



Interannual variability in the Mozambique Channel

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As of 2000 an array of moorings is being maintained across the narrow section of the Mozambique Channel, around 17S, as part of the Dutch LOCO programme (Long Term Ocean Climate Observations). It involves continuous current, temperature and salinity observations over the full depth and width of the Channel. The LOCO section was also covered 4 times by hydrographic ship-borne observations. The combined data show inter-annual variability in the upper (about 300m) layer with a strong persistent salinity anomaly over the years 2000-2001. This variability is probably related to continuous cyclonic wind stress curl anomalies over the same period and associated stronger upwelling over the region northeast of Madagascar. The upwelled more saline upper layer water is then transported into the Channel.