

Highlights of the manuscript “Temporal variability of the Circumpolar Deep Water inflow onto the Ross Sea continental shelf by Castagno et al.

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- Spatial and temporal variability of CDW inflow onto the shelf were characterized.
- Two cores of mCDW intruding over the Ross Sea shelf were detected
- Strong seasonal and interannual variability of mCDW intrusions was observed.
- Variability of the mCDW inflow is tide related.
- Modification of the tidal ellipses orientation before and after 2010 was noticed.

1 **Temporal variability of the Circumpolar Deep Water inflow onto the**  
2 **Ross Sea continental shelf**

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12 **Keywords**

13 Cross-shelf exchange; Warm water intrusion; Tidal mixing

14 **Abstract**

15 The intrusion of Circumpolar Deep Water (CDW) is the primary source of heat, salt and  
16 nutrients onto Antarctica's continental shelves and plays a major role in the shelf physical  
17 and biological processes.

18 Different studies have analyzed the processes responsible for the transport of CDW  
19 across the Ross Sea shelf break, but until now, there are no continuous observations that  
20 investigate the timing of the intrusions. Also, few works have focused on the effect of the  
21 tides that control these intrusions.

22 In the Ross Sea, the CDW intrudes onto the shelf in several locations, but mostly along the  
23 troughs.

24 We use hydrographic observations and a mooring placed on the outer shelf in the middle  
25 of the Drygalski Trough in order to characterize the spatial and temporal variability of CDW  
26 inflow onto the shelf. Our data span from 2004 to the beginning of 2014.

27 In the Drygalski Trough, the CDW enters as a 150 m thick layer between 250 and 400 m,  
28 and moves upward towards the south. At the mooring location, about 50 km from the shelf  
29 break, two main CDW cores can be observed: one on the east side of the trough  
30 spreading along the west slope of Mawson Bank from about 200 m to the bottom and the  
31 other one in the central-west side from 200 m to about 350 m depth.

32 A signature of this lighter and relatively warm water is detected by the instruments on the  
33 mooring at bottom of the Drygalski Trough. The intermittent CDW intrusion at the bottom of  
34 the trough is strictly related to the diurnal and spring/neap tidal cycles.

35 At lower frequency, a seasonal variability of the CDW intrusion is noticed. A strong inflow  
36 of CDW is observed every year at the end of December, while the CDW inflow is at its  
37 seasonal minimum during the beginning of the austral fall. In addition an interannual  
38 variability is also evident. A change of the CDW intrusion before and after 2010 is  
39 observed.

## 40 **1 Introduction**

41 The exchanges of water between the open ocean and the continental shelves around  
42 Antarctica play a key role in the global ocean circulation, biogeochemical cycling of carbon  
43 and nutrients and the mass balance of the ice sheets.

44 Cold and dense shelf water leaves the continental shelf in some locations (such as the  
45 Ross Sea), ventilating the abyssal oceans and participating in Antarctic Bottom Water

46 (AABW) formation. AABW is a key component in the global thermohaline circulation (Orsi  
47 et al., 1999, 2002; Jacobs, 2004; Johnson, 2008).

48 Meanwhile, the Circumpolar Deep Water (CDW), a relatively warm and salty, low  
49 oxygenated and rich in nutrients water mass, intrudes over the shelf. The inflow of this  
50 warm water onto the Antarctic continental shelves has a great influence on the heat, salt  
51 and nutrient budget of the coastal ocean and is a potential heat source for the ice shelf  
52 basal melt (Rignot and Jacobs, 2002; Pritchard et al., 2012). In addition, the intrusion of  
53 CDW has also an important role in AABW formation (Foster and Carmack, 1976; Nicholls  
54 et al., 2009; Whitworth and Orsi 2006, Budillon et al. 2011).

55 Because of the characteristics of the bottom topography, the Western Ross Sea is  
56 believed to be a preferable site for CDW onshore intrusions (Dinniman et al., 2003; Klinck  
57 and Dinniman, 2010). In particular, they observed that CDW intrudes onto the shelf at sites  
58 where the bottom topography changes direction relative to the slope flow.

59 CDW enters over the shelf near the shelf break and mixes with the Antarctic Slope Front  
60 (ASF), a strong, variable boundary between open sea and shelf waters (Jacobs and  
61 Giulivi, 2010), characterized by a cold, fresh, V-shaped westward current (Gill 1973).

62 The mixing of CDW with the Antarctic slope current and the shelf waters over the slope  
63 and outer shelf forms a different water mass found on the continental shelf defined as  
64 modified Circumpolar Deep Water (mCDW).

65 The most energetic processes that help the intrusion of CDW over the shelf and contribute  
66 to the formation of mCDW through mixing are the tides (Whithworth and Orsi, 2006;  
67 Padman et al., 2009). The tidal currents in the Ross Sea are predominantly diurnal and  
68 essentially barotropic (Robertson, 2005; Padman et al., 2009). At the shelf break, the tidal  
69 currents are associated principally with diurnal topographically trapped waves (Robertson,  
70 2005; Padman et al., 2009).

71 Different studies have focused their attention on the inflow of the CDW onto the Ross Sea  
72 continental shelf (Budillion et al., 2003; Dinniman et al., 2003; Klinck and Dinniman, 2010;  
73 Dinniman et al., 2011; Kohut et al., 2013), but there are no works (using both observational  
74 and model data) that we know of that have investigated the seasonal and interannual  
75 variability of this inflow.

76 In this paper we use hydrographic observations and a 10 year time series in the Drygalski  
77 Trough (DT) to describe the spatial variability of CDW inflow onto the North West Ross  
78 Sea continental shelf and the temporal variability of this intrusion from the daily to the  
79 interannual time scales. Furthermore, we investigate the relationship of this variability with  
80 the tidal forcing.

## 81 **2 Data and Methods**

### 82 **2.1 CTD data**

83 Hydrographic profiles were collected during two oceanographic surveys during January  
84 2006 and 2012. The CTD casts were made along two sections shown in Figure 1.  
85 Transect A is made only in 2006, while transect B is made for both years (2006 and 2012).

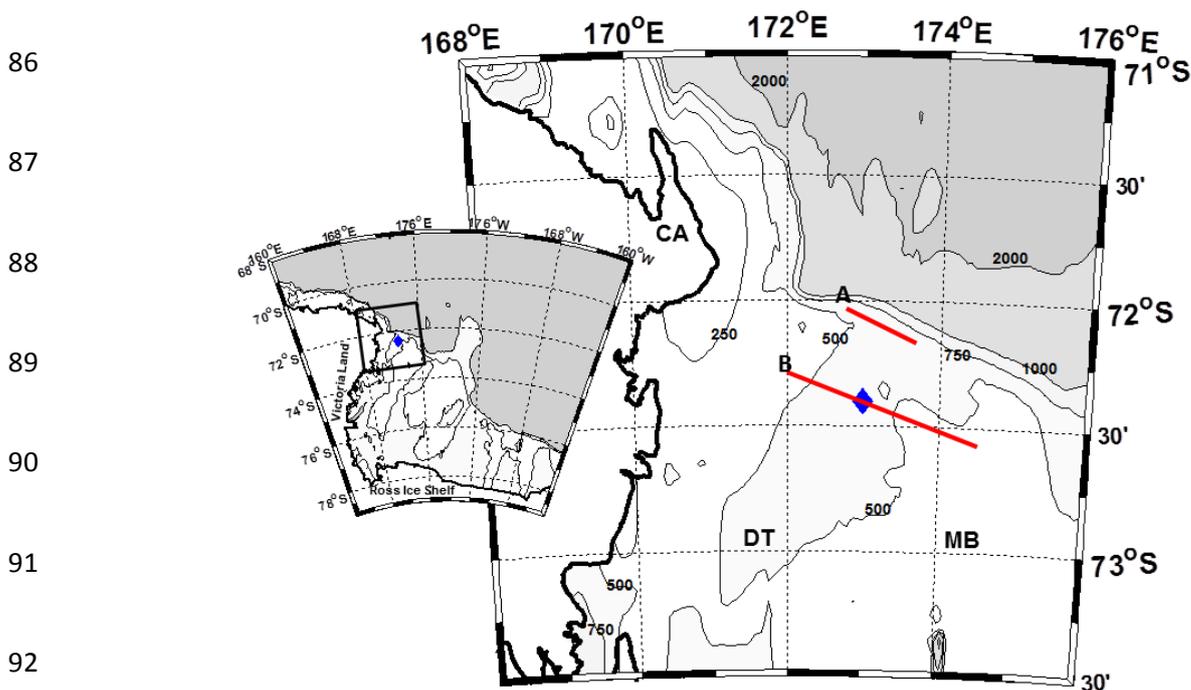


Figure 1: Map of the western Ross Sea with bottom topography in meters. The transects A and B discussed in the text are shown by the red lines. The blue diamond indicates the mooring position. Locations of geographic features discussed in the text are also indicated: Cape Adare (CA), Drygalski Trough (DT) and Mawson Bank (MB).

93 The CTD data were obtained using a Sea-Bird Electronics SBE 9/11+. The CTD was  
94 equipped with dual temperature-conductivity sensors flushed by a pump at constant rate.  
95 Calibrations were performed before and after the cruises. Data were acquired at the  
96 maximum frequency (24 Hz). The CTD temperature calibration was checked during  
97 cruises with SIS RTM4200 digital reversing platinum thermometers. At every station,  
98 several samples of water at different depths and salinity ranges were collected and  
99 analyzed on board using an Autosal Guideline salinometer. Typical errors were about  
100  $\pm 0.003$  °C for temperature and 0.005 for salinity. Hydrographic data were corrected and  
101 processed according to international procedures (UNESCO, 1988). Standard algorithms  
102 (UNESCO, 1983) were used to compute quantities such as  $\theta$  and  $S$ , while  $\gamma^n$  (neutral  
103 density) was computed using the Jackett and McDougall (1997) algorithm.

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## 105 **2.2 LADCP data**

106 A Lowered Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (LADCP) was used during the 2005/06 and  
107 2011/12 cruises. In this paper we show only the results for the transect closest to the shelf  
108 break (2005/06 campaign only) in order to emphasize the flow characteristics as close to  
109 the shelf break as possible.

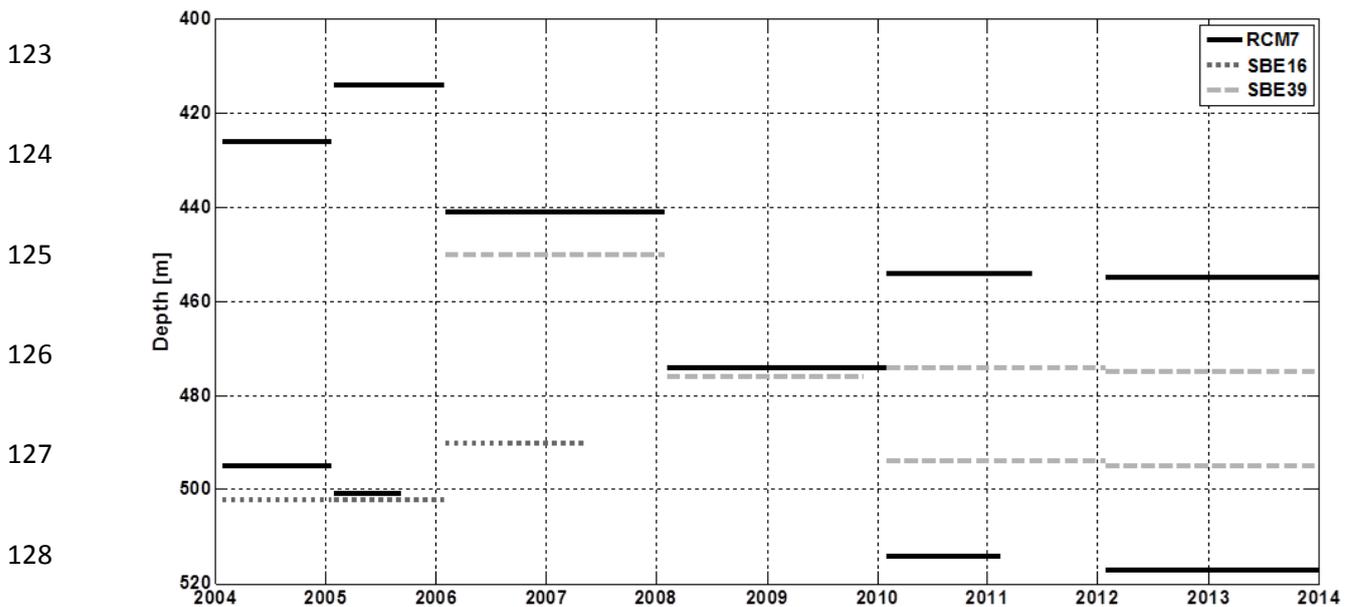
110 The LADCP was composed of two RDI Workhorse 300 kHz ADCP heads mounted on the  
111 SBE carousel, one directed upward and the other downward. The two ADCP were set up  
112 to work simultaneously, pinging at a maximum rate of about three times per second. To  
113 extrapolate the velocity profiles we used the methodology described by Visbeck (2001).

