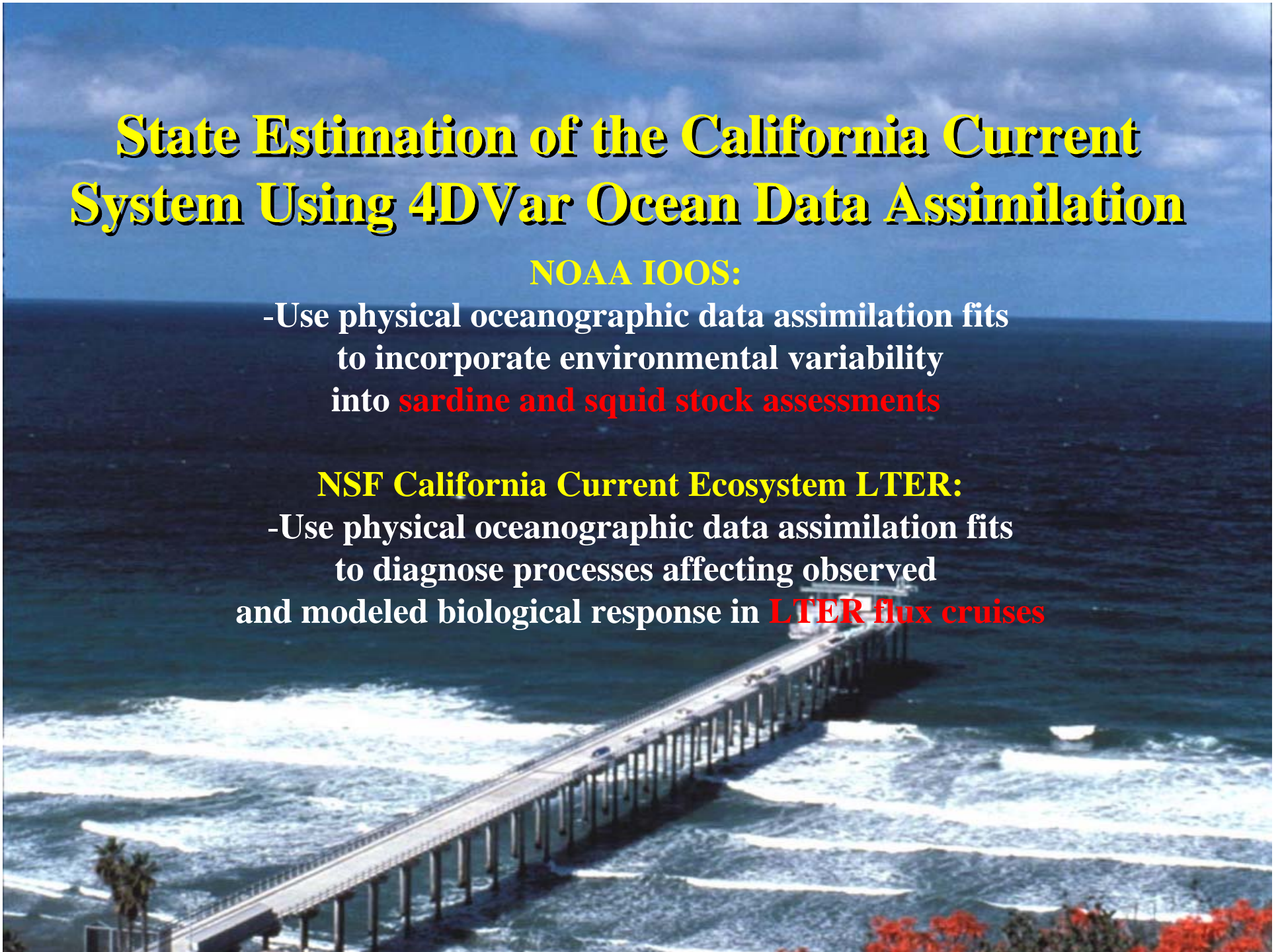
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## NOAA IOOS:

- Use physical oceanographic data assimilation fits to incorporate environmental variability into **sardine and squid stock assessments**

## NSF California Current Ecosystem LTER:

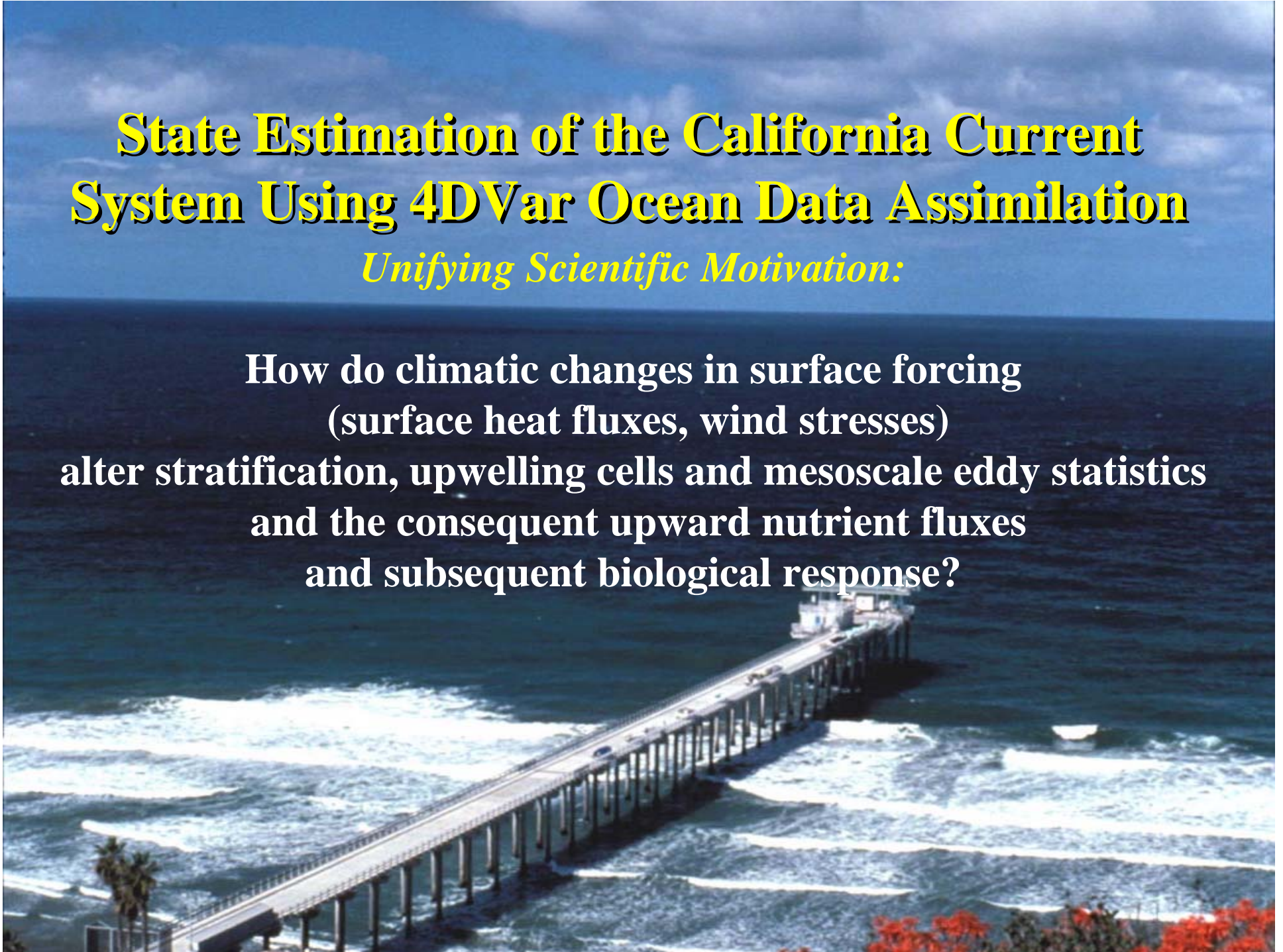
- Use physical oceanographic data assimilation fits to diagnose processes affecting observed and modeled biological response in **LTER flux cruises**



# **State Estimation of the California Current System Using 4DVar Ocean Data Assimilation**

*Unifying Scientific Motivation:*

**How do climatic changes in surface forcing  
(surface heat fluxes, wind stresses)  
alter stratification, upwelling cells and mesoscale eddy statistics  
and the consequent upward nutrient fluxes  
and subsequent biological response?**



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## Today's Outline:

