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The Mediterranean Sea : a laboratory to study geophysical fluid mechanics and the impact of Climate on water masses and the thermohaline circulation.

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Due to its relatively small dimensions, its well defined boundary conditions, the Mediterranean Sea is an idealistic place to observe, study and monitor some of the major physical processes occurring in the global ocean such as strait dynamics, deep water formation. We present some pertinent physical phenomena recently analyzed in the Mediterranean.

Besides, due to the fact that the overturning time of Mediterranean Waters is small, we can expect to detect trends related to climatic changes. This last point is discussed from observations and modeling studies.