114 In this paper we decomposed the LADCP current velocity into cross-section (normal to the  
115 shelf break –  $u_x$ ) and along-section ( $u_a$ ) components.

116

117 **2.3 Mooring data**

118 A mooring was deployed in the center of the DT at about 50 km from the shelf break  
119 between 2004 and 2014 (See Figure 1 for the mooring position). The mooring was  
120 equipped with current meters (Aanderaa RCM7), temperature and conductivity sensors  
121 (SBE-SeaCat 16 and 39). The mooring had different configurations in different years  
122 (Figure 2).



129 Figure 2: Operation periods for the mooring deployed in the middle of the Drygalski Trough discussed in the text. The different gray lines indicate the instrument type (see legend, upper right).

130 The accuracy of the individual speed and direction measurements of the Aanderaa RCM7  
131 is  $\pm 1 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  and  $\pm 5^\circ$ , respectively. Systematic errors may occur in the RCM7 time series at  
132 very low speeds ( $< 1 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ ); however, measured speeds in the present data set were  
133 always well above this threshold level and so we assume errors from this source are  
134 negligible. The accuracy of SBE-SeaCat 16 and 39 (temperature only) sensors was  
135 checked against CTD casts before and after deployments. See Figure 2 for the operational  
136 periods of the different instruments.

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## 139 **2.4 Wavelet analysis**

140 Fourier analysis reveals frequencies present in the whole time series, but does not have  
141 any information on aperiodic events (Kantha and Clayson, 2000). Here, we have used the  
142 wavelet analysis (Morlet et al. 1982; Morlet 1983; Meyers et al., 1993; Fofoula-Georgiou  
143 and Kumar 1995; Burrus et al., 1998; Grinsted et al., 2004; Budillon et al. 2011) to expand  
144 the time series into time-frequency space. With this analysis, it is therefore possible to find  
145 localized intermittent events (Grinsted et. al., 2004) such as seasonal major intrusions of  
146 mCDW.

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## 148 **2.5 Water masses classification**

149 Following Orsi and Wiederwohl (2009), we defined the principal water masses (analyzed in  
150 this study) of the Ross Sea using both thermohaline parameters (Salinity  $S$ , and potential  
151 temperatures  $\theta$ ) and neutral density ( $\gamma^n$ ) (Jackett and McDougall, 1997): Antarctic Surface  
152 Water (AASW;  $\gamma^n < 28.00 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ , and  $S < 34.30$ ); Shelf Water (SW;  $\gamma^n > 28.27 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$  and  
153  $\theta < -1.85^\circ \text{ C}$ ); High Salinity Shelf Water (HSSW;  $\gamma^n > 28.27 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ ,  $\theta \approx -1.85^\circ \text{ C}$  and  $S >$   
154  $34.62$ ); AABW ( $\gamma^n > 28.27 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$  and  $\theta > -1.85^\circ \text{ C}$ ); CDW ( $\gamma^n > 28.00 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$  and  $\theta > 1.2$ );  
155 and mCDW ( $28.00 < \gamma^n < 28.27 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ ).

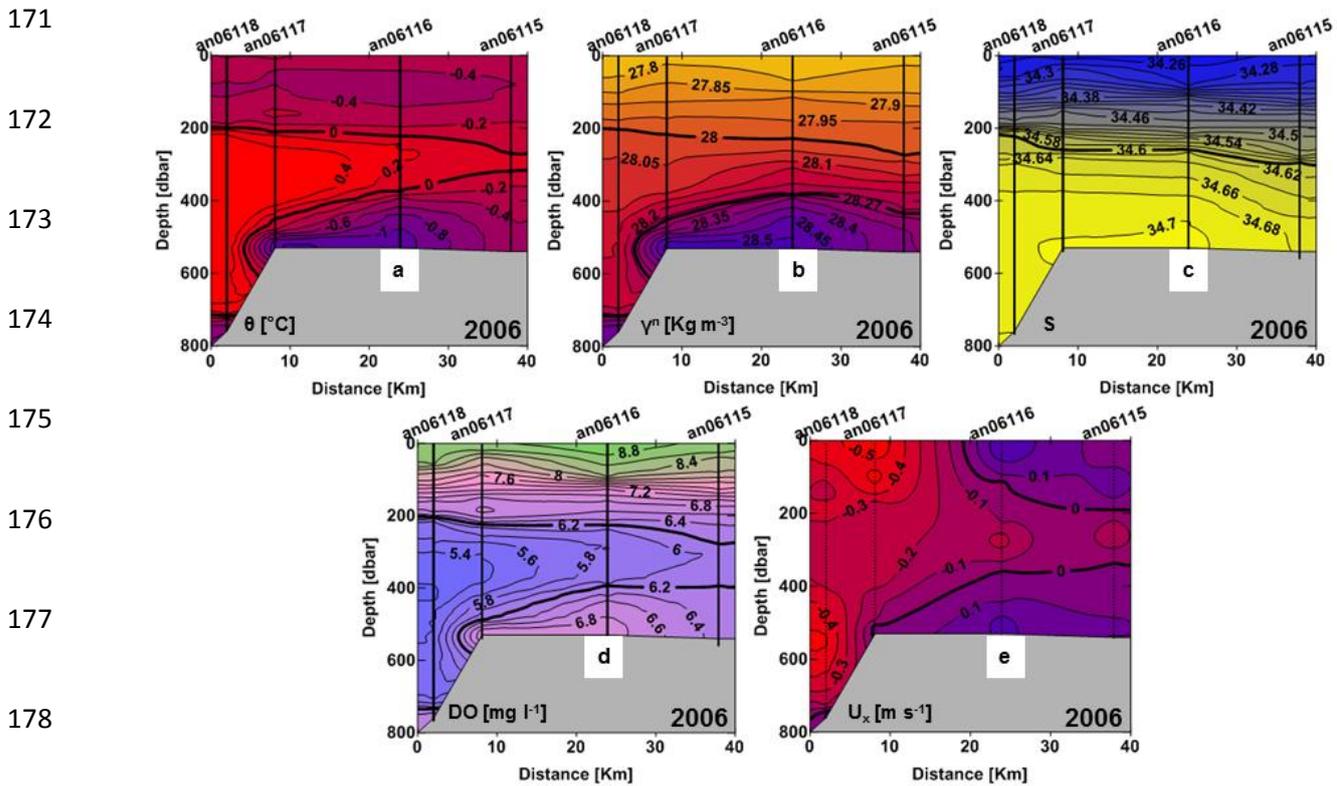
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## 157 **3 Results**

### 158 **3.1. Spatial variability of the mCDW inflow**

159 Two west to east CTD sections across the Drygalski Trough southward of the shelf break  
160 (Figure 1) show the characteristics of the CDW inflow over the shelf. At the mouth of the  
161 DT, section A (Figure 3) shows the entrance of the CDW already modified from mixing with

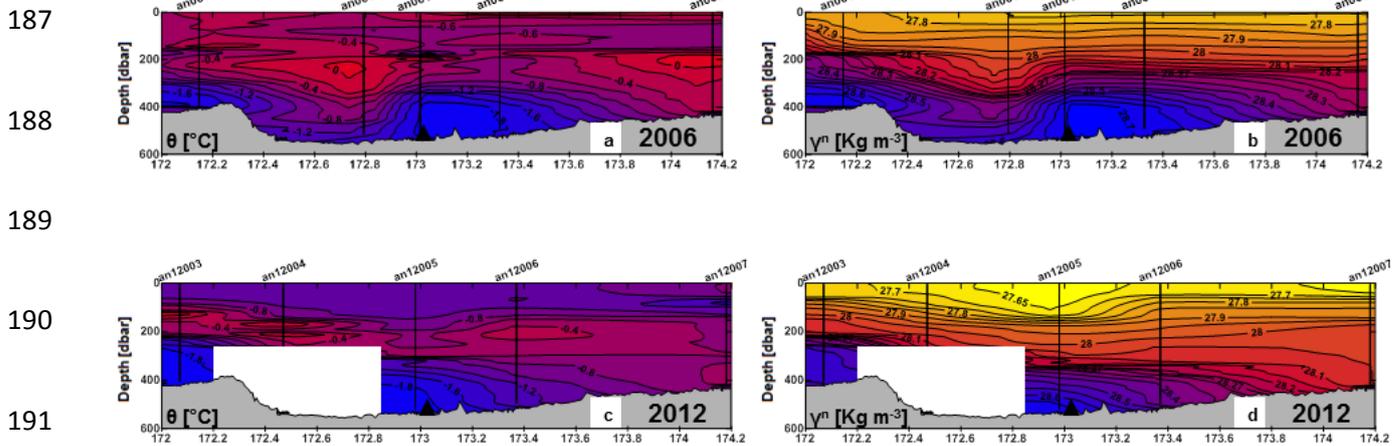
162 the Antarctic Slope Current. A relatively warm and less oxygenated layer indicative of  
 163 mCDW, of about 200 m thickness, lies between the dense HSSW on the bottom and the  
 164 cold, fresh and well oxygenated AASW. This layer is situated from about 200 m to 400 m  
 165 depth and is delimited by the neutral density isopycnals of  $28 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$  and  $28.27 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ ,  
 166 from the dissolved oxygen isoline of  $6.2 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$  and from the isotherm of  $0^\circ \text{ C}$  and isohaline  
 167 of  $34.60$  from the upper layer. The inflow of CDW is clear from the contours of the current  
 168 component normal to the shelf break ( $u_x$ ), where we see a poleward current flux of mCDW  
 169 and a northward flux of HSSW. Furthermore, through the entire water column the current  
 170 is moving westward (not shown in Figure) as expected from the geostrophic balance.



179 Figure 3: Vertical section looking northward across the Drygalski Trough close to the shelf break ( see transect A in Fig. 1): (a)  
 180 potential temperature  $\theta$  ( $^\circ \text{C}$ ); (b) neutral density  $\gamma^n$  ( $\text{kg m}^{-3}$ ); (c) salinity  $S$ ; (d) dissolved oxygen  $\text{DO}$  ( $\text{mg l}^{-1}$ ); and (e) LADCP velocity  
 181 ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) for the component normal to the Shelf Break ( $u_x$ , - positive values directed offshore).

180 Section B (Figure 4) shows the distribution of the mCDW during two different surveys in  
 181 2006 and 2012 at about 50 km from the shelf break ( $\sim 700 \text{ m}$  isobath). For both years, the  
 182 section identifies the relatively warm potential temperature (greater than  $-1^\circ \text{ C}$ ) and neutral  
 183 density between  $28 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$  and  $28.27 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ . A layer of this relatively warm and less

184 oxygenated water is present across the trough and lies between 200 m and 350 m in the  
 185 middle of the DT around station #102 in 2006 and #04 in 2012 and from 200 m to the  
 186 bottom on the east side of the trough (stations #99 in 2006 and #07 in 2012).



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 192 Figure 4: Vertical section across the Drygalski Trough at the mooring location (black triangle), about 50 km from the shelf break ( see transect B in Fig. 1) of: (a) potential temperature  $\theta$  (°C) for the 2006 oceanographic survey; (b) neutral density  $\gamma^n$  (kg m<sup>-3</sup>) for the 2006 oceanographic survey; (c) potential temperature  $\theta$  (°C) for the 2012 oceanographic survey; and (d) neutral density  $\gamma^n$  (kg m<sup>-3</sup>) for the 2012 oceanographic survey.