### 1. Fits of Cruise Time Intervals

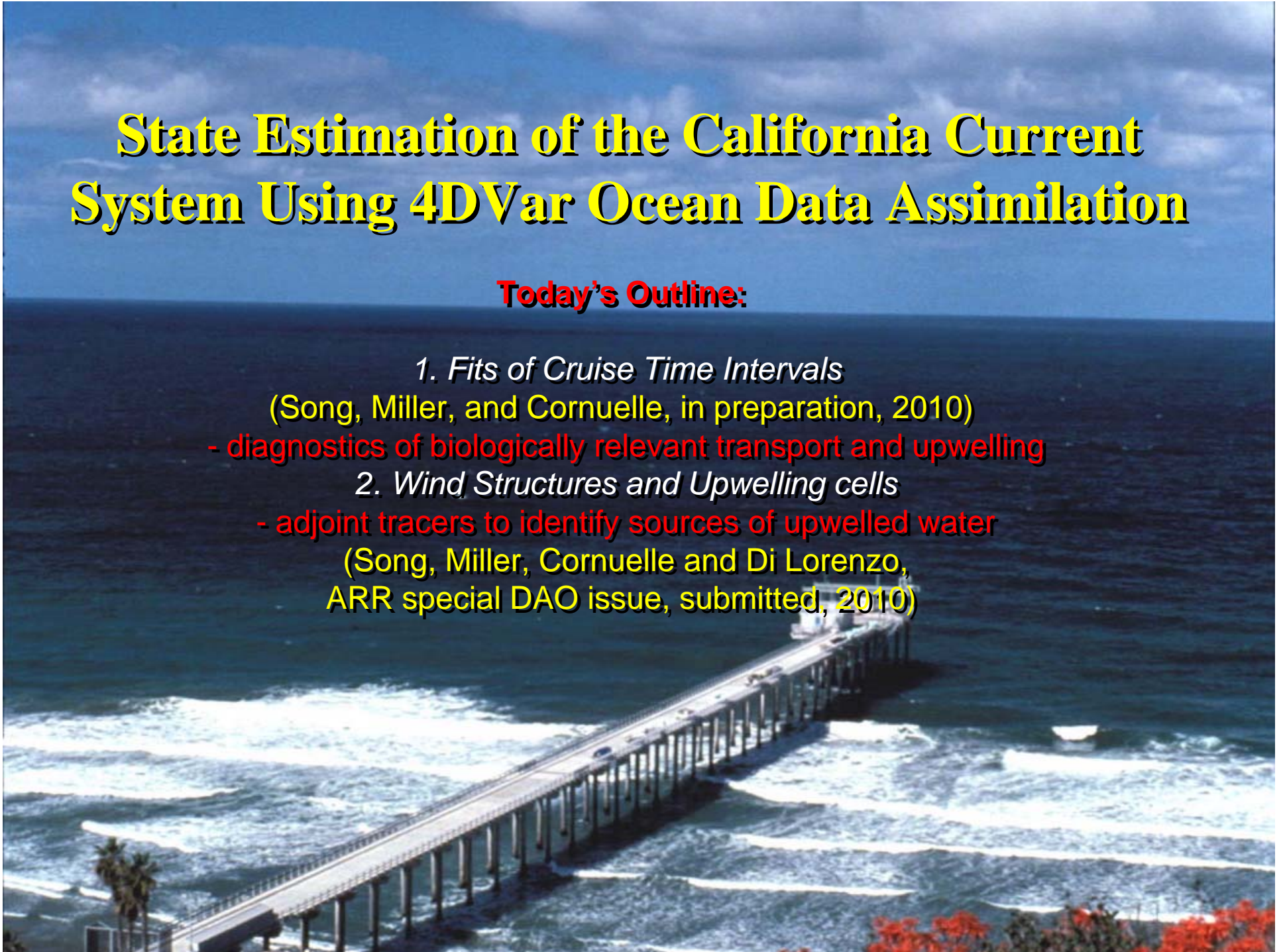
(Song, Miller, and Cornuelle, in preparation, 2010)

- diagnostics of biologically relevant transport and upwelling

### 2. Wind Structures and Upwelling cells

- adjoint tracers to identify sources of upwelled water

(Song, Miller, Cornuelle and Di Lorenzo,  
ARR special DAO issue, submitted, 2010)



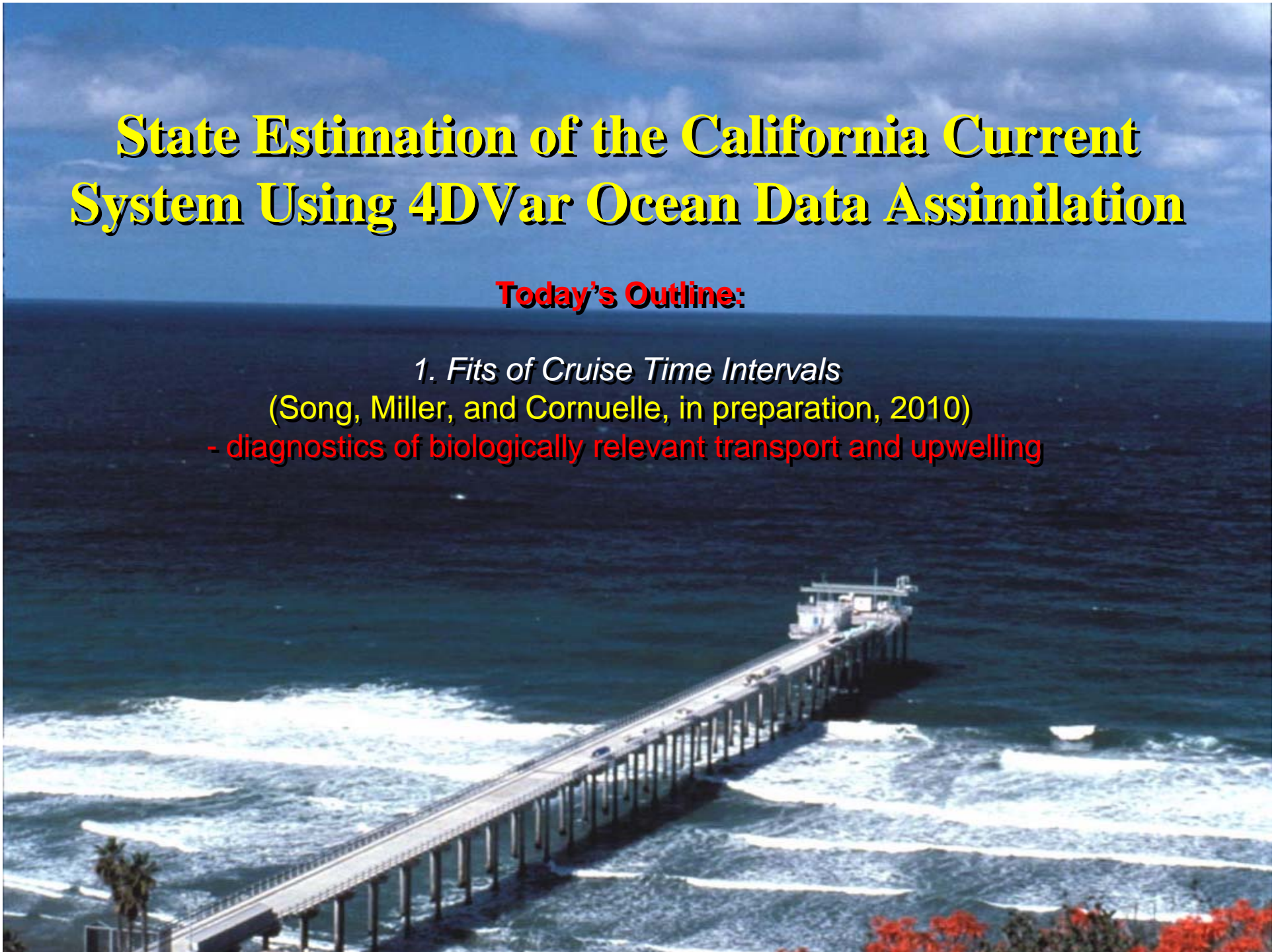
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# Ocean 4DVAR Data Assimilation

- Building the ocean states that are close to the observations as well as dynamically consistent.
- Effort to build the ocean states for 7 consecutive years (2002 ~ 2008) of April over the California Current System.
- Completed 5 years of April (2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008).

# Model

- Regional Ocean Modeling System (ROMS)
- Using 4-dimensional variational method.
  - Adjusting initial condition
  - Adjusting surface forcing
  - Adjusting open boundary conditions
- One month assimilation window
- Prior state vector from 2-week CCS fits of Broquet et al. (2009)

# Observations

- AVHRR – Infrared SST
- Along track sea surface height anomaly from AVISO
- Temperature - Salinity profiles from
  - CalCOFI cruise
  - Argo
  - LTER
  - Glider

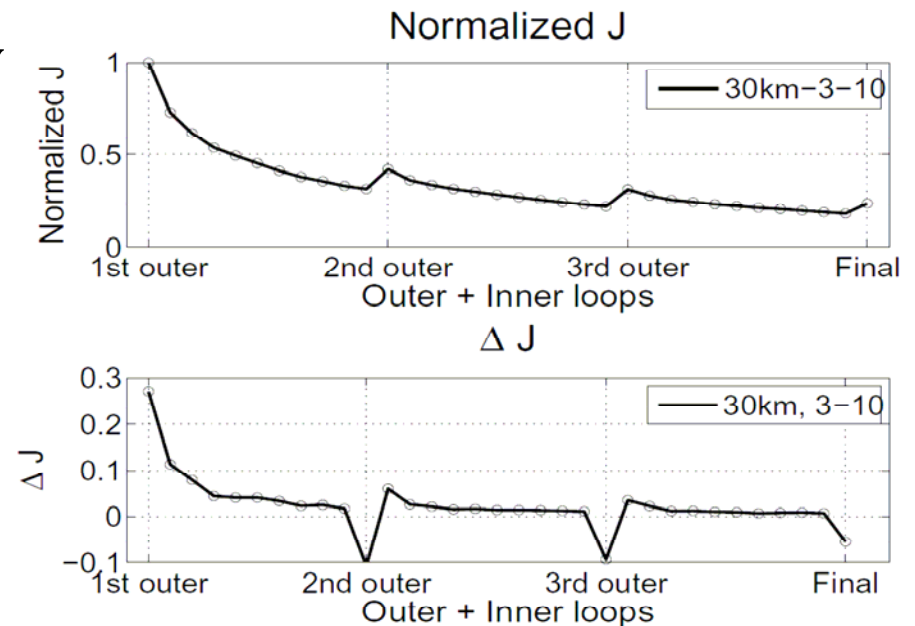
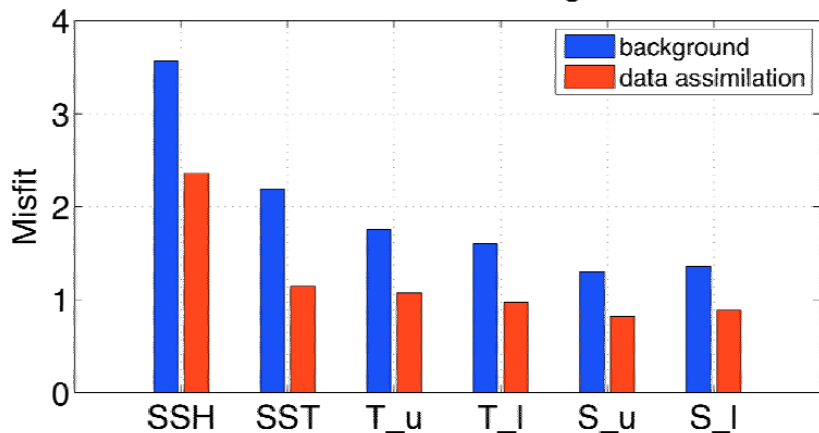


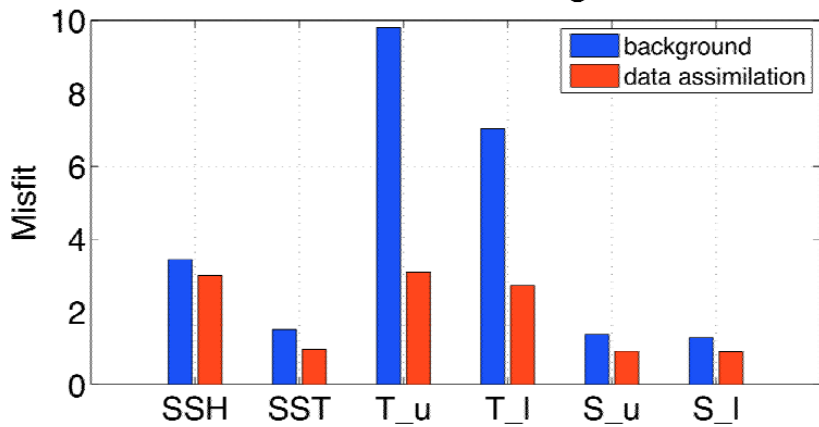
FIGURE 1. Normalized cost function at each loop during 2 months.



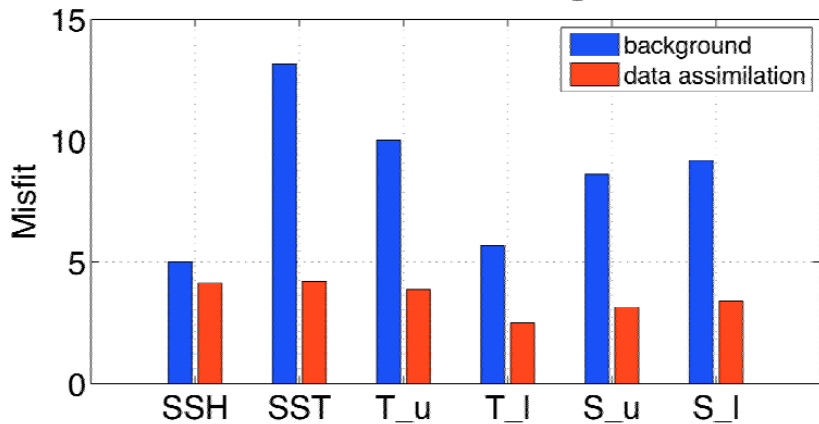
Normalized misfit changes, 2002



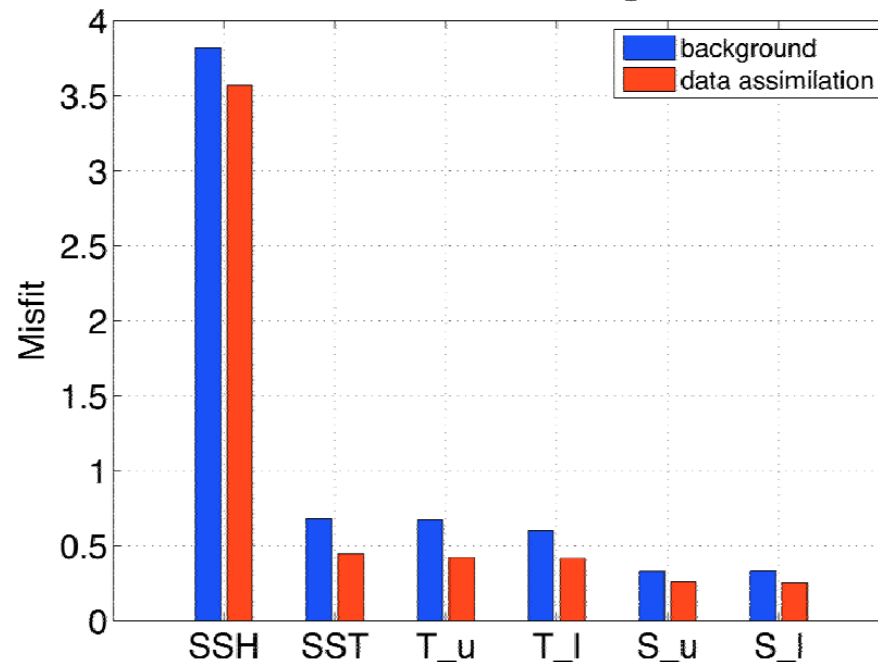
Normalized misfit changes, 2003



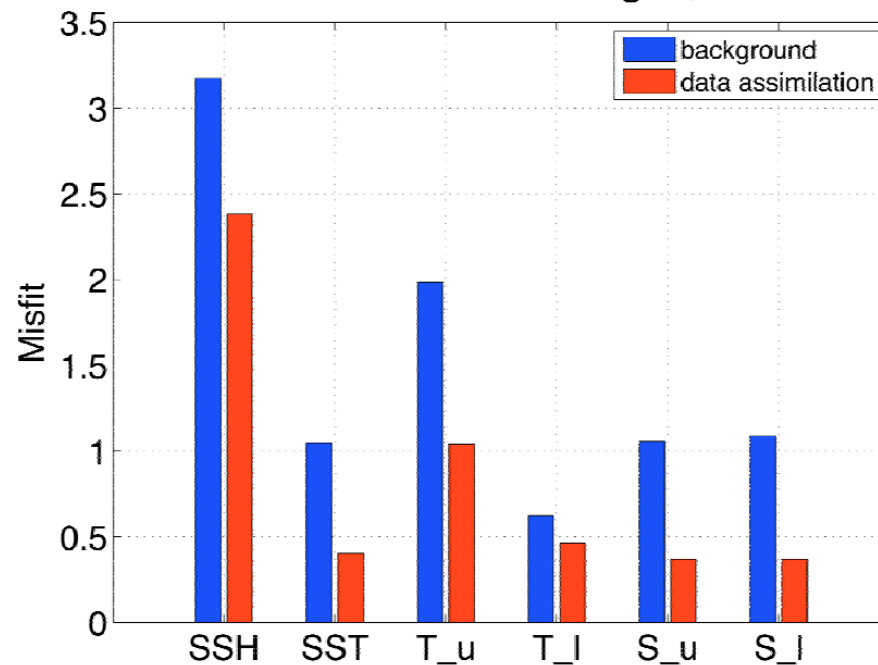
Normalized misfit changes, 2006



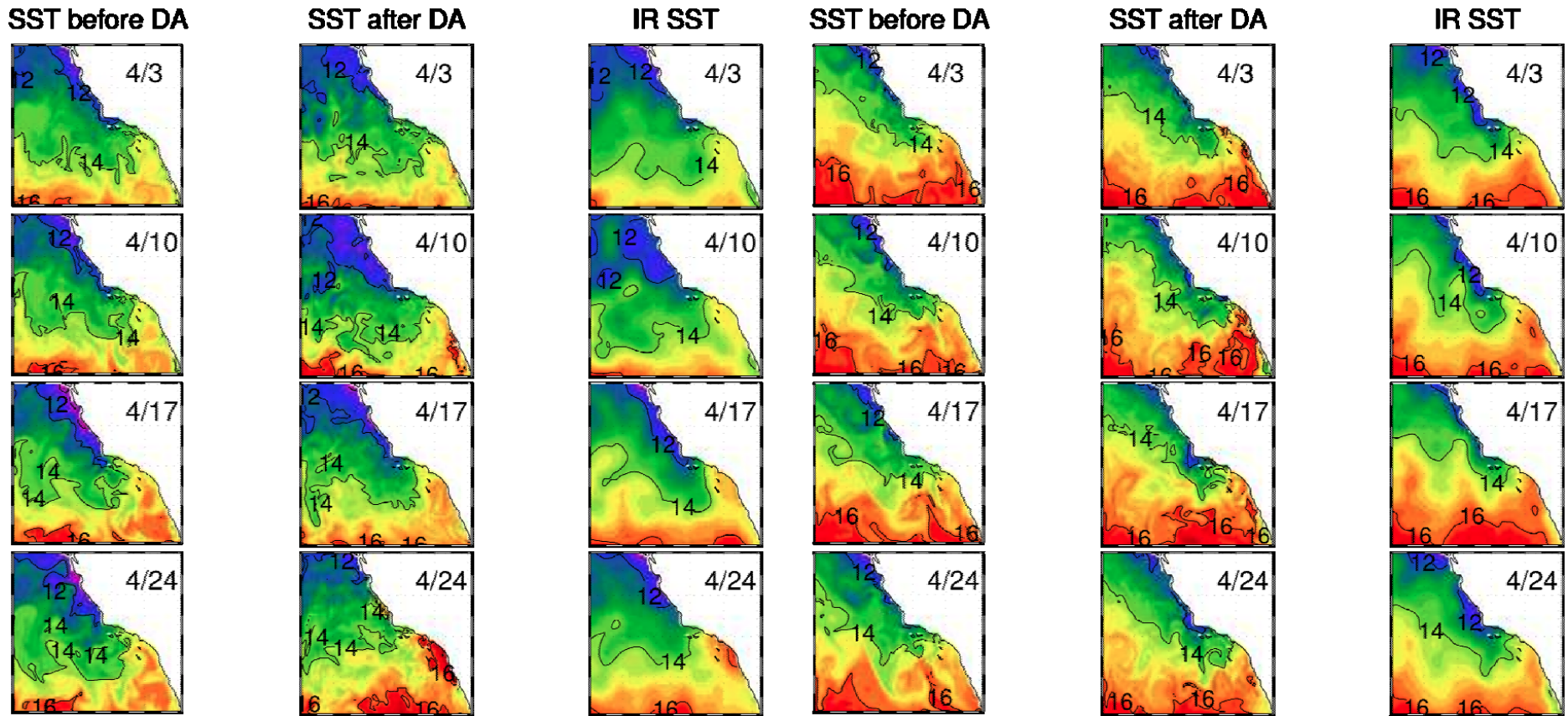
Normalized misfit changes, 2007



Normalized misfit changes, 2008



