



The Work Done by the Wind on the Oceanic General Circulation: IPCC-AR4 Model's Intercomparison

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About 2TW of energy is needed to sustain the observed large scale oceanic circulation. Half of this energy is thought to be provided by the wind blowing over the sea-surface. We use wind-stress and sea-surface elevation data from the control run of the IPCC-AR4 models to estimate the model spread in computing the work done by the wind on the oceanic general circulation.