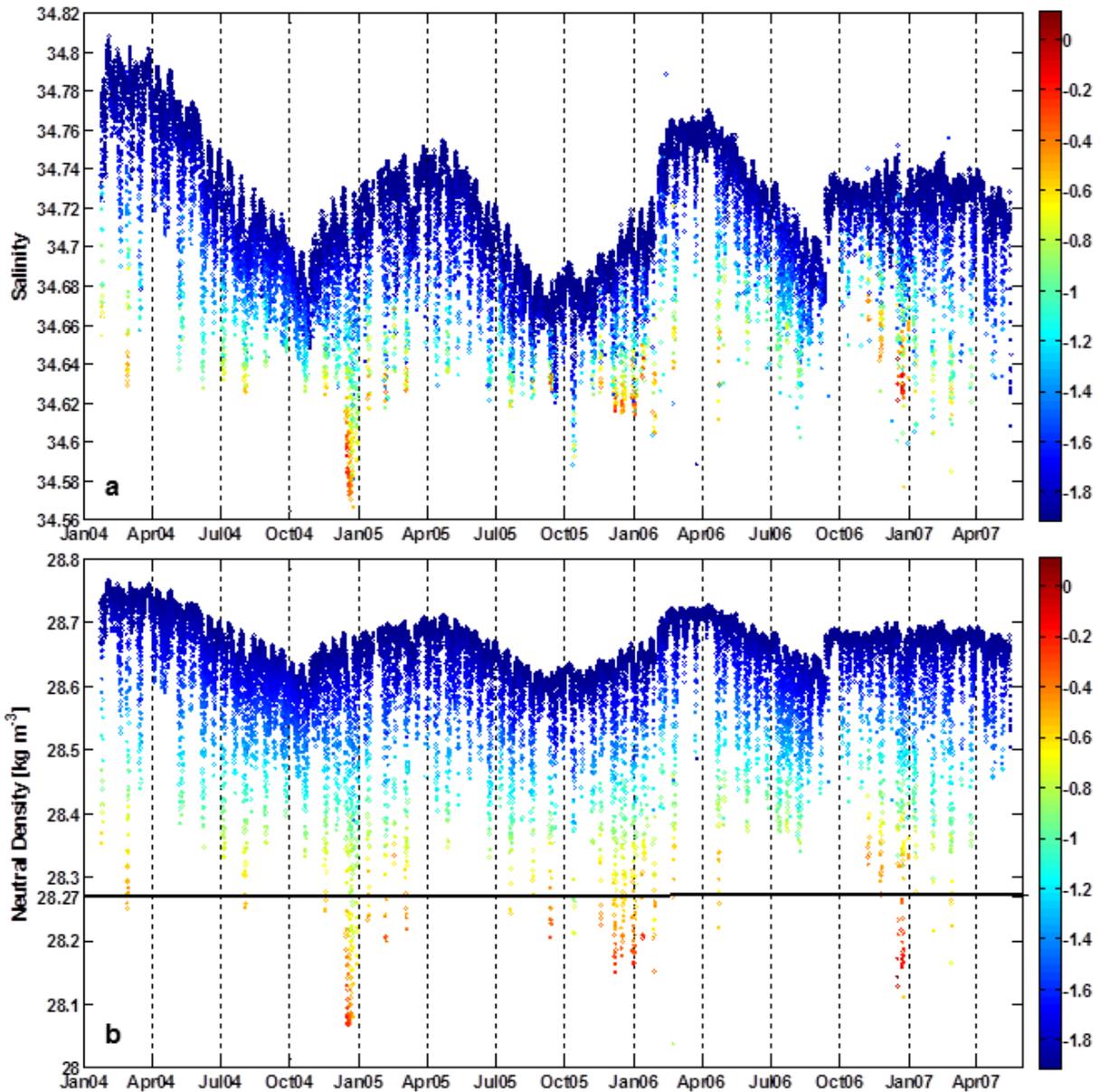
193 Previous works using both observational data (Kohut et al. 2013) and numerical models  
 194 (Wang et al. 2013) suggested that mCDW intrudes onto the shelf mainly on the west slope  
 195 of the Ross Sea banks. Figure 4 instead highlights the presence of two main cores of  
 196 MCDW, one on the east side of the trough spreading along the west slope of Mawson  
 197 bank from about 200 m to the bottom, and another in the central-west side from 200 m to  
 198 about 350 m.

199

### 200 3.2 Temporal variability of the mCDW inflow

201 In the CTD section in Figure 4 and in the CTD casts made at the mooring position during  
 202 different summer cruises (not shown here) a signal of mCDW has never been found at the  
 203 bottom of DT. However, the salinity and temperature time-series registered by the different  
 204 sensors on the mooring (Figure 5) from January 2004 to September 2007 periodically  
 205 show the presence of this relatively warm ( $T > -1$  °C), fresh ( $S < 34.64$ ) (Figure 5a) and

206 less dense ( $\gamma^n < 28.27$ ) water (Figure 5b) in the middle of the trough at about 10 meters  
207 above the bottom (mab). The presence of mCDW is also evident in the temperature signal  
208 only, up to January 2014 (Figure 6).



221 Figure 5: Hourly time series of (a) salinity with temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) color coded and (b) neutral density  $\gamma^n$  ( $\text{kg m}^{-3}$ ) with temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) color coded, registered by the bottom instruments on the mooring in the middle of the Drygalski Trough (see Fig. 1 for location).

222 In Figure 6 we always used the data registered by the bottom sensors (Figure 2), except  
223 for the 2006-2008 time series, where we used the upper sensor (black scatter in Figure 6),  
224 because the bottom sensor stopped working in May 2007. This does not change our  
225 results.

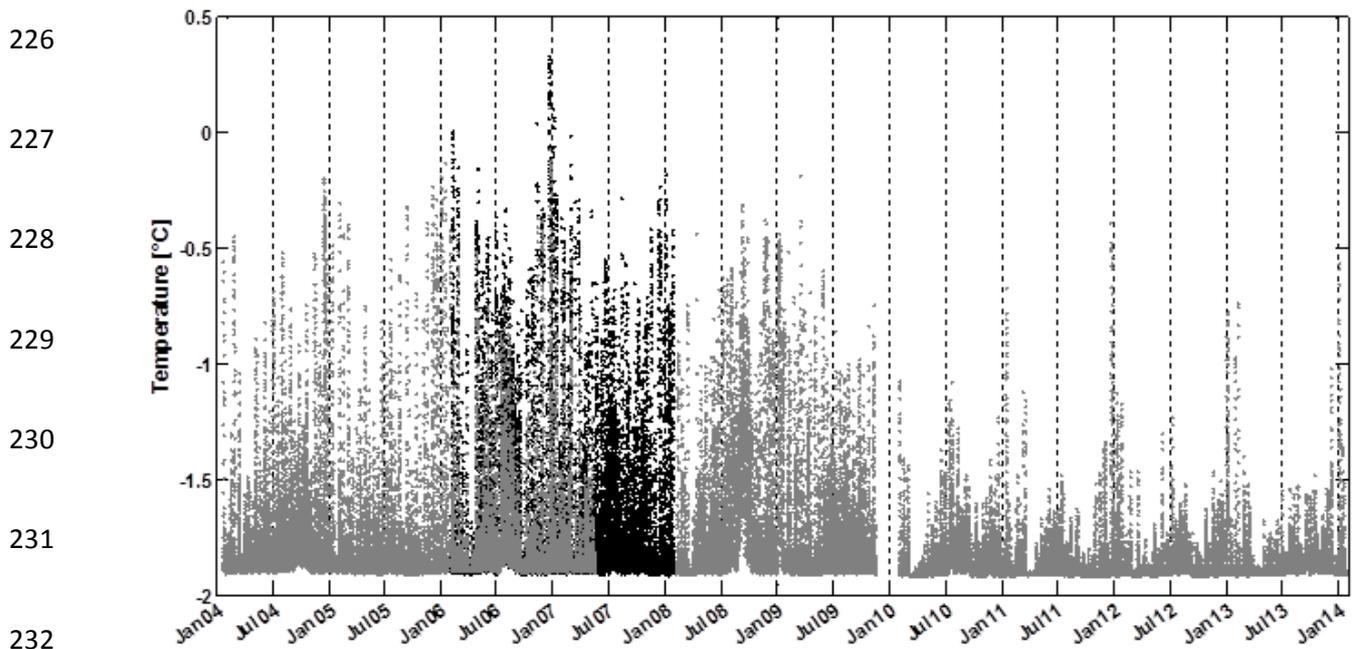


Figure 6: Hourly time series of the temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), registered by the bottom instruments (about 20 m above the bottom; in grey) and by the upper instrument (about 80 m above the bottom; in black) on the mooring in the middle of the Drygalski Trough (see Fig. 1 for location).

In the time series plots (Figures 5 and 6), it is shown that these intrusions of mCDW into the bottom layer have a daily and a fortnightly variability (about 13.66 days), which in earlier works have been attributed, respectively, to the influence of the daily and spring/neap tidal cycles (Whitworth and Orsi, 2006; Padman et al., 2009). This periodicity is also evident in the wavelet power spectrum of the 2 year time series from January 2012 (Figure 7). In particular, the daily frequency is present in all the different parameters throughout the entire time series (with some exceptions that will be stressed later), while the fortnightly frequency is more evident in the wavelet power spectrum of the intensity of the current and in the temperature signal and less evident (but still present) in the meridional and zonal velocity components.

A strong seasonal variability of mCDW intrusions is also clear from Figures 5 and 6. It appears that a strong incursion of mCDW occurs each austral summer around the end of December/beginning of January. In addition, a relatively high presence of mCDW is often registered by the bottom instruments around July.

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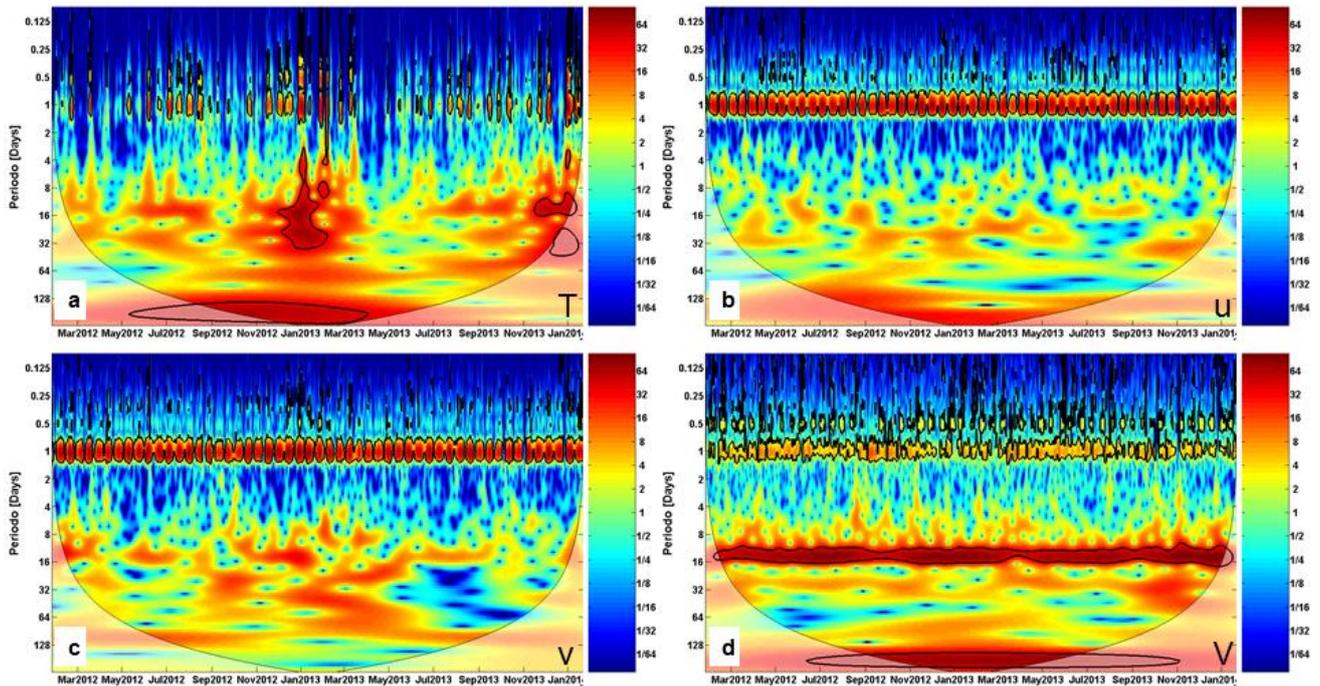


Figure 7: Wavelet power spectrum for the 2012 - 2014 time series registered by the bottom sensors (about 20 m above the bottom), on the mooring in Fig. 1, of the (a) temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) (T); (b) zonal component ( $u$ ,  $\text{ms}^{-1}$ ) of the bottom current; (c) meridional component ( $u$ ,  $\text{ms}^{-1}$ ) of the bottom current; and (d) magnitude ( $V$ ,  $\text{ms}^{-1}$ ) of the bottom current meter. The significance level (thick black line, 95%) and the cone of influence (thin black line) are also indicated.

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This seasonal intrusion is further emphasized in Figure 5b, where the density of the water reaches values lower than 28.27 in neutral density, the threshold indicative of mCDW (Orsi and Wiederwohl, 2009). Moreover, it is important to note that almost no presence of mCDW is found around March/April in correspondence to the salinity maximum (and the temperature close to the surface freezing point) associated with the HSSW.

The maximum mCDW inflow is observed in December/January, a few months after the salinity minimum registered around October that indicates the lowest presence of HSSW (Figure 5a). This may suggest that these weaker intrusions of less dense water to the bottom of the trough are not related to the thicker layer of the denser shelf water (HSSW) that can act as a limitation to the vertical mixing.