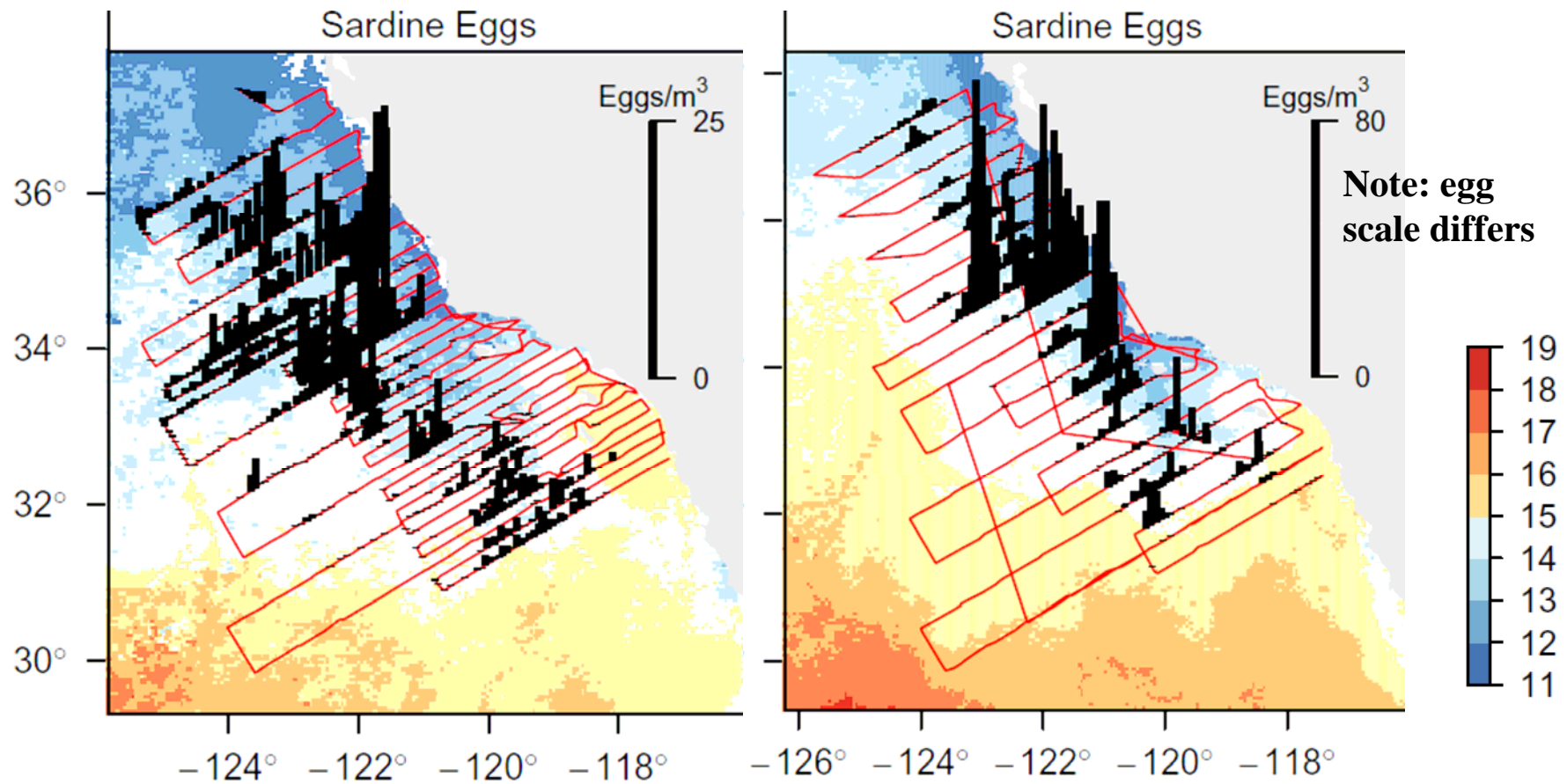
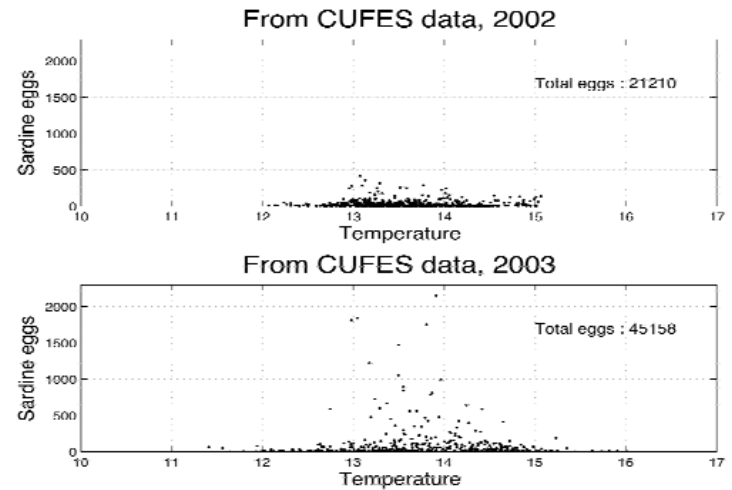
# Applications – Hindcasts of 2 key years in sardine spawning: 2002 and 2003



SST, 2002 April, cooler  
Fewer eggs, over large area

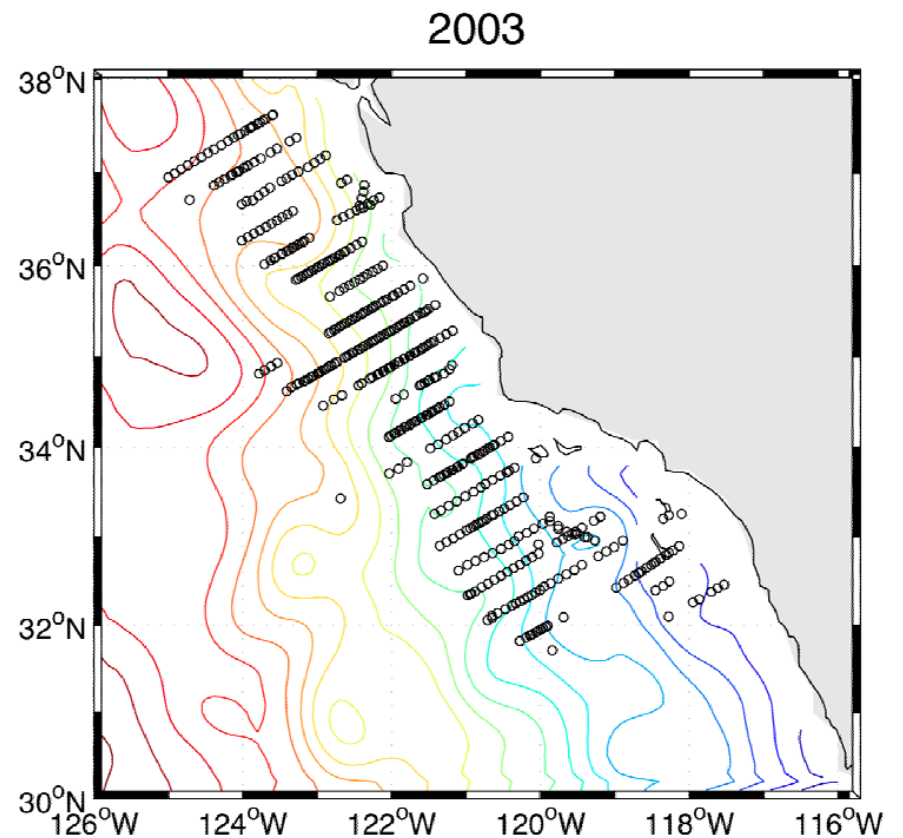
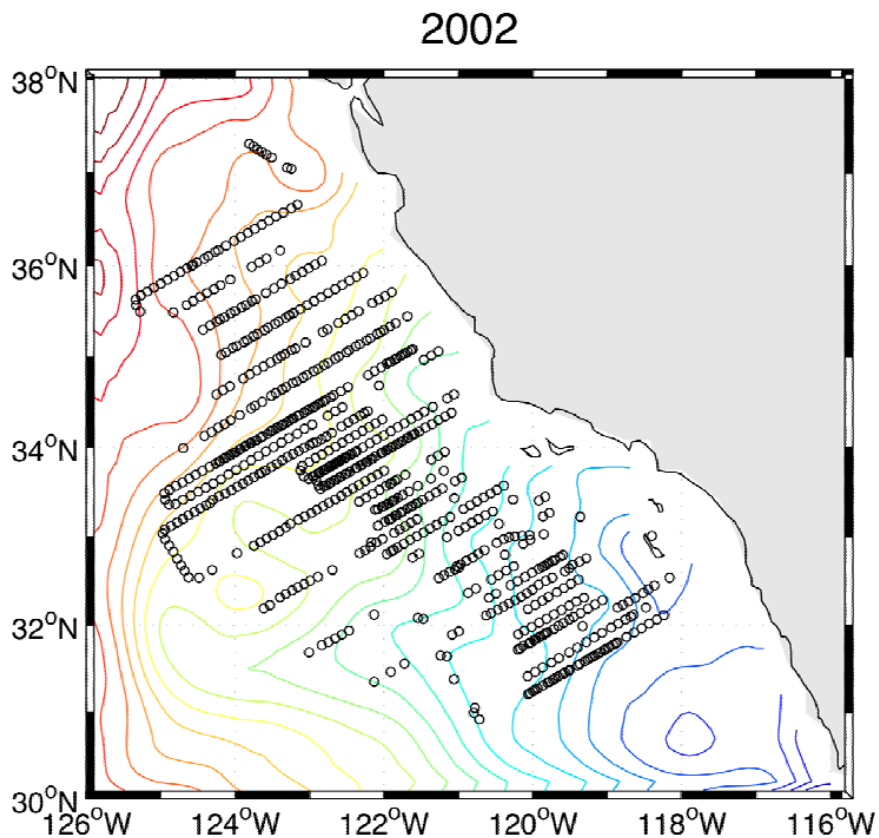
SST, 2003 April, warmer  
More eggs, close to coast

# Sardine Egg Distribution: April 2002 vs. 2003



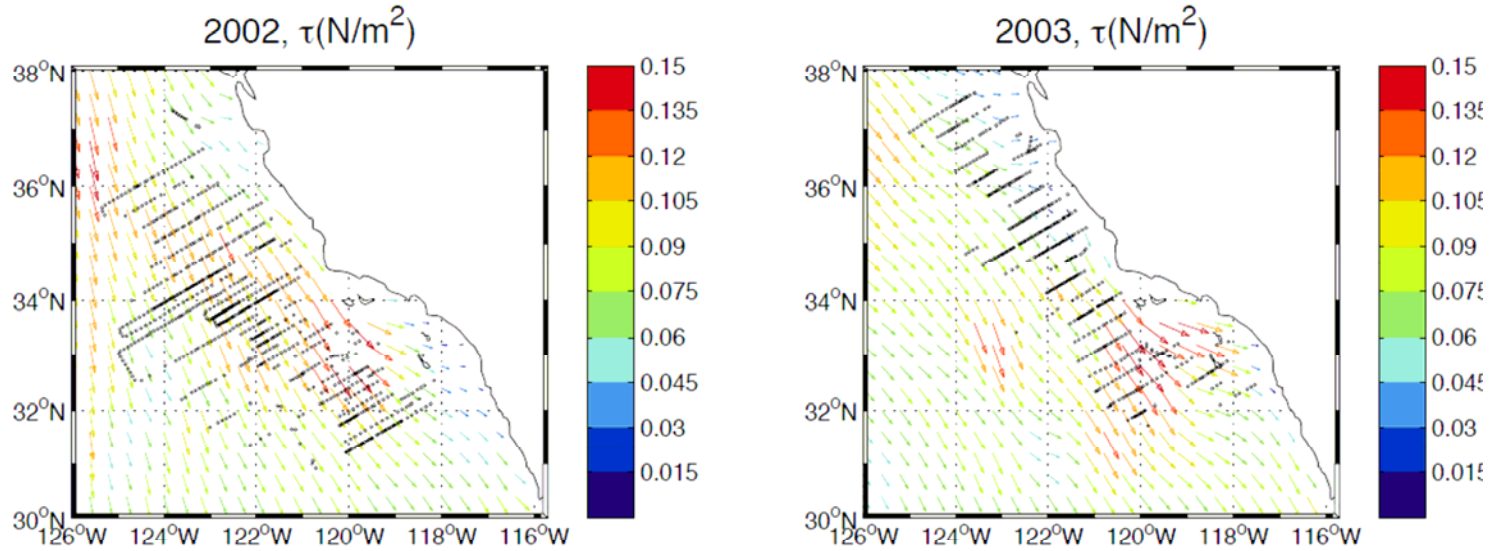
# Diagnostics of the Fits:

***Streamfunction*** indicates offshore flow in 2002,  
stronger alongshore flow in 2003

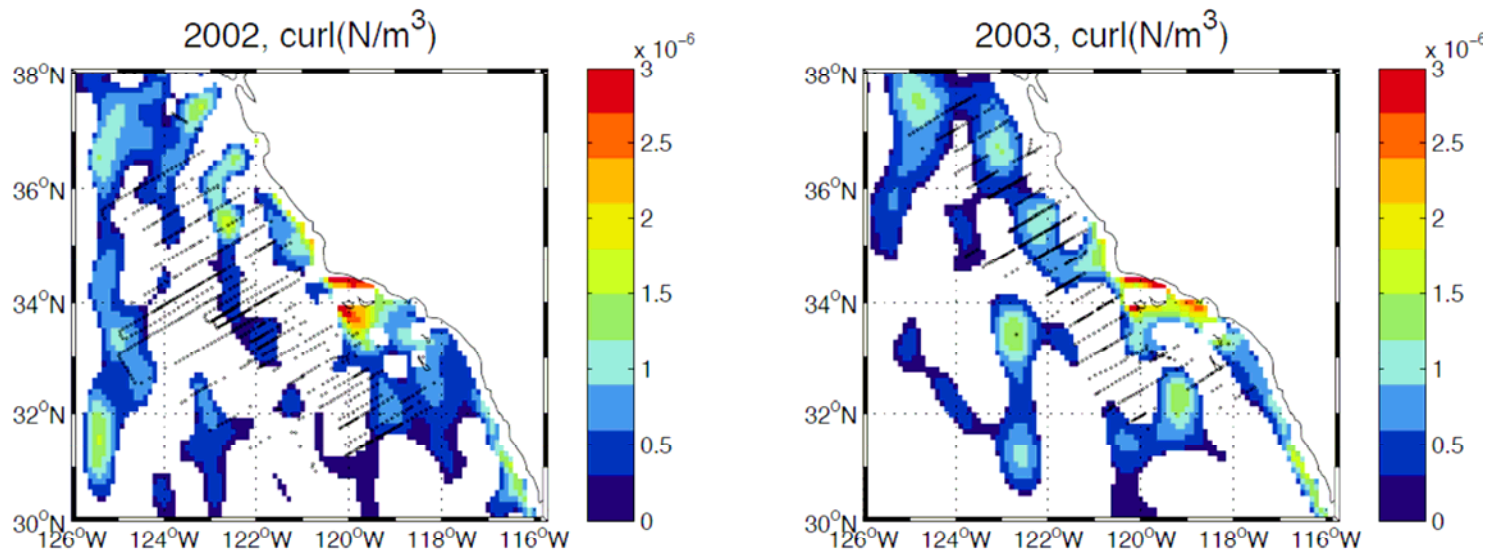


# Winds were stronger in 2002: offshore transport

## Wind stress curl similar for both years



Currently, diagnosing source waters of upwelling in the eddy fields....



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(Song, Miller, Cornuelle and Di Lorenzo, ARR special DAO issue, submitted, 2010)

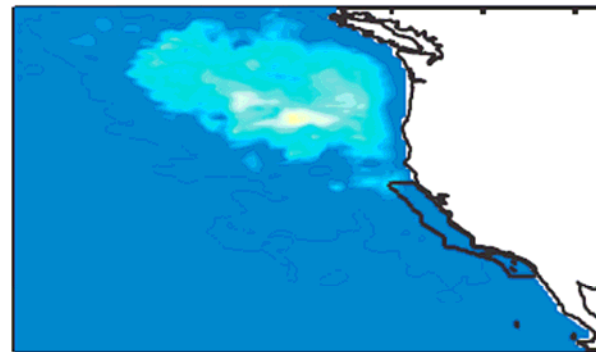


Adjoint *backward* runs of passive tracer in upwelling zone:  
Weaker upwelling winds cause **shallower** coastal upwelling cell  
(Chhak and Di Lorenzo, 2007)

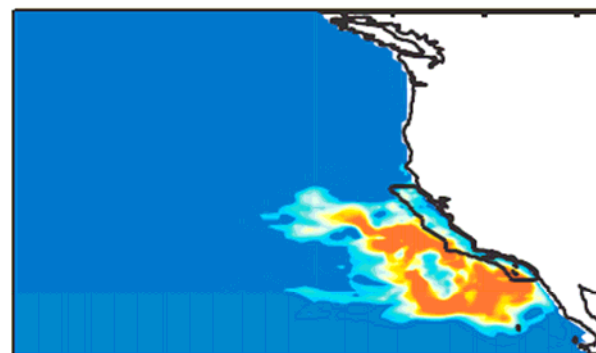
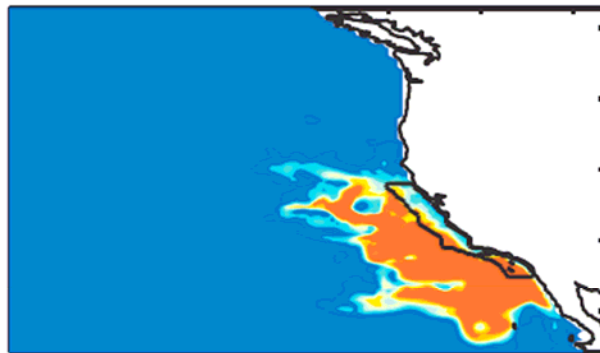
Negative PDO Phase



Positive PDO Phase



Surface layer  
transport into  
coastal upwelling  
zone



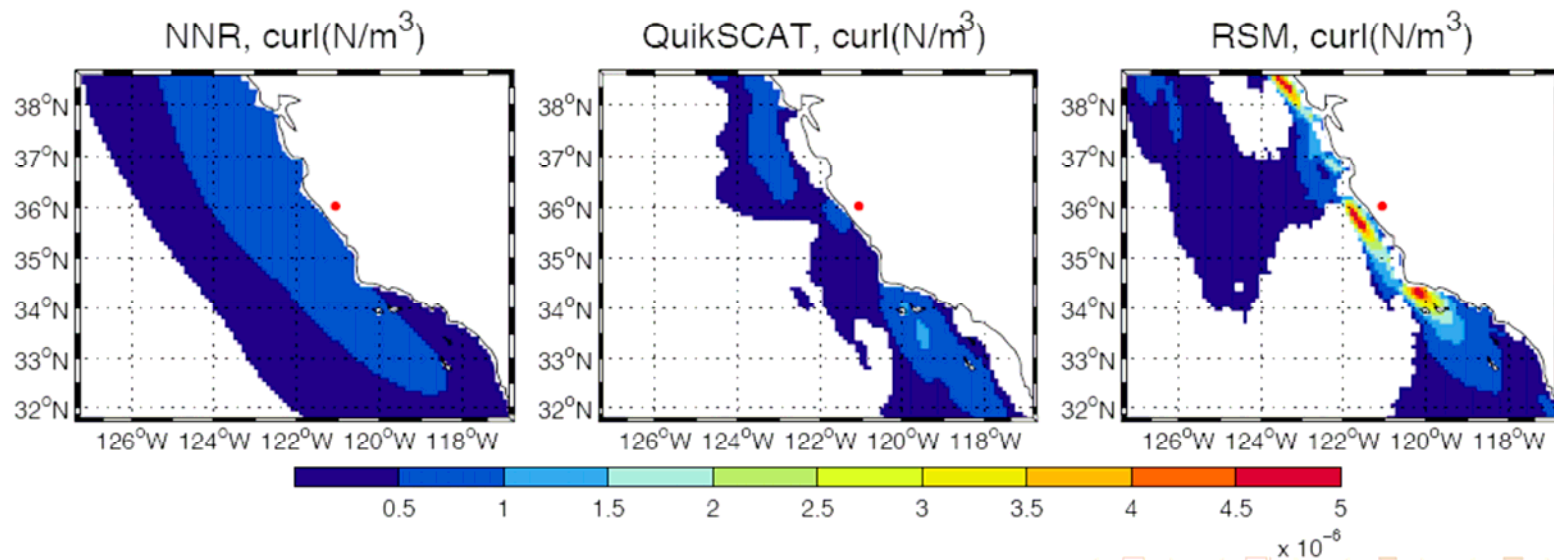
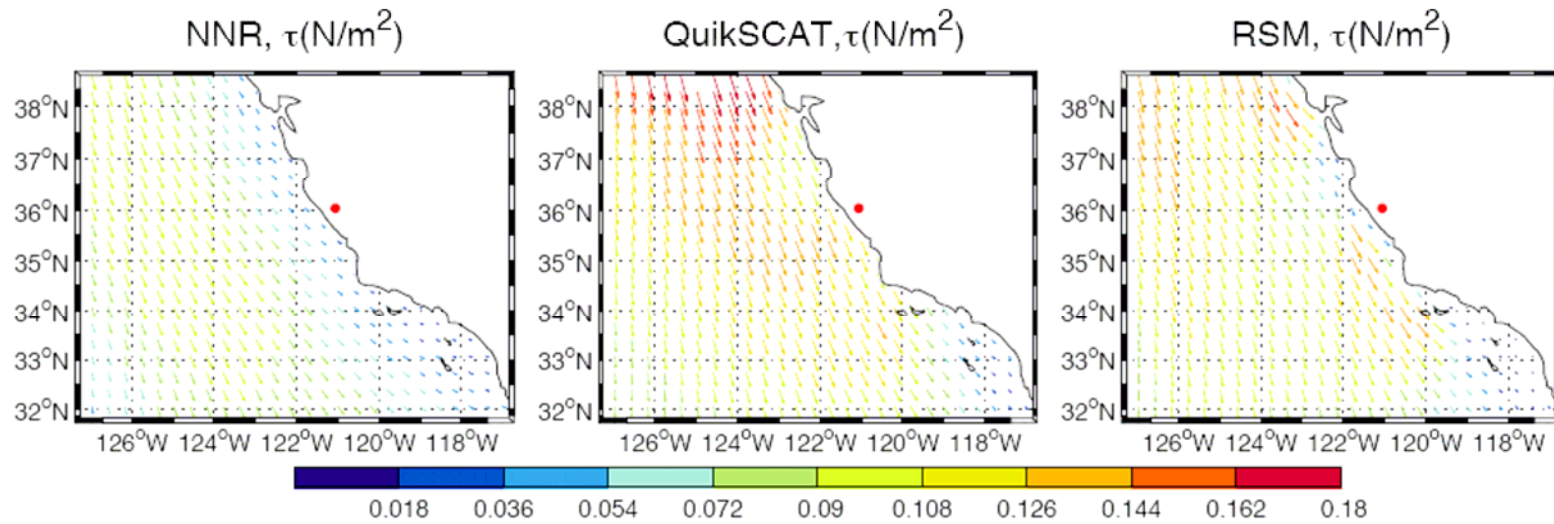
Mid-depth (150m)  
transport into  
coastal upwelling  
zone

More nutrient flux to surface

Less nutrient flux to surface

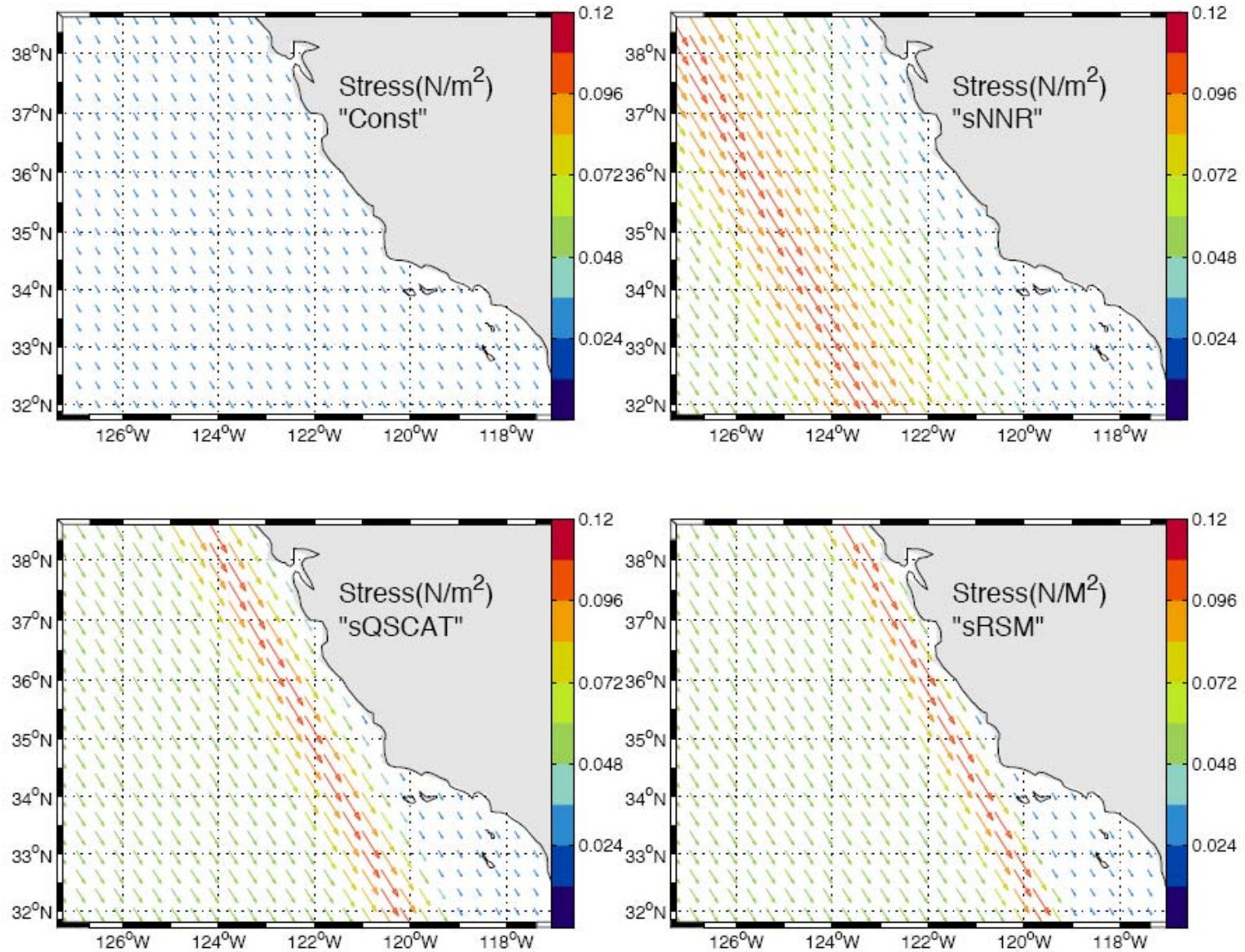
**How does the structure of the wind forcing affect the source of upwelled waters?**  
(Song, Miller, Cornuelle, and Di Lorenzo, 2010, in prep.)

Summertime mean wind fields

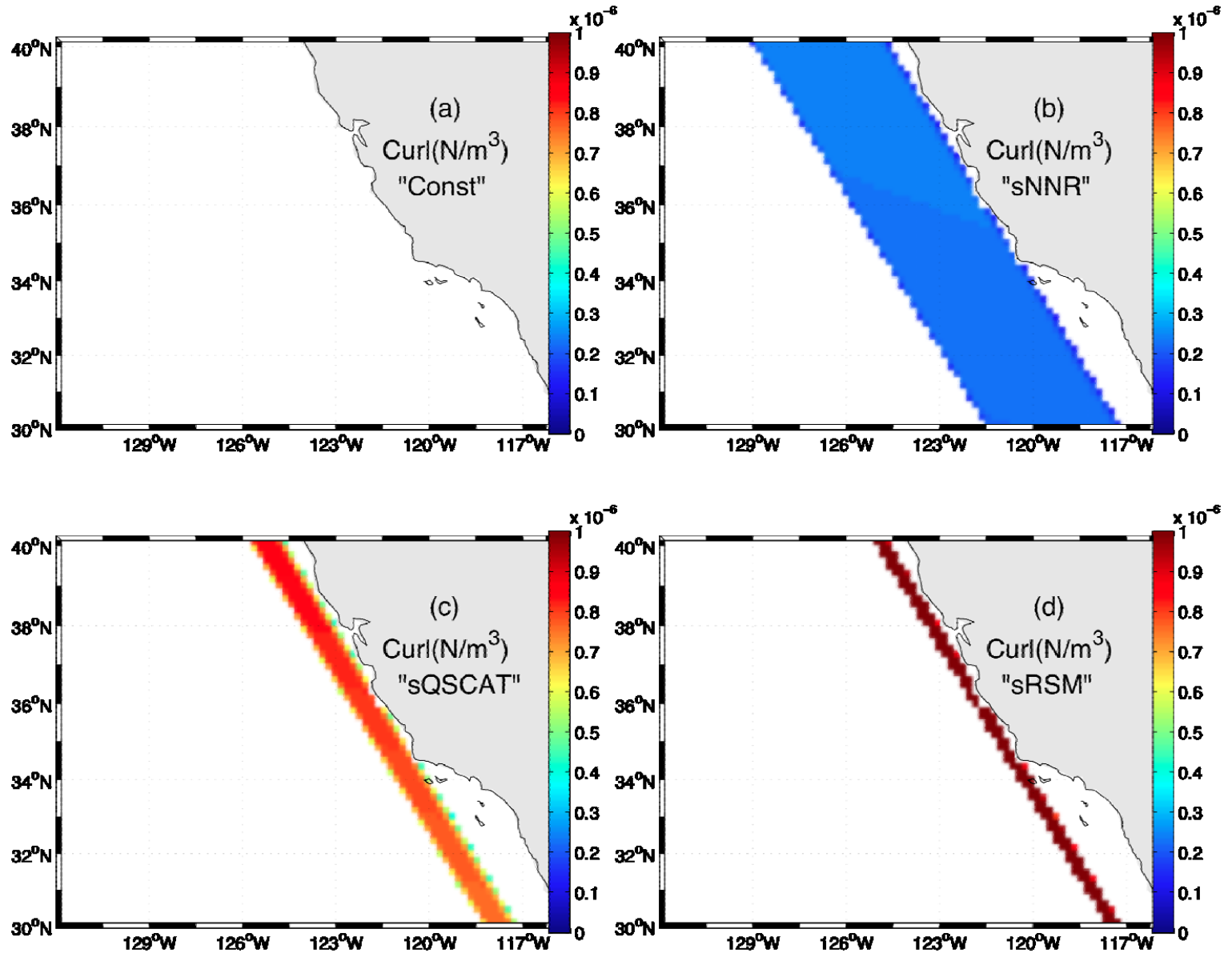




**Consider idealized wind forcings representing typical datasets**  
(Song, Miller, Cornuelle, and Di Lorenzo, 2010, in prep.)

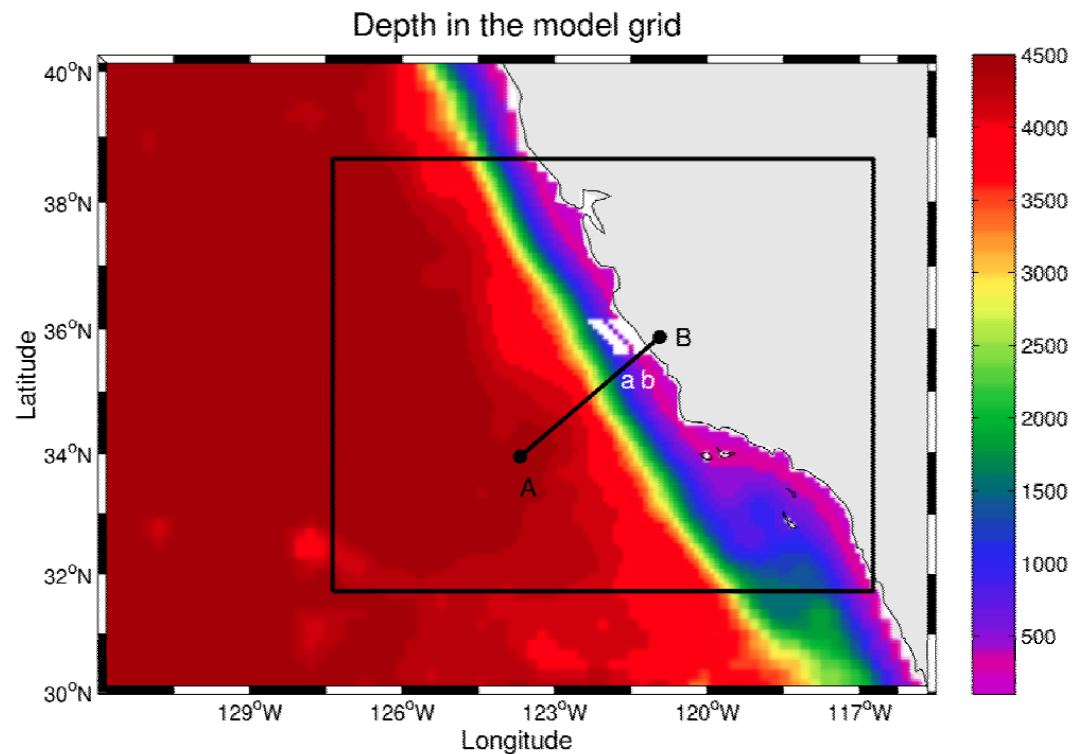


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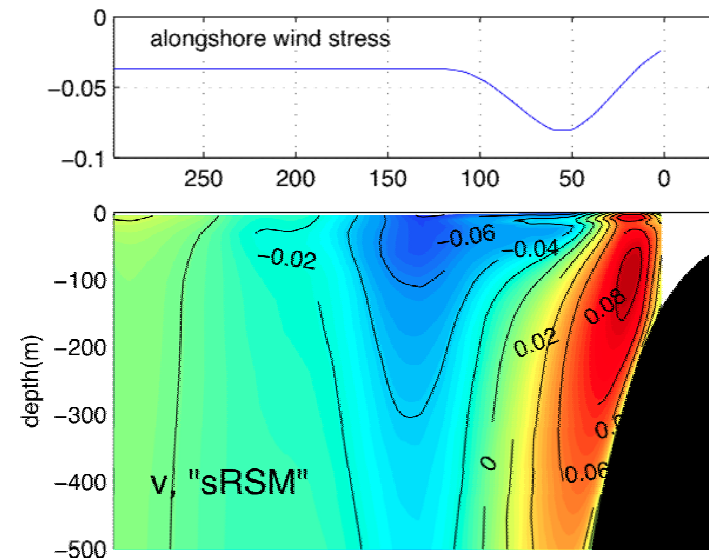
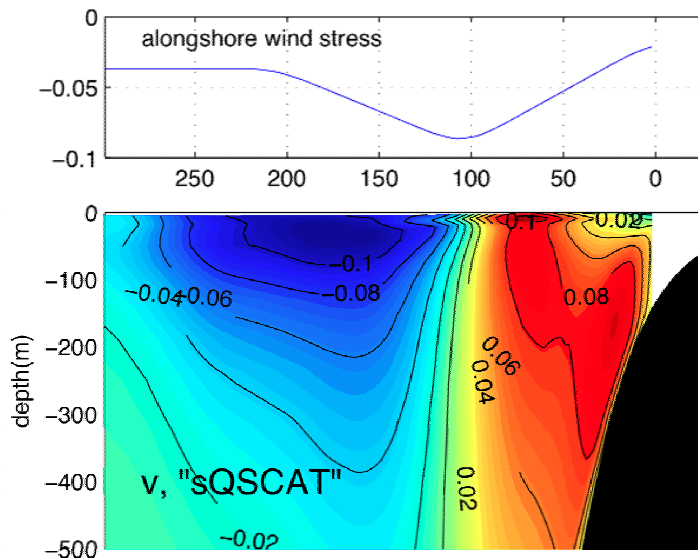
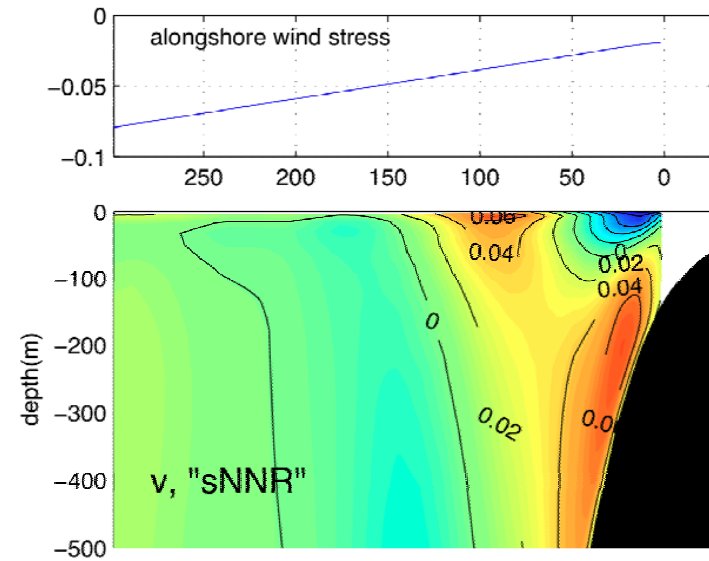
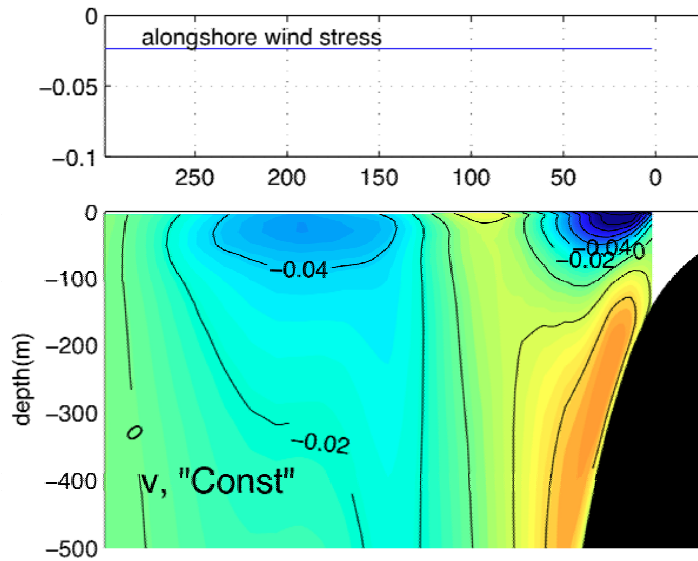


# Model domain and settings

- 6-year simulation and the last 5 years were considered.
- Passive tracers at white areas from the surface down to 10m
- 4 months of adjoint run during the upwelling season at each year

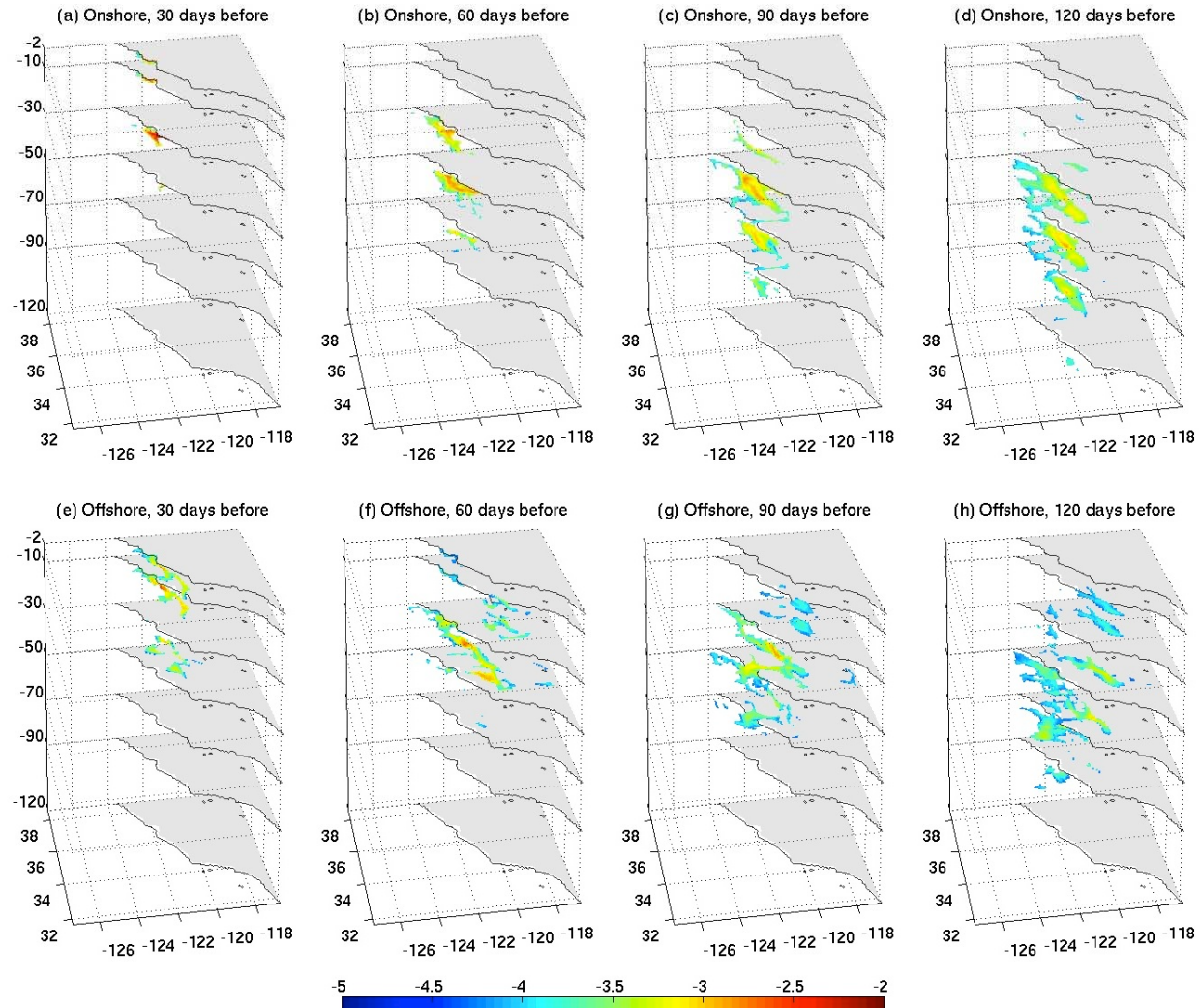


# Alongshore currents



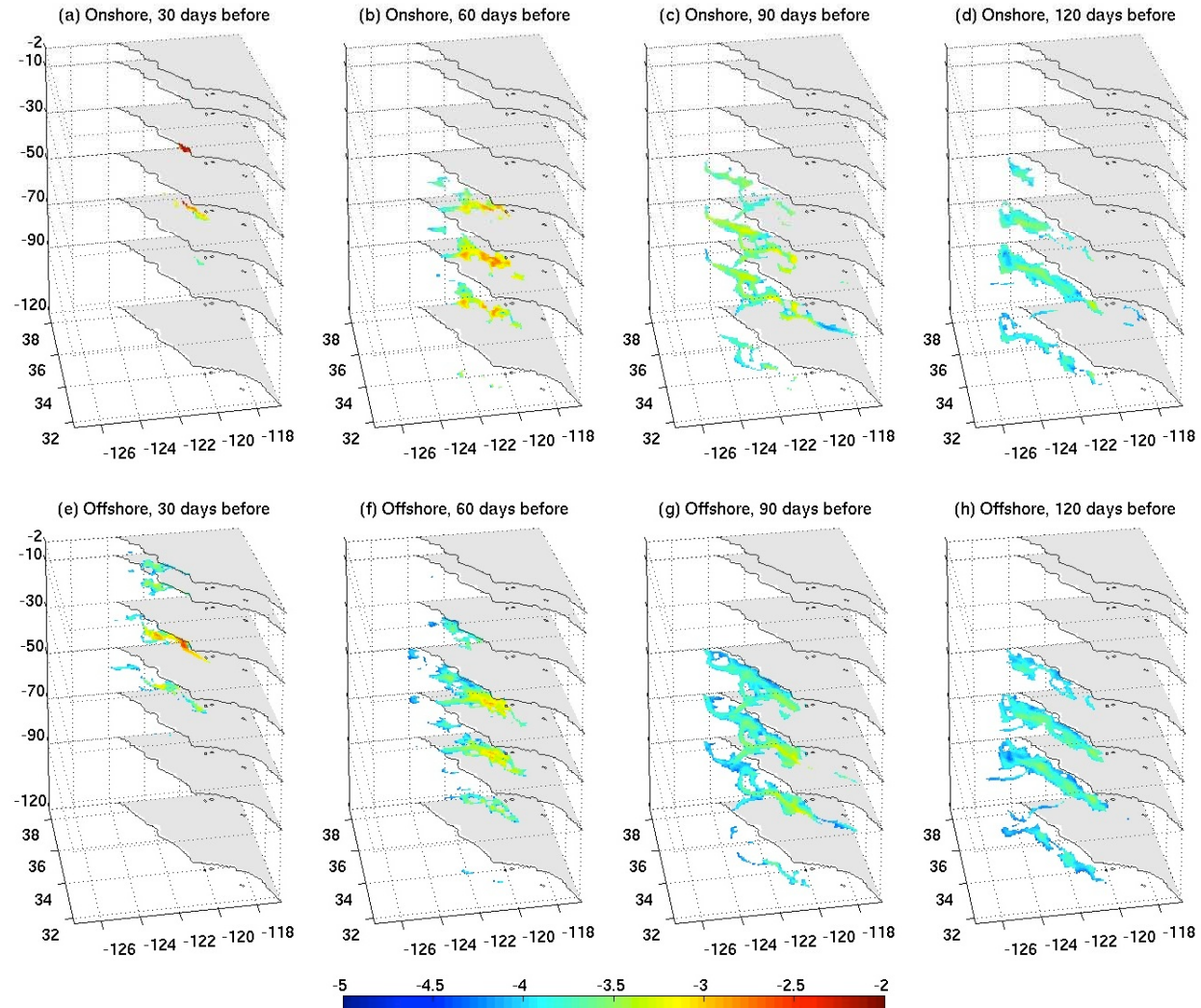
# Pseudo NCEP/NCAR wind case

$\text{Log}_{10}$  normalized passive tracer concentrations, wind : sNNR



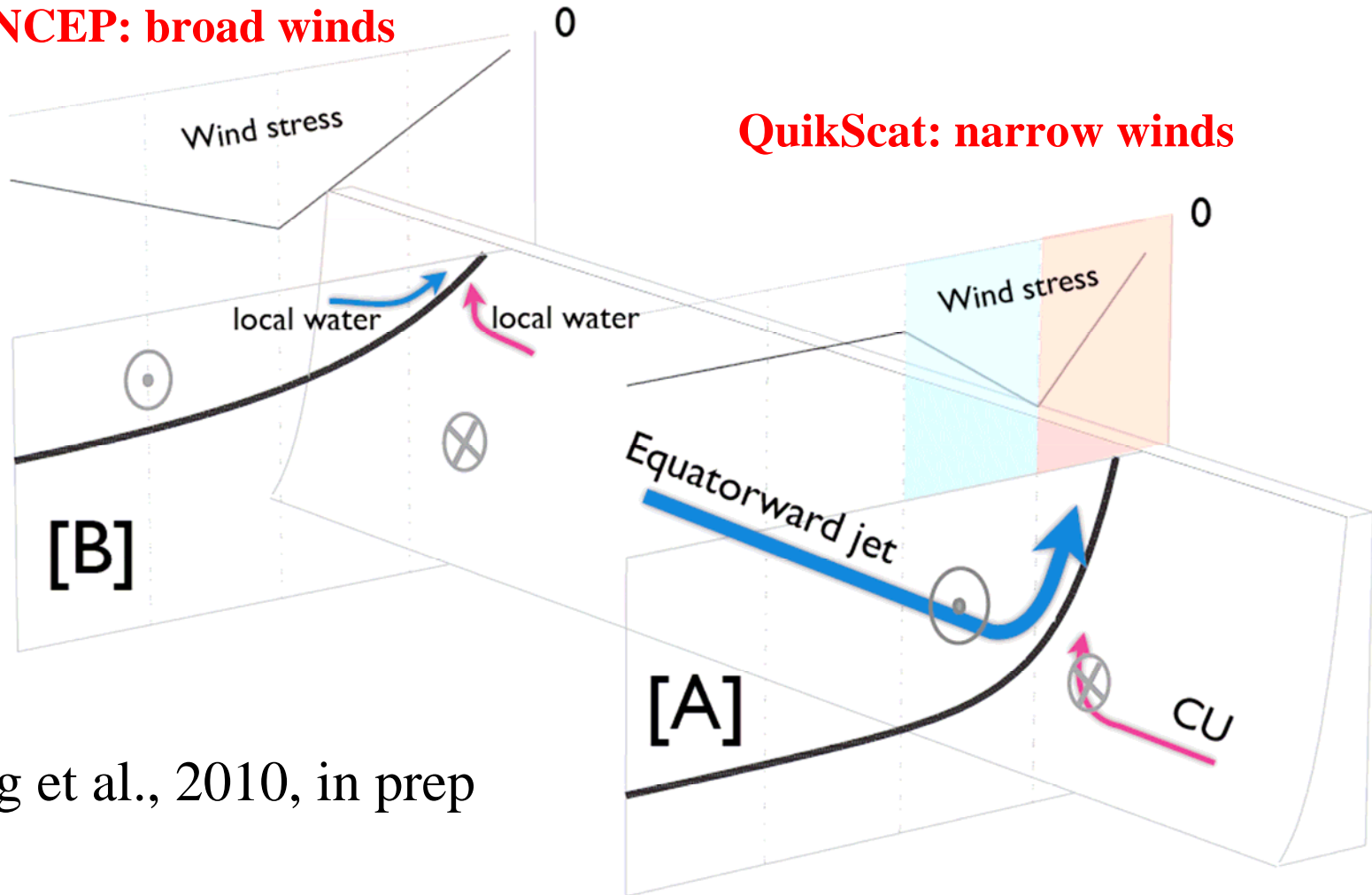
# Pseudo RSM wind case

$\text{Log}_{10}$  normalized passive tracer concentrations, wind : "sRSM"



**Schematic Summary:** Higher resolution wind forcing →  
Stronger wind stress and wind stress curl near the coast →  
Altered upwelling cells entrain water from the Cal Current and  
deeper from the Undercurrent

**NCEP: broad winds**



Song et al., 2010, in prep

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***IMUM***

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Thanks!

