



Distribution, variability and spreading of intermediate water masses in the Eastern North Atlantic and in the Bay of Biscay.

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Intermediate waters in the northeastern Atlantic around the Iberian Peninsula form a transitional area subjected to the confluence of waters with Mediterranean (MW) and Labrador Sea (LSW) components. In this work we present the distribution and variability of these intermediate water masses from historical data (1900-2007). Additionally, hydrographic and currentmeter data from the Spanish Deep Standard Sections and VACLAN projects (SDSS, <http://www.vaclan-ieo.es/>) have been used to detect recent departures in the water properties from the climatological mean. These data also permitted to estimate the arrival of LSW to the western Iberian margin as well as the mixing and spreading patterns of these two water components. Based on these, a new pathway for the southward transport of LSW west of the Charcott Seamounts towards the Galician Bank is suggested.