The wavelet power spectrum (Figure 7) of the temperature (Figure 7a) shows this isolated signal (stronger inflow of mCDW) with a strong energy in the power spectrum around January 2013 and 2014 from the low frequency (period of 32 days) to the high frequency

270 (period of few hours). This strong energy does not exist either in the velocity current  
271 components (Figure 7b,c), nor in the current intensity (Figure 7d) signals. Another large  
272 difference shown by the wavelet analysis is the lack of energy in the temperature power  
273 spectrum in both the diurnal and fortnightly tidal harmonics around March-April that  
274 corresponds to the time of the salinity maximum. The energy does not disappear at this  
275 time in the wavelet power spectrum of the current.

276 These characteristics of the wavelet power spectrum are similar to all the wavelet power  
277 spectra (not shown here) made for the different time-series registered by the instruments  
278 through the entire sampling period from 2004 to 2014.

279 In addition to a seasonal signal, interannual variability is also clear. In Figure 6 there is a  
280 change in the temperature signal daily fluctuations before and after 2010. Strong daily  
281 fluctuations are present through the entire time-series from 2004 to 2010, while they are  
282 much less evident from 2010 to the end of the time series.

283 Despite our analysis depending on a bottom instrument that changes its depth over the life  
284 time of the mooring series, we believe that this does not affect the results. Neither the  
285 seasonal nor the interannual variability depends on the depth of the sensors.

286 In Figure 6, it is clear that both time series measured at 20 mab (grey) and 80 mab (black),  
287 in 2006, have the same seasonality with minimum values in March-April and maximum in  
288 January. Moreover, both time series have similar oscillations at both depths, which are  
289 much stronger than the oscillations recorded after 2010. Thus, large differences in the  
290 temperature oscillation before and after 2010 do not depend on the distance from the  
291 bottom.

292 In addition, despite the distance of the instrument from the bottom in 2004 and 2015 being  
293 almost the same (respectively 12 mab and 15 mab), there is a large difference in the

294 temperature oscillation. In 2010 the sensor is 28 m from the bottom and the temperature  
295 has much less oscillation compared to 2004 (12 mab) and 2005 (8 mab).

296 Fourier analysis of all the time series over the whole sampling period at all depths (not  
297 shown here) for temperature, zonal and meridional current components, and for the  
298 current magnitude shows that the most energetic contributions to the tide are the diurnal  
299 tidal harmonics  $K_1$  (period 23.92 h) and  $O_1$  (period 25.84 h). This is followed by  $P_1$  (period  
300 24.04 h) and  $Q_1$  (period 26.88 h), and from the lunar fortnightly constituent MF (13.66  
301 days). The same results are obtained using the T\_tide Matlab routines (Pawlowicz et al.,  
302 2002), which are based on the methods described by Foreman (1978). Table1 reports the  
303 characteristics of the major tidal constituents together with the  $M_2$  for each current meter.

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	Deployment Year	Instrument Depth (m)	Tide	Freq (cph)	U <sub>maj</sub> (ms <sup>-1</sup> )	U <sub>min</sub> (ms <sup>-1</sup> )	Inc (°N)	Pha (°)
315	2004	426	MF	0.0031	0.048	-0.008	236.72	76.51
316			Q1	0.0372	0.058	0.041	210.58	128.85
			O1	0.0387	0.301	0.208	208.72	135.03
			P1	0.0416	0.100	0.070	198.17	169.25
			K1	0.0418	0.303	0.217	195.58	168.32
317	M2	0.0805	0.022	0.008	202.23	44.82		
318	2004	495	MF	0.0031	0.026	0.001	193.23	86.15
			Q1	0.0372	0.042	0.029	192.25	114.64
			O1	0.0387	0.232	0.160	193.03	122.74
			P1	0.0416	0.075	0.050	175.27	147.98
			K1	0.0418	0.233	0.162	174.45	148.70
319	M2	0.0805	0.045	0.024	147.75	73.28		
320	2005	414	MF	0.0031	0.061	-0.007	241.55	63.35
			Q1	0.0372	0.060	0.036	206.26	86.82
			O1	0.0387	0.320	0.212	213.41	107.21
			P1	0.0416	0.104	0.075	194.23	129.17
			K1	0.0418	0.294	0.213	200.5	135.37
321	M2	0.0805	0.052	0.044	192.14	10.03		
322	2005	501	MF	0.0031	0.021	-0.005	236.26	99.00
			Q1	0.0372	0.045	0.030	202.71	99.91
			O1	0.0387	0.246	0.178	207.49	112.56
			P1	0.0416	0.083	0.055	170.66	116.22
			K1	0.0418	0.236	0.185	186.14	131.89
323	M2	0.0805	0.053	0.044	157.15	25.27		
324	2006	441	MF	0.0031	0.051	-0.011	248.06	176.36
			Q1	0.0372	0.068	0.039	217.72	269.21
			O1	0.0387	0.324	0.208	217.39	194.43
			P1	0.0416	0.104	0.071	206.06	334.64
			K1	0.0418	0.310	0.211	205.56	334.57
325	M2	0.0805	0.047	0.039	190.84	299.92		
326	2008	474	MF	0.0031	0.038	-0.003	220.38	73.37
			Q1	0.0372	0.056	0.033	207.88	190.07
			O1	0.0387	0.289	0.192	206.72	196.97
			P1	0.0416	0.110	0.071	196.23	233.56
			K1	0.0418	0.295	0.195	194.19	235.58
327	M2	0.0805	0.038	0.021	160.31	235.80		
328	2010	454	MF	0.0031	0.045	-0.008	167.95	232.85
			Q1	0.0372	0.055	0.032	144.87	152.42
			O1	0.0387	0.306	0.200	142.52	171.00
			P1	0.0416	0.101	0.071	133.01	219.91
			K1	0.0418	0.304	0.213	131.11	221.72
329	M2	0.0805	0.025	0.020	113.67	352.02		
330	2010	514	MF	0.0031	0.034	0.000	148.56	221.18
			Q1	0.0372	0.039	0.021	134.14	12.63
			O1	0.0387	0.230	0.134	135.16	25.17
			P1	0.0416	0.075	0.053	128.89	63.90
			K1	0.0418	0.225	0.153	123.16	62.15
331	M2	0.0805	0.021	0.017	234.23	215.14		
332	2012	455	MF	0.0031	0.034	-0.008	190.47	269.55
			Q1	0.0372	0.052	0.032	143.35	285.00
			O1	0.0387	0.284	0.190	140.79	148.24
			P1	0.0416	0.106	0.075	130.8	112.38
			K1	0.0418	0.290	0.212	126.68	232.34
333	M2	0.0805	0.026	0.020	123.46	335.22		
333	2012	517	MF	0.0031	0.033	-0.003	160.3	227.36
			Q1	0.0372	0.046	0.021	136.9	311.87
			O1	0.0387	0.256	0.135	136.3	327.66
			P1	0.0416	0.087	0.050	130.94	7.46
			K1	0.0418	0.250	0.151	126.77	4.58
334	M2	0.0805	0.033	0.018	119.72	24.33		

Table 1: tidal Parameters, computed using T\_tide, for the single instruments for each survey: tide constituent frequency (Freq, cycles/hour), major and minor axis (U<sub>maj</sub> U<sub>min</sub>, cm s<sup>-1</sup>), tidal ellipse inclination (Inc, °N) and phase to the Greenwich meridian(pha, °)

334 **4 Discussion**

335 **4.1. Tidal mixing**

336 In section 3, it has been shown that a CDW layer of about 200 m enters the mouth of the  
337 DT at mid-depth around 300 m (Figure 3). It is thought that CDW intrudes onto the Ross  
338 Sea continental shelf in areas where the bottom topography changes direction relative to  
339 the slope flow (Klinck and Dinniman, 2010). Then, helped by tidal advection, it is moved  
340 across the sill (Whitworth and Orsi 2006, Padman et al., 2009) and transported by a  
341 barotropic flow southward (Kohut et al., 2013) where it reaches the mooring location at  
342 about the same depth found at the mouth of the DT (Figure 4).

343 mCDW detected at the bottom of the mooring reaches salinity as low as 34.56 and  
344 temperature higher than  $-0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Figure 5a). These values show that occasionally the  
345 bottom layer is filled with mCDW only. From the  $\theta/S$  diagrams (Figure 8) of the bottom  
346 instrument time series, from January 2004 to February 2007, it is clear there is a presence  
347 of only two source water masses: mCDW (temperature close to  $-0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and salinity lower  
348 than 34.65) and HSSW (temperature close to the surface freezing point and salinity that  
349 varies between 34.65 and 34.8 depending on the season: saltier at the end of the summer-  
350 early fall and fresher toward the austral spring).

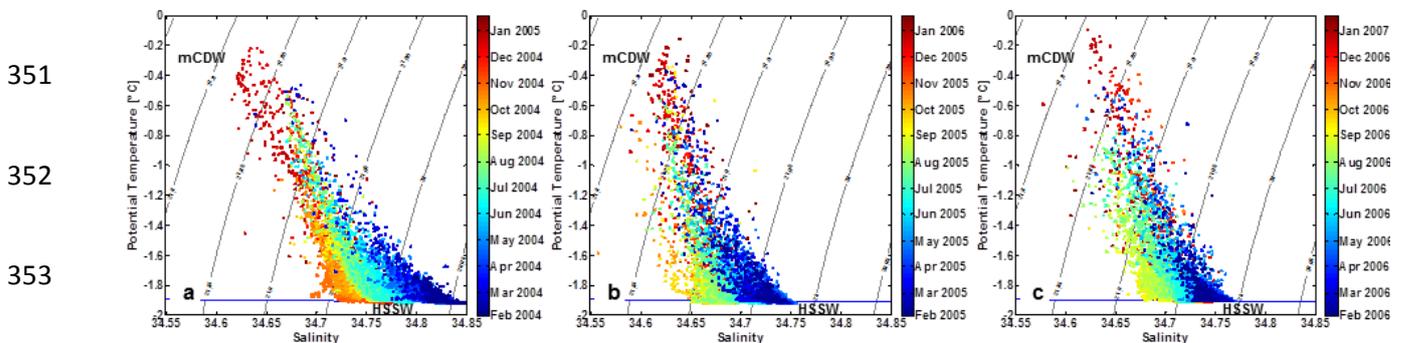
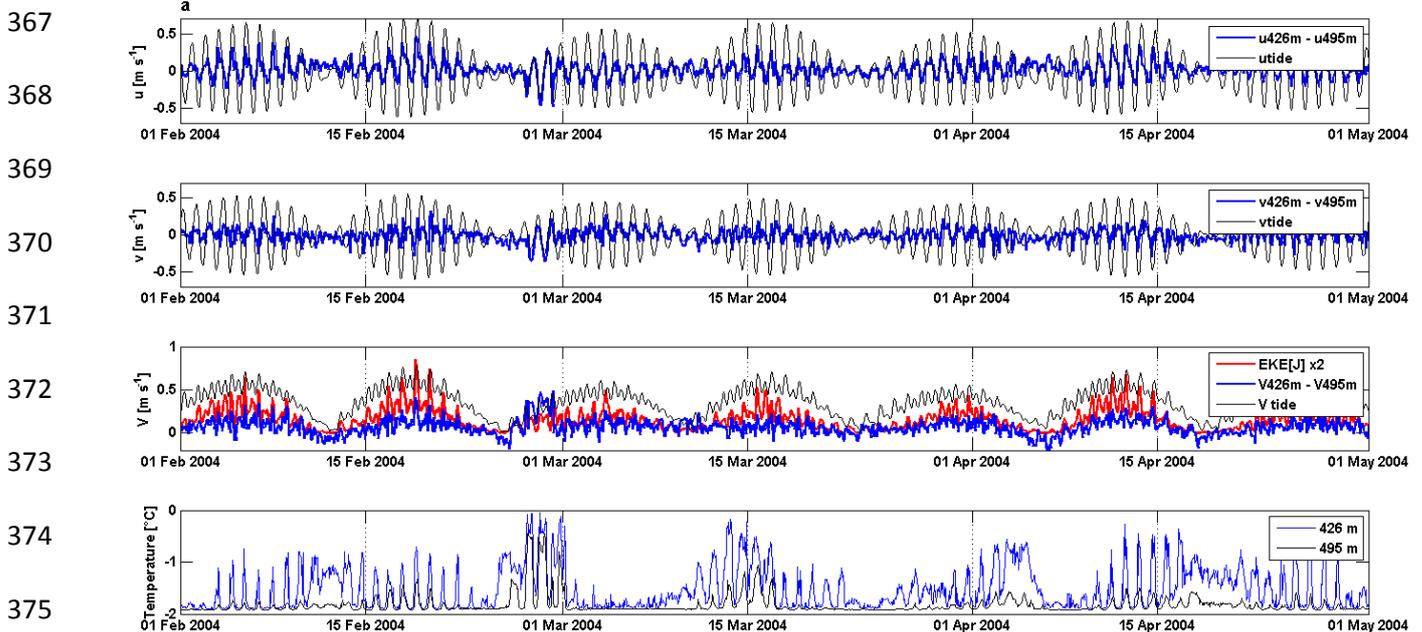


Figure 8: Potential temperature/salinity ( $\theta/S$ ) scatter plot of the (a) 2004 – 2005 time series; (b) 2005 – 2006 time series and (c) 2006 – 2007 time series. The blue horizontal line shows the surface freezing point of seawater.

355 A product of the mixing of these two source water masses is shown by the spread of the  
 356 dots along the (imaginary) mixing line between mCDW and HSSW. This is clear  
 357 throughout all seasons.

358 The mechanism that brings mCDW from mid-depth to the bottom and increases the  
 359 relative mixing with the HSSW, is most probably related to the tidal stirring as shown by  
 360 Whitworth and Orsi (2006). They used mooring data at about 17 km from the shelf break  
 361 inside the narrow area close to the shelf break influenced by the strong tides that move the  
 362 ASF up to 20 km from the 700 m isobaths (Padman et al., 2009). Our mooring, instead, is  
 363 located 33 km south of their mooring and is located always south of the ASF.  
 364 Nevertheless, in Figure 9 the role of the tide on the intrusion of the mCDW into the bottom  
 365 layer is evident.

366



376 Figure 9: three-months subsets from (a) February, (b) November 2004; (c) February 2013; (d) November 2013, of (starting from the top): (first panel) the zonal component ( $u$ ,  $m s^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick blue line), tidal component of  $u$  (thin black line); (second panel) meridional component ( $v$ ,  $m s^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick blue line), tidal component of  $v$  (thin black line); (third panel) current velocity ( $V$ ,  $m s^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick blue line), tidal component of  $V$  (thin black line), Eddy Kinetic Energy (EKE,  $J$  – thick red line) for the bottom sensors scaled for 2; (fourth panel) temperature ( $^{\circ}C$ ) registered by the bottom (thin black line) and upper (thin blue line) sensors.

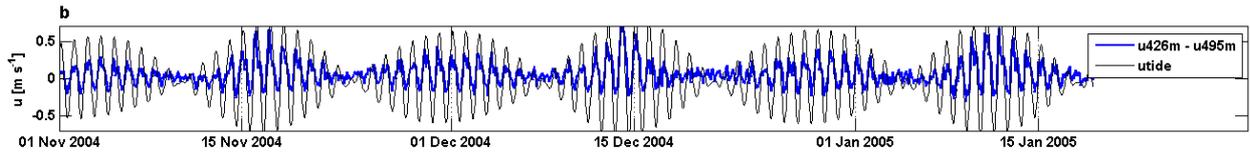
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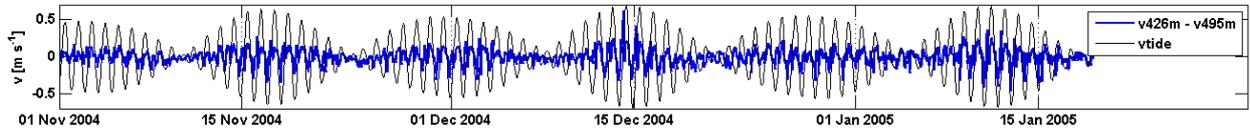
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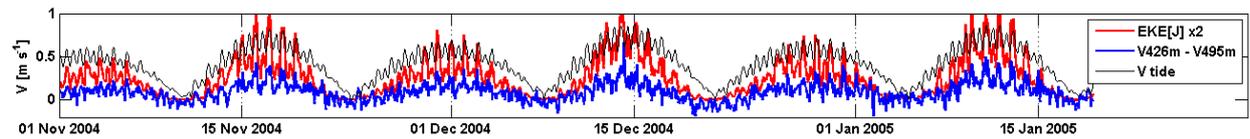
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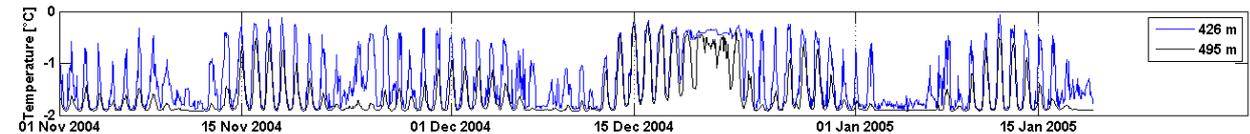
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Figure 9: three-months subsets from (a) February, (b) November 2004; (c) February 2013; (d) November 2013; of (starting from the top): (first panel) the zonal component ( $u$ ,  $m s^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick blue line), tidal component of  $u$  (thin black line); (second panel) meridional component ( $v$ ,  $m s^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick blue line), tidal component of  $v$  (thin black line); (third panel) current velocity ( $V$ ,  $m s^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick blue line), tidal component of  $V$  (thin black line), Eddy Kinetic Energy (EKE,  $J$  – thick red line) for the bottom sensors scaled for 2, (fourth panel) temperature ( $^{\circ}C$ ) registered by the bottom (thin black line) and upper (thin blue line) sensors.

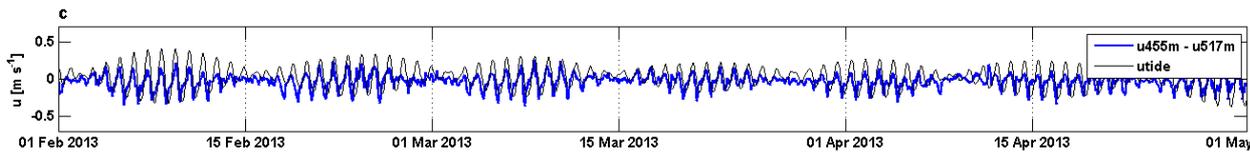
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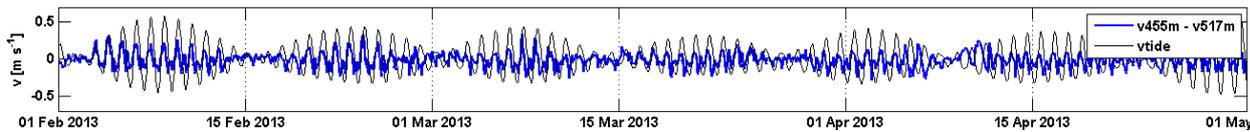
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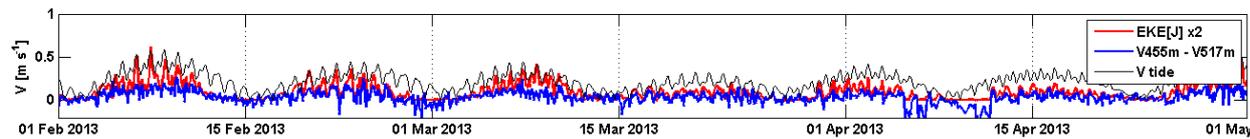
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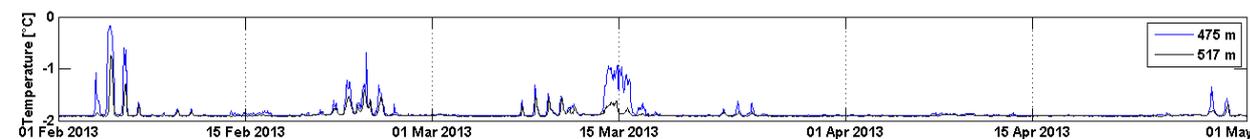
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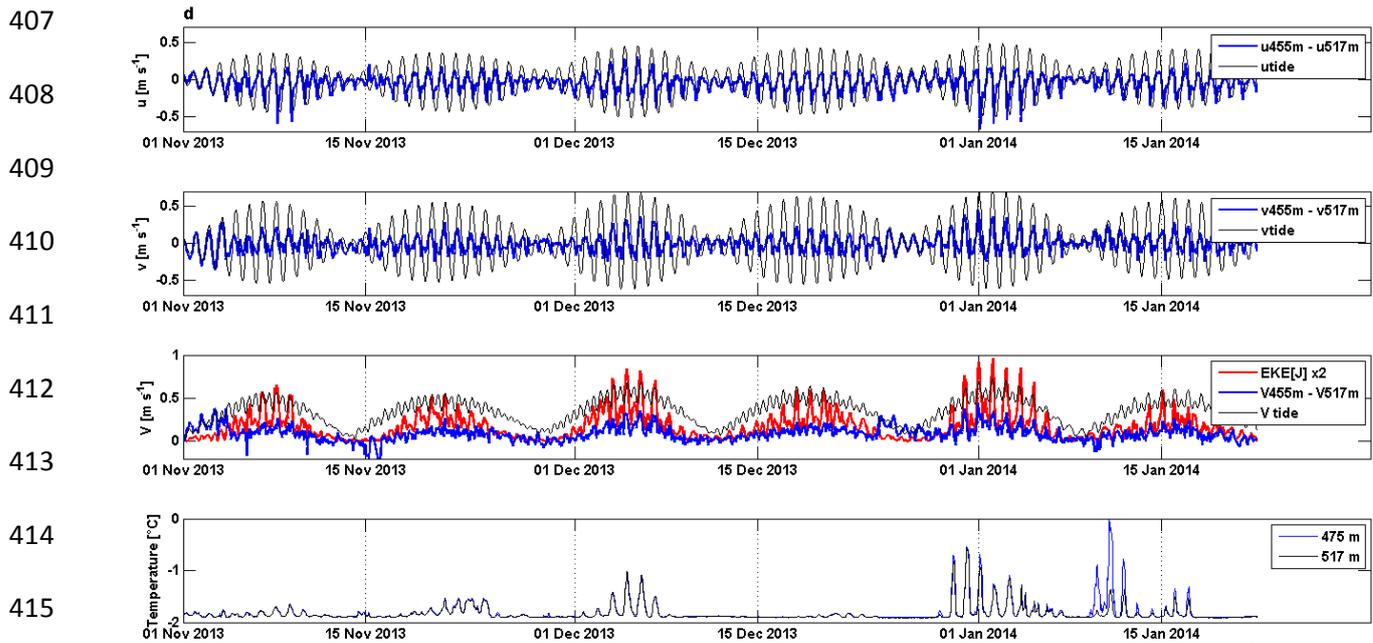
Figure 9: three-months subsets from (a) February, (b) November 2004; (c) February 2013; (d) November 2013; of (starting from the top): (first panel) the zonal component ( $u$ ,  $m s^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick blue line), tidal component of  $u$  (thin black line); (second panel) meridional component ( $v$ ,  $m s^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick blue line), tidal component of  $v$  (thin black line); (third panel) current velocity ( $V$ ,  $m s^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick blue line), tidal component of  $V$  (thin black line), Eddy Kinetic Energy (EKE,  $J$  – thick red line) for the bottom sensors scaled for 2, (fourth panel) temperature ( $^{\circ}C$ ) registered by the bottom (thin black line) and upper (thin blue line) sensors.

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416 Figure 9: three-months subsets from (a) February, (b) November 2004; (c) February 2013; (d) November 2013; of (starting from the top): (first panel) the zonal component ( $u$ ,  $m s^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick blue line), tidal component of  $u$  (thin black line); (second panel) meridional component ( $v$ ,  $m s^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick blue line), tidal component of  $v$  (thin black line); (third panel) current velocity ( $V$ ,  $m s^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick blue line), tidal component of  $V$  (thin black line), Eddy Kinetic Energy (EKE,  $J$  – thick red line) for the bottom sensors scaled for 2; (fourth panel) temperature ( $^{\circ}C$ ) registered by the bottom (thin black line) and upper (thin blue line) sensors.

417

418

419 In particular, this is clear when comparing the velocity current differences (zonal and  
 420 meridional components and the magnitude of the current) between the bottom (19 mab in  
 421 2004 and 15 mab in 2013) and the upper sensors (88 mab in 2004 and 77 mab in 2013),  
 422 and examining the Eddy Kinetic Energy (EKE) and the tidal kinetic Energy (KE) of the  
 423 bottom sensors (Figure 9). In the figure, it is evident that during strong tidal flow the  
 424 velocity differences between the two levels usually increase, with a maximum shear during  
 425 spring tides. At the same time there is an increase of the EKE at the bottom instrument  
 426 and a related high temperature signal registered at both levels.

427 In addition, it is evident that the temperature increase is detected first at the top instrument  
 428 then at the bottom sensor. This could be evidence that the warming signal comes from the  
 429 top layer.

430 The hypothesis that the water measured at the bottom layer by the sensors on the mooring  
 431 is a result of the lateral flux coming from the Mawson Bank is rejected, firstly, because we  
 432 do not see any correlation (relationship) of the temperature with the zonal component of

433 the current and secondly, when the tidal ellipse of the main tidal constituents is  
434 perpendicular to the DT and whence we could expect a major westward flow, the  
435 temperature fluctuation registered is actually lower.

436 Indeed, we can hypothesize that the tide induces a vertical shear that increases the Eddy  
437 Kinetic Energy and therefore triggers the mixing of the bottom 200-300 m at least, bringing  
438 the mCDW to the bottom. It has been suggested in a modeling study of the area (Padman  
439 et al., 2009) that diapycnal diffusivity can be substantially increased through the lower 300  
440 m of the water column, at least over the sill, during a portion of each diurnal tidal cycle at  
441 spring tide. Thus, thanks to the tidal stirring, the mCDW arrives at the bottom of the DT 50  
442 km south of the shelf break (about 33 km south of where it was detected by Whitworth and  
443 Orsi 2006), changing the characteristics of the bottom layer and being an efficient  
444 mechanism, as was hypothesized by Foster et al. (1987), to produce a water mass with  
445 characteristics intermediate between HSSW and mCDW (the Antarctic Bottom Water) and  
446 to influence the shelf water outflow.

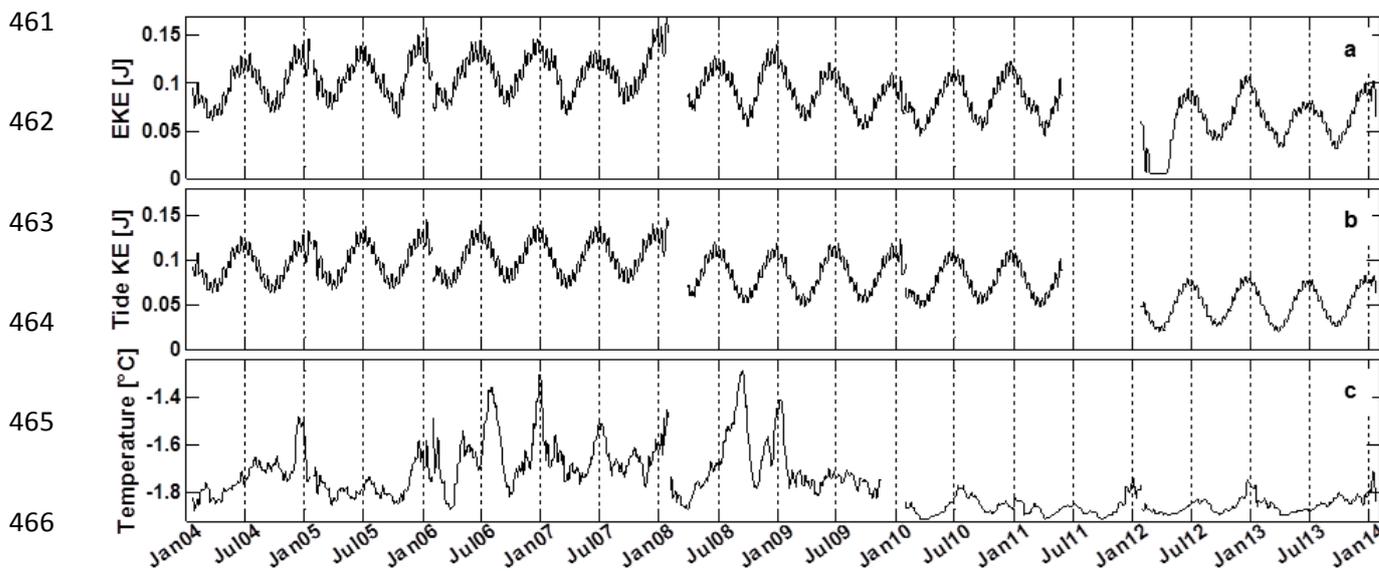
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## 448 **4.2. mCDW inflow at different time scales**

### 449 **4.2.1 seasonal variability**

450 From the mooring data analyzed in the previous section, we observed a six month  
451 seasonal variability with two peaks of mCDW registered in the benthic layer. A stronger  
452 presence is found around December-January and a weaker one around July. In the prior  
453 paragraph we have shown a strict relationship between the tide and temperature signal on  
454 the small temporal scale. Here we hypothesize that the tide has a role on longer time  
455 scales too. In Figure 10 we compare the EKE, the tide KE and the temperature signals  
456 low-pass filtered with a cutoff of 15 days over the entire sampling period. In this case the

457 strong relationship between those signals is evident, with the three time series covarying  
458 with six-month seasonal variability. High EKE, tide KE and warm temperature are shown in  
459 January and July with minimum values in March and October. This confirms that the  
460 mCDW inflow seasonal variability may be only tide related.

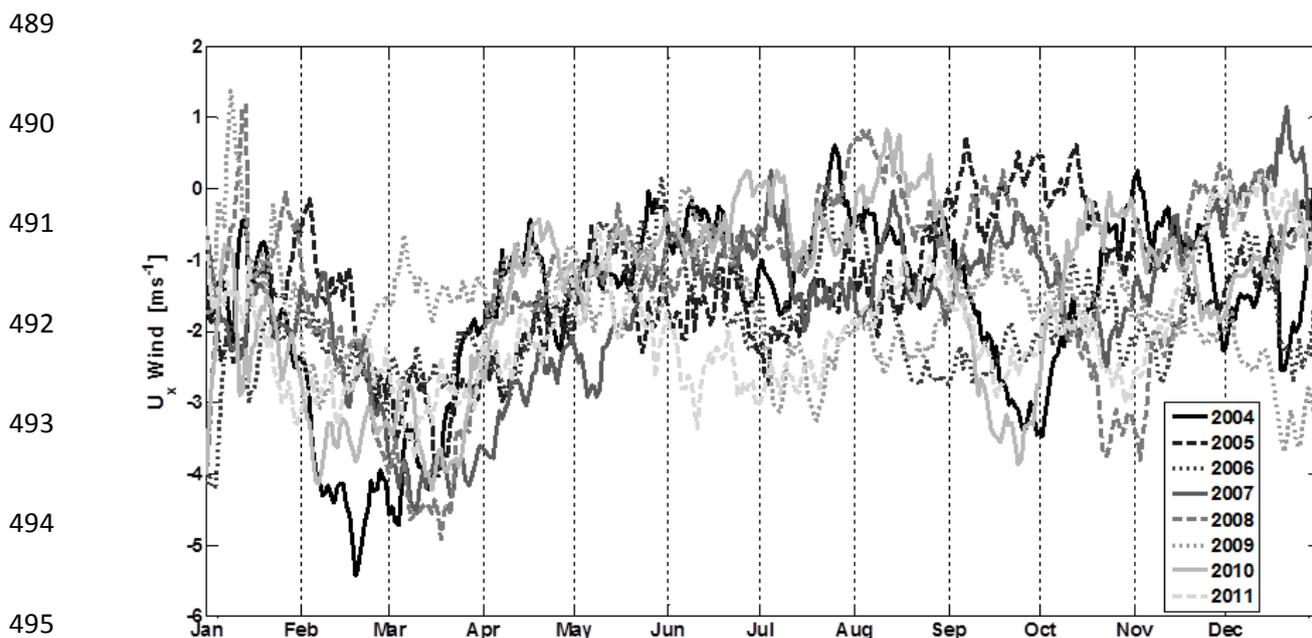


467 Figure 10: low-pass filtered (with a cutoff of 15 days) time series of the (a) Eddy Kinetic Energy (EKE, J); (b) tidal kinetic Energy (Tide KE, J) and (c) temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) registered by the bottom sensors over the entire sampling period from January 2004 to January 2014.

468 However, we also consider other hypotheses. Firstly, following Klinck and Dinniman  
469 (2010), the CDW onshore flux over the Ross Sea depends on the inertia of the flow in the  
470 presence of bathymetry that curves offshore in front of along-slope flow. Therefore, we  
471 postulated that an intensification of the Ross Gyre would strengthen the along-slope  
472 westward current (southern limb of the gyre) and therefore favor momentum advection  
473 over the shelf.

474 Using the ECMWF (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts) ERA-interim  
475 reanalysis (Dee et al., 2011), we looked for any seasonality of the wind curl over the Ross  
476 Gyre (that can be an indication of the intensification of the gyre) and for some correlation  
477 of this signal with the temperature registered by the mooring (not shown here), but we did  
478 not find any, so we disregard this hypothesis.

479 Secondly, looking at the wind component parallel to the shelf break at the DT from 2004 to  
 480 2011 (Figure 11, negative values towards north-west) and comparing it to the mCDW  
 481 intrusions, we find the lowest presence of mCDW at the bottom of the mooring (Figure 10)  
 482 during stronger easterlies in February-March and the maximum mCDW intrusions during  
 483 weak westward winds in December-January. These results are in accordance with Stewart  
 484 and Thompson (2015), who in their model saw that increasing the easterly wind stress  
 485 over the slope steepens the isopycnal in the ASF, deepening the pycnocline at the shelf  
 486 break until CDW can no longer mix across it. Thus we can speculate that during strong  
 487 easterlies we may have a weak advection of CDW over the shelf and the contrary during  
 488 feeble westward winds.



496 Figure 11: Monthly average along shelf break wind component from 2004 to 2011 (see legend lower right for the different  
 years) of the daily mean ERA-interim (ECMWF) time series. The data were averaged over the area close to the shelf break  
 in the western Ross Sea (from 71.5° S to 72.5° S & from 172° E to 176° E). The along-shelf break wind component is  
 obtained rotating the coordinate system by 26° so that one component roughly aligns with the Ross Sea shelf break line in  
 the subset area.

497

498 Furthermore, the deepening of the pycnocline may favor the escape of dense water from  
 499 the shelf, pulling the HSSW toward the northern limit of the continental shelf and  
 500 consequently filling the bottom layer in March - April with a thick layer of HSSW (Budillon

501 et al. 2011). This may prevent mCDW from arriving at the bottom of mooring G during  
502 spring tide because there is not enough kinetic energy deriving from tidal dissipation that  
503 has the strength to overcome the vertically-averaged potential energy from stronger  
504 stratification caused by the thicker HSSW layer.

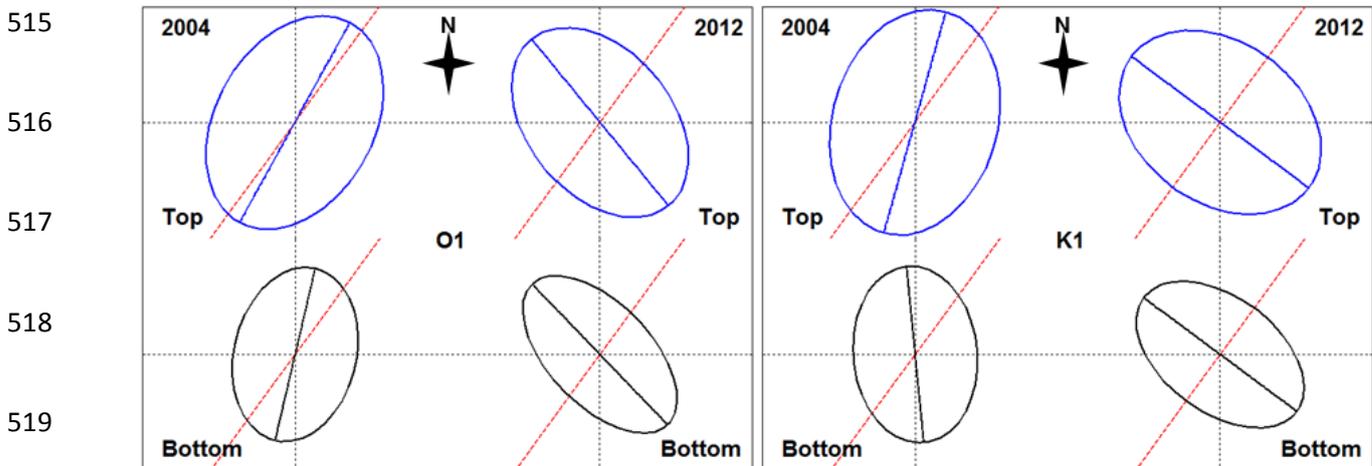
505 Indeed, here we speculate that the seasonal intrusion of mCDW into the bottom layer is  
506 governed by the tides, but may be modulated by the wind fields.

507

#### 508 4.2.2 Interannual variability

509 Besides a seasonal variability, the results in section 3.2 (Figure 6) show a large difference  
510 in the temperature oscillation before and after 2010.

511 Examining the ellipse inclinations of the main tidal constituents  $O_1$  and  $K_1$  (Table 1 and  
512 Figure 12) it is evident that there is a change of the orientation from (almost) parallel to the  
513 major axis of the Drygalski Trough (before 2010) to perpendicular to it (after 2010). The  
514 same occurs for the other main tidal harmonics reported in table 1 ( $P_1$   $Q_1$  MF).



520 Figure 12: Tidal ellipses of the main constituents  $O_1$  (left panel) and  $K_1$  (right panel) at different depths throughout the entire sampling period for the 2004 (left) and 2012 (right) mooring time series. The red lines indicates the direction of the Drygalski Trough main axis (about  $36^\circ$  N).

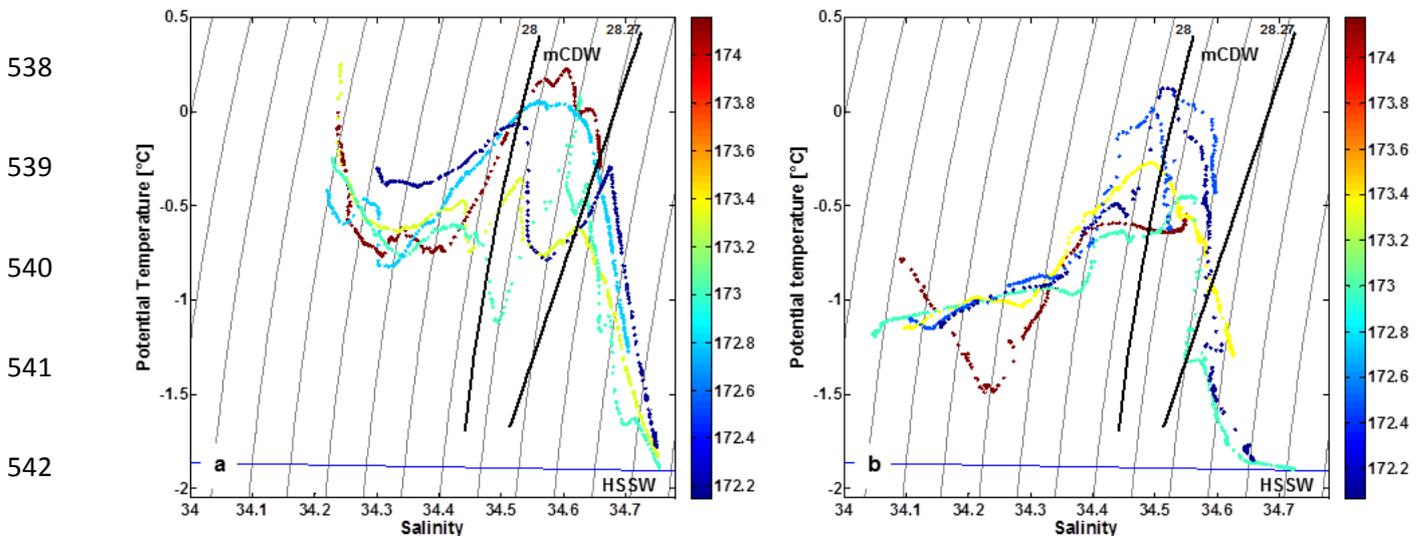
521 We believe that this shift in the ellipses orientation plays a role in the change of the  
522 temperature signal fluctuation. Prior to 2010 the tide has a stronger along trough

523 component, i.e. a stronger cross slope component, thus the onshore transport of mCDW  
524 toward the mooring increases.

525 Besides the ellipse orientation shift, after 2010, the bottom tide KE and EKE (Figure 10),  
526 together with the current shear between the two layers (Figure 9) decreases drastically.

527 Probably this modification of the tidal ellipses and of the tide behavior in general is caused  
528 by a change in the stratification before and after 2010. According to Muller (2012), different  
529 factors may modify the tide behavior, including changes in the stratification. In addition,  
530 Pereira et al. (2002) observed that there is seasonality in the mixing induced by tides as a  
531 result of the change in the stratification.

532 A change in the stratification is actually detected in the CTD data and in the mooring time  
533 series. Looking at the  $\theta/S$  diagram (Figure 13) of the transect B (Figure 4), a more  
534 homogenous bottom layer in 2012 is evident. In fact, the  $\theta/S$  profiles between mCDW and  
535 HSSW (Figure 13b) in 2012 are almost parallel to the isopycnals, while in 2006 the  $\theta/S$   
536 profiles (Figure 13a) are more perpendicular to them, showing a more stratified benthic  
537 layer.



543 Figure 13: Potential temperature/salinity ( $\theta/S$ ) scatter plot of the transect B (see Figures 1 and 4), color coded by the longitude ( $^{\circ}$ E), for the (a) 2006 oceanographic survey and (b) 2012 oceanographic survey. The blue horizontal line shows the surface freezing point of seawater.

544 The temperature time series (Figure 9) also shows a different behavior from 2004 to 2013.  
545 In 2004 (Figures 9a and 9b, bottom slice), the temperature measured by the upper sensor  
546 almost always diverges from the temperature registered by the lower sensor (the  
547 divergence increases during the spring tides). While in 2013 (Figures 9c and 9d, bottom  
548 slice), the temperature discrepancy is always close to zero except during spring tide  
549 events, indicating a more homogenous bottom layer in the 2010-2014 time series.

550 Moreover, an evidence of a shift in the benthic layer stratification towards a more  
551 homogenous structure is also obvious when comparing the tidal ellipses at different depths  
552 throughout the entire sampling period. Before 2010 the bottom tidal ellipses for all the main  
553 tidal constituents are oriented to the west of the upper layer ellipses (Table 1 and Figure  
554 12). However, after 2010 the bottom and top ellipses have almost the same orientation.  
555 For example, in Figure 12 it is clear that in 2004 the bottom tidal ellipse is oriented to the  
556 west of the one in the upper layer by  $15.69^\circ$  for  $O_1$  and  $21.13^\circ$  for  $K_1$ , while in 2012 the  
557 bottom and top ellipses have almost the same orientation ( $4.49^\circ$  for  $O_1$  and  $0.09^\circ$  for  $K_1$ ).  
558 Hence, we would expect a more stratified water column before 2010. This is in good  
559 agreement with Souza and Simpson (1996). They observed that the stratification has an  
560 influence on the ellipse orientation: when the water column is mixed the surface and the  
561 bottom ellipses are oriented in the same direction (within  $5^\circ$ ), but, when the water column  
562 stability develops, there is a bottom surface orientation difference of up to  $15^\circ$  with the  
563 bottom maximum current being deflected to the west relative to the surface currents.

564 Summarizing, in 2010-2014 we found a more homogenous benthic layer shown both from  
565 the water column thermohaline properties (CTD, and mooring data) and from the  
566 characteristics of the ellipse orientation at different depths. Then, we observed a change in  
567 the tidal ellipse orientations from parallel to the main DT axis to perpendicular to it. In

568 addition, we detected a weaker bottom tide KE and EKE, together with a much smaller  
569 current shear.

570 In the previous section we observed that the tidal currents in the North-west Ross Sea are  
571 principally diurnal and according to Padman et al. (2009) and Robertson (2005) they are  
572 associated over the outer shelf and upper slope with diurnal, topographically trapped  
573 vorticity waves (DTVWs). See Huthnance (1978), Brink (1991) and Middleton et al (1987)  
574 for a summary of the properties of these waves.

575 According to Huthnance (1989), increasing the stratification will increase the wave speed  
576 and induce the frequency to increase. Furthermore, a modest change in slope or  
577 stratification can alter the DTVWs dispersion curves (Padman et al., 2009). In particular,  
578 according to Cummins et al. (2000) with homogeneous water, the DTVWs propagate  
579 relatively slowly and attenuate over a shorter distance than in the stratified case.

580 Thus, we speculate that before 2010, in a more stratified water column, the DTVWs  
581 formed at the shelf break propagate more vigorously and southward compared to after  
582 2010 when the more homogenous water column decreases the tide influence at the  
583 mooring location. Unfortunately we can only speculate on this hypothesis, with only one  
584 single mooring we do not have enough data to verify it. However, we hope to explore this  
585 question more fully with an eddy resolving resolution (1.5km) model of the Ross Sea  
586 circulation (Mack et al., this issue) where we plan to artificially freshen the mCDW (as  
587 done in Smith et al., 2014) and explore the effects of this on the tidal forcing at the DT  
588 entrance.

589 The more homogenous water column after 2010 may depend on the freshening of the  
590 mCDW observed by Jacobs and Giulivi (2010). The freshening is clear, and can also be

591 seen in Figure 13 where there is an evident shift of mCDW core registered at 400 m  
592 towards lower salinity from 2006 to 2012.

593 In summary, we speculate that the freshening of mCDW alters the stratification over the  
594 outer shelf influencing the tide that causes the change of the temperature oscillation before  
595 and after 2010.

596 The change of the observed temperature variability after 2010 may be related to the  
597 movement of the mooring in the different surveys. In 2010 and in 2012 the moorings were  
598 deployed slightly west compared to previous years. For example, in 2012 the mooring was  
599 located 2.1 km west of the one deployed in 2006. The maximum distance between two  
600 moorings deployed in all the campaigns is about 3.1 km and it is between the 2010 and  
601 2004 moorings.

602 However, we reject this hypothesis. Firstly because, as we have shown in Figure 4, the  
603 mooring is located between two cores of mCDW with a sharp temperature gradient on  
604 both eastern and western sides of it, so moving the mooring eastward or westward may  
605 have the same effect on the temperature fluctuation. In addition, in 2006 the sharpest  
606 lateral gradient near the bottom (where the mooring temperatures are measured) is on the  
607 west side of the mooring (unfortunately, the 2012 closest CTD profile to the west does not  
608 reach the bottom), consequently, moving the mooring westward, as occurred in 2010 and  
609 in 2012, we should have found a stronger oscillation in the time series, the opposite of  
610 what we actually observed (Figures 6 and 10).

611 Secondly, as we have shown before, the ellipse orientations of the main tidal constituents  
612 that govern the bottom dynamics have a larger zonal component after 2010 (normal to the  
613 DT main axis) meaning a more east-west tidal transport during those years. Consequently,

614 we would expect, at least during spring tides, a stronger temperature signal amplitude in  
615 the 2010-2014 time series, but we actually found stronger oscillations before 2010.

616

## 617 **5 Conclusions**

618 Based on the results and discussion presented in the previous sections we can summarize  
619 the conclusion in the following points:

620 1) Previous works using both observational data (Kohut et al. 2013) and numerical  
621 models (Wang et al. 2013) suggested that mCDW intrudes onto the shelf mainly on  
622 the west slope of the Ross Sea banks. Instead we highlight the presence of two  
623 main cores of mCDW that intrude over the shelf.

624 2) Although our mooring is always located south of the ASF, the mechanism that  
625 brings mCDW from mid-depth to the bottom and the relative mixing with HSSW, is  
626 the tidal stirring (with a daily and a fortnightly variability). Thanks to tidal mixing that  
627 brings mCDW to the bottom we are able to analyze the temporal variability of the  
628 CDW intrusion, although we only have sensors at the bottom of the trough, and they  
629 are 50 km distance from the shelf break.

630 3) Thanks to a unique time series (10 years long) collected by a mooring located close  
631 to the shelf break, it has been possible to explore beyond the small scale temporal  
632 variability: the seasonality and the interannual variability of mCDW inflow over the  
633 shelf.

634 4) A strong seasonal variability of mCDW intrusions is clear. It appears that a strong  
635 incursion of mCDW occurs each austral summer around the end of  
636 December/beginning of January and a relatively weaker one around July.

- 637 5) We observe a strict relationship between the tide and temperature signal both at the  
638 small temporal scale and the seasonal time scale. We speculate that the seasonal  
639 intrusion of mCDW into the bottom layer is governed by the tides, but may be  
640 modulated by the wind fields too.
- 641 6) Besides a seasonal variability we found, also, an interannual variability. We  
642 detected large differences in the temperature oscillation before and after 2010.  
643 Probably, this variability is tide related too. Change in the tidal behavior is likely  
644 related to a modification of the stratification, going from a more stratified to a more  
645 homogenous water column.
- 646 7) The mechanism that changes the tide behavior in relation to the stratification is  
647 likely associated with the influence on the DTVWs of the stratification. In a  
648 homogenous water column, DTVWs propagate relatively slowly and attenuate over  
649 a shorter distance than in the stratified case. Thus, we speculate that before 2010 in  
650 a more stratified water column the DTVWs formed at the shelf break propagate  
651 more vigorously and southward compared to after 2010 when the more  
652 homogenous water column decreases the tide influence at the mooring location.  
653 The more homogenous water column after 2010 may depend on the freshening of  
654 mCDW observed by Jacobs and Giulivi (2010).

655 Finally, considering that we obtained these results using data collected by a single  
656 mooring, some questions remain. We believe we could address some of them using model  
657 simulations of the Ross Sea cross slope dynamics. In particular, the three main points that  
658 should be investigated are:

- 659 • The role played by the wind stress in the seasonal variability by means of re-  
660 analysis and model experiment.

- 661       • The influence of the stratification on the DTVW dynamics and the role played by  
662       the DTVWs in the CDW inflow variability.
- 663       • The possible effect of the movement of the mooring on the observed variability in  
664       the tidal ellipses orientation.

665

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673 for Medium-range Weather Forecast.

674

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858

### 859 **Figure and table captions**

860

861 **Online version (color)** Figure 1: Map of the western Ross Sea with bottom topography in  
862 meters. The transects A and B discussed in the text are shown by the red lines. The blue  
863 diamond indicates the mooring position. Locations of geographic features discussed in the  
864 text are also indicated: Cape Adare (CA), Drygalski Trough (DT) and Mawson Bank (MB).

865

866 **Printed version (black and white)** Figure 1: Map of the western Ross Sea with bottom  
867 topography in meters. The transects A and B discussed in the text are shown by the black  
868 thick lines. The grey diamond indicates the mooring position. Locations of geographic  
869 features discussed in the text are also indicated: Cape Adare (CA), Drygalski Trough (DT)  
870 and Mawson Bank (MB). The color version of this figure is available online.

871

872 Figure 2: Operation periods for the mooring deployed in the middle of the Drygalski Trough  
873 discussed in the text. The different gray lines indicate the instrument type (see legend,  
874 upper right).

875

876 Figure 3: Vertical section looking northward across the Drygalski Trough close to the shelf  
877 break ( see transect A in Fig. 1): (a) potential temperature  $\theta$  ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ); (b) neutral density  $\gamma^n$  ( $\text{kg}$   
878  $\text{m}^{-3}$ ); (c) salinity  $S$ ; (d) dissolved oxygen DO ( $\text{mg l}^{-1}$ ); and (e) LADCP velocity ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) for the  
879 component normal to the Shelf Break ( $u_x$  - positive values directed offshore). The color  
880 version of this figure is available online.

881

882 Figure 4: Vertical section across the Drygalski Trough at the mooring location (black  
883 triangle), about 50 km from the shelf break ( see transect B in Fig. 1) of: (a) potential  
884 temperature  $\theta$  ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) for the 2006 oceanographic survey; (b) neutral density  $\gamma^n$  ( $\text{kg m}^{-3}$ ) for  
885 the 2006 oceanographic survey; (c) potential temperature  $\theta$  ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) for the 2012  
886 oceanographic survey; and (d) neutral density  $\gamma^n$  ( $\text{kg m}^{-3}$ ) for the 2012 oceanographic  
887 survey. The color version of this figure is available online.

888

889 Figure 5: Hourly time series of (a) salinity with temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) color coded and (b)  
890 neutral density  $\gamma^n$  ( $\text{kg m}^{-3}$ ) with temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) color coded, registered by the bottom  
891 instruments on the mooring in the middle of the Drygalski Trough (see Fig. 1 for location).

892

893 Figure 6: Hourly time series of the temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), registered by the bottom instruments  
894 (about 20 m above the bottom; in grey) and by the upper instrument (about 80 m above

895 the bottom; in black) on the mooring in the middle of the Drygalski Trough (see Fig. 1 for  
896 location).

897

898 Figure 7: Wavelet power spectrum for the 2012 - 2014 time series registered by the bottom  
899 sensors (about 20 m above the bottom), on the mooring in Fig. 1, of the (a) temperature  
900 ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) (T); (b) zonal component ( $u$ ,  $\text{ms}^{-1}$ ) of the bottom current; (c) meridional component ( $u$ ,  
901  $\text{ms}^{-1}$ ) of the bottom current; and (d) magnitude ( $V$ ,  $\text{ms}^{-1}$ ) of the bottom current meter. The  
902 significance level (thick black line, 95%) and the cone of influence (thin black line) are also  
903 indicated.

904

905 Figure 8: Potential temperature/salinity ( $\theta/S$ ) scatter plot of the (a) 2004 – 2005 time  
906 series; (b) 2005 – 2006 time series and (c) 2006 – 2007 time series. The blue horizontal  
907 line shows the surface freezing point of seawater.

908

909 **Online version (color)** Figure 9: three-months subsets from (a) February 2004; (b)  
910 November 2004; (c) February 2013; (d) November 2013; of (starting from the top): (first  
911 panel) the zonal component ( $u$ ,  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom  
912 sensors (thick blue line), tidal component of  $u$  (thin black line); (second panel) meridional  
913 component ( $v$ ,  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick blue  
914 line), tidal component of  $v$  (thin black line); (third panel) current velocity ( $V$ ,  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )  
915 differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick blue line), tidal component of  
916  $V$  (thin black line), Eddy Kinetic Energy (EKE,  $\text{J}$  – thick red line) for the bottom sensors  
917 scaled for 2; (fourth panel) temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) registered by the bottom (thin black line) and  
918 upper (thin blue line) sensors.

919

920 **Printed version (black and white)** Figure 9: three-months subsets from (a) February 2004;  
921 (b) November 2004; (c) February 2013; (d) November 2013; of (starting from the top): (first  
922 panel) the zonal component ( $u$ ,  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom  
923 sensors (thick grey line), tidal component of  $u$  (thin black line); (second panel) meridional  
924 component ( $v$ ,  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick grey  
925 line), tidal component of  $v$  (thin black line); (third panel) current velocity ( $V$ ,  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )  
926 differences between the upper and the bottom sensors (thick grey line), tidal component of  
927  $V$  (thin black line), Eddy Kinetic Energy (EKE, J – thick black line) for the bottom sensors  
928 scaled for 2; (fourth panel) temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) registered by the bottom (thick black line) and  
929 upper (thick grey line) sensors. The color version of this figure is available online.

930

931 Figure 10: low-pass filtered (with a cutoff of 15 days) time series of the (a) Eddy Kinetic  
932 Energy (EKE, J); (b) tidal kinetic Energy (Tide KE, J) and (c) temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) registered  
933 by the bottom sensors over the entire sampling period from January 2004 to January  
934 2014.

935

936 Figure 11: Monthly average along shelf break wind component from 2004 to 2011 (see  
937 legend lower right for the different years) of the daily mean ERA-interim (ECMWF) time  
938 series. The data were averaged over the area close to the shelf break in the western  
939 Ross Sea (from  $71.5^{\circ}\text{ S}$  to  $72.5^{\circ}\text{ S}$  & from  $172^{\circ}\text{ E}$  to  $176^{\circ}\text{ E}$ ). The along-shelf break wind  
940 component is obtained rotating the coordinate system by  $26^{\circ}$  so that one component  
941 roughly aligns with the Ross Sea shelf break line in the subset area.

942

943 **Online version (color)** Figure 12: Tidal ellipses of the main constituents  $O_1$  (left panel) and  
944  $K_1$  (right panel) at different depths throughout the entire sampling period for the 2004 (left)  
945 and 2012 (right) mooring time series. The red dashed line indicates the direction of the  
946 Drygalski Trough main axis (about  $36^\circ$  N).

947

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949 panel) and  $K_1$  (right panel) at different depths throughout the entire sampling period for the  
950 2004 (left) and 2012 (right) mooring time series. The grey dashed line indicates the  
951 direction of the Drygalski Trough main axis (about  $36^\circ$  N). The color version of this figure is  
952 available online.

953

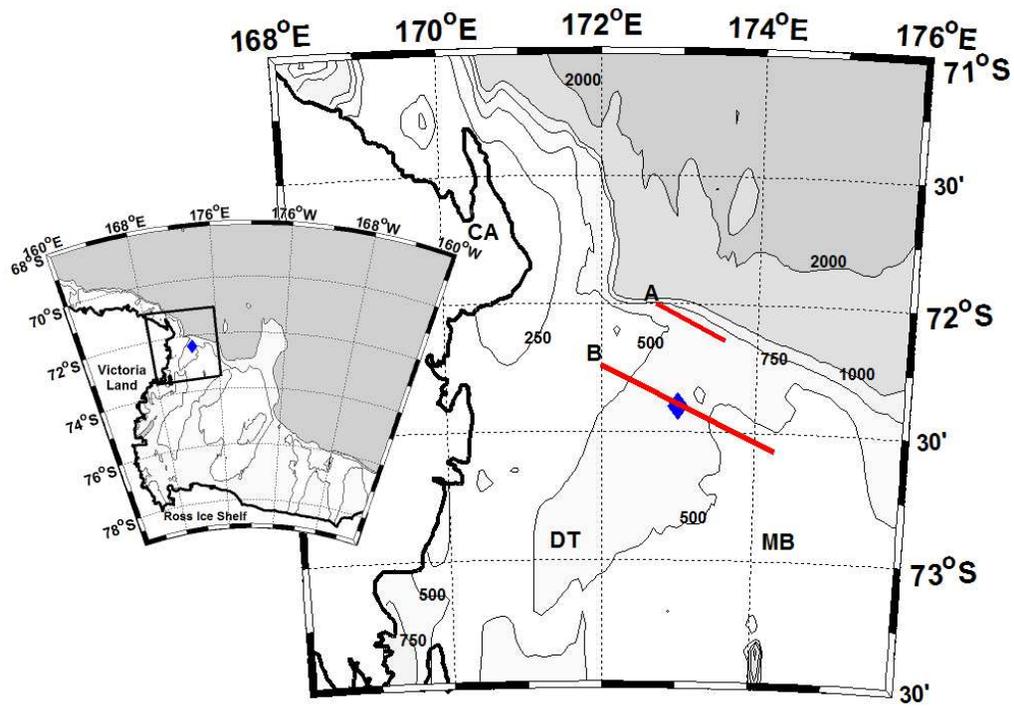
954 Figure 13: Potential temperature/salinity ( $\theta/S$ ) scatter plot of the transect B (see Figures 1  
955 and 4), color coded by the longitude ( $^\circ$ E), for the (a) 2006 oceanographic survey and (b)  
956 2012 oceanographic survey. The blue horizontal line shows the surface freezing point of  
957 seawater. The color version of this figure is available online.

958

959 Table 1: tidal Parameters, computed using  $T_{\text{tide}}$ , for the single instruments for each  
960 survey: tide constituent frequency (Freq, cycles/hour), major and minor axis ( $U_{\text{maj}}$   $U_{\text{min}}$ , cm  
961  $s^{-1}$ ), tidal ellipse inclination (Inc,  $^\circ$ N) and phase to the Greenwich meridian (pha,  $^\circ$ )

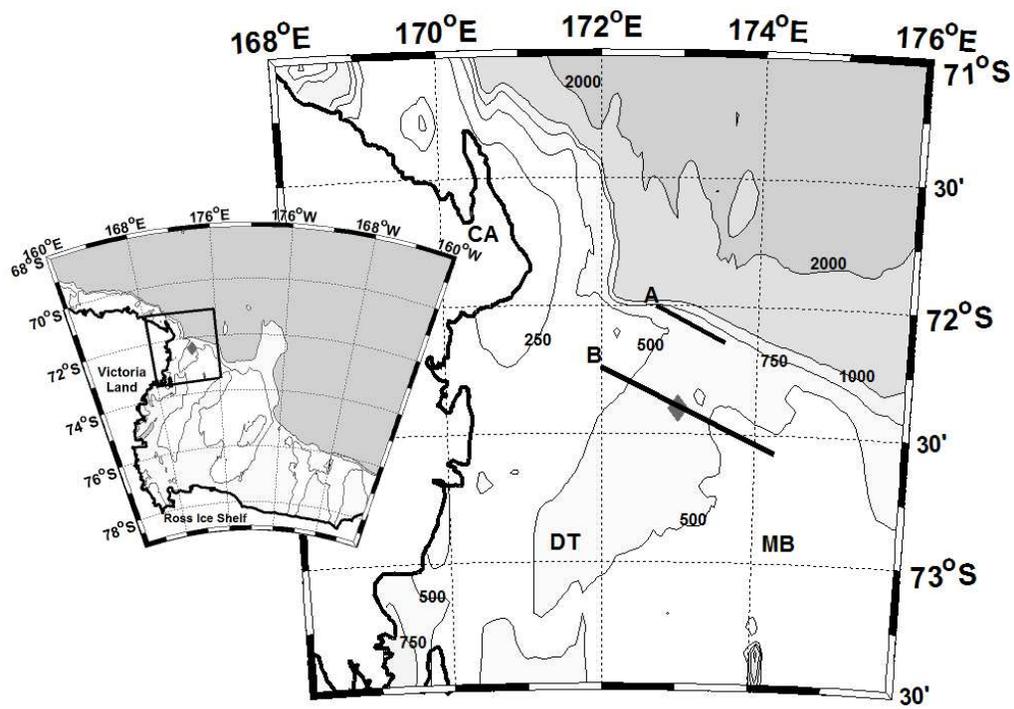
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