

Moored Time Series Measurements of the Vertical Structure of Optical Properties in the Coastal Ocean

Tommy D. Dickey
Ocean Physics Laboratory
University of California at Santa Barbara
6487 Calle Real, Suite A
Goleta, CA 93117

phone: (805) 893-7354 fax: (805) 967-5704 email: tommy@icess.ucsb.edu
Award #: N00014-96-1-0669/N00014-98-1-0508 (AASERT)

LONG-TERM GOALS

The overall goal of our work is to establish and quantify physical and particle relationships via optical properties as part of the ONR Coastal Mixing and Optics (CMO) program. Specific goals of our research are: 1) to better understand the problem of vertical mixing and transport of particles, 2) to obtain new observations which will enable us to examine and model important processes (both periodic and episodic) that affect the distributions of optical properties and particle concentrations, and 3) to improve the interpretation and facilitate the utilization of emerging optical measurements taken in coastal waters.

SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of our research is to determine how particles and optical properties respond to physical forcing under various oceanic conditions on a broad continental shelf off the east coast of the U.S. Specific objectives are:

- 1) To quantify the variability of optical and physical properties at time scales as short as a few minutes. Our data sets allow us to compute: power spectra, coherence, and phase functions of time series of spectral beam attenuation coefficient, spectral scattering coefficient, and spectral absorption coefficient, estimated particle concentration, chlorophyll fluorescence, temperature, salinity, and horizontal currents. The physical and optical data are being integrated with those of other groups for joint analyses directed toward physical aspects,
- 2) To relate physical processes (e.g., wind forced waves, mixing activity, internal and inertial waves, solitary waves, tides, advection, etc.) to observed optical variability,
- 3) To distinguish the difference between optical variability associated with waves opposed to mixing events,
- 4) To make general distinctions among particle types and to partition their origin (e.g., biogenic from euphotic layer versus resuspended sediment),
- 5) To relate optical and particle variability near the ocean bottom to physical processes affecting sediment resuspension, and

Report Documentation Page

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

1. REPORT DATE 1998	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED 00-00-1998 to 00-00-1998			
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Moored Time Series Measurements of the Vertical Structure of Optical Properties in the Coastal Ocean		5a. CONTRACT NUMBER			
		5b. GRANT NUMBER			
		5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER			
6. AUTHOR(S)		5d. PROJECT NUMBER			
		5e. TASK NUMBER			
		5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER			
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) University of California at Santa Barbara, Ocean Physics Laboratory, 6487 Calle Real, Suite A, Goleta, CA, 93117		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER			
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)		10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)			
		11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)			
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES See also ADM002252.					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 3	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

6) To provide time series (at several depths) of physical and optical properties to complement vertical microstructure measurements (optical and physical) to set the context for these observations and model development.

APPROACH

Our approach has been to simultaneously collect time series of optical and physical data from several depths using a variety of newly developed optical (e.g., spectral capability) and physical instruments placed on a mooring at a mid-shelf location (Mid-Atlantic Bight, roughly 40.5N, 70.5W). Our choice of optical parameters enables the interpretation of the data in terms of different optically important components of seawater (biogenic particles and non-biogenic particles). We deployed 3 moored instrument packages (approximately 10, 30, and 50m) on a mid-shelf mooring (water depth of roughly 70m) and a fourth on a bottom tripod (within about 2m of the bottom). A total of 4 deployments were conducted between July 8, 1996 and June 11, 1997 with temporal resolution of a few minutes to one hour.

WORK COMPLETED

All four deployments of the mooring, first order data analyses, and data reports have been completed. One publication is in press (GRL) and another is in review. Other manuscripts are in preparation. Highlight data may be viewed on our web site (<http://www.icess.ucsb.edu/opl/cmo.html>).

RESULTS

A remarkable data set with a very high percentage of data return has been collected. The eye of Hurricane passed within roughly 110km of our mooring (site is on 70m isobath) on September 1-2, 1996 and soon after Hurricane Hortense passed within roughly 350km of our mooring on September 14, 1996 (Dickey et al., 1998). With the passage of Edouard, the mixed layer deepened very rapidly with temperature differences from the top to bottom (68m) decreasing from 12degC to about 2 degC. Sediment resuspension was dramatic as well and is easily seen in all optical data, including the ac-9 data. The resuspension event is evident from 68m up to the 37m depth. Surprisingly, Hortense's passage resulted in significant sediment resuspension despite its relatively great distance from the mooring site. Internal solitary waves (ISWs) were ubiquitous during our observations (Chang et al. 1998a). Some ISW packets show a strong correspondence in chlorophyll fluorescence and/or beam attenuation, while others do not. We are presently studying this aspect of the data sets. In addition, partitioning of spectral absorption between phytoplankton, detrital, and dissolved components has been accomplished using a hybrid model (Chang and Dickey, 1998b,c). Other areas of study include the complete seasonal cycle of bio-optical and physical variability and the occurrence of fronts and intrusions and their relations to optical property distributions. Please see web site <http://www.icess.ucsb.edu/opl/cmo.html>.

IMPACT/APPLICATION

It is evident that the data collected during the two hurricanes are very unique and will be most valuable for understanding major episodic perturbation of the optical properties of the coastal ocean. Sediment resuspension, modification of biomass constituents, and productivity will all be topics of intense study and modeling using this rich data set along with complementary data collected by

CMO/PRIMER colleagues. The roles of ISWs and fronts and intrusions in affecting optical signatures are other important aspects of the work, which will have high impacts we believe.

TRANSITIONS

The results of our work (see impacts above) should be of interest to several levels of Navy interest.

RELATED PROJECTS

Our study is highly complementary to other CMO/PRIMER activities. Several other moorings and another bottom tripod sampled in the vicinity of our mooring. A variety of shipboard (profile and SeaSoar) and satellite observations also complement our measurements. Our high resolution time series will be beneficial for the vertical and horizontal mixing efforts along with remote sensing activities and vice versa.

REFERENCES

Chang, G.C., T.D. Dickey, J. McNeil, M. Levine, L. Redekopp, D. Bogucki, and T. Boyd, 1998a, Internal solitary waves and optical variability during the Coastal Mixing and Optics experiment, Ocean Optics, accepted.

Chang, G.C. and Dickey, T.D., 1998b, Partitioning of spectral absorption during the Coastal Mixing and Optics experiment, manuscript in review.

Chang, G.C. and T.D. Dickey, 1998c, High temporal resolution spectral absorption measurements during the Coastal Mixing and Optics experiment, Ocean Optics, accepted.

Dickey, T.D., G.C. Chang, Y.C. Agrawal, A.J. Williams, 3rd, and P.S. Hill, 1998, Sediment resuspension in the wakes of Hurricanes Edouard and Hortense, in press, Geophysical Research Letters.

web site <http://www.icess.ucsb.edu/opl/cmo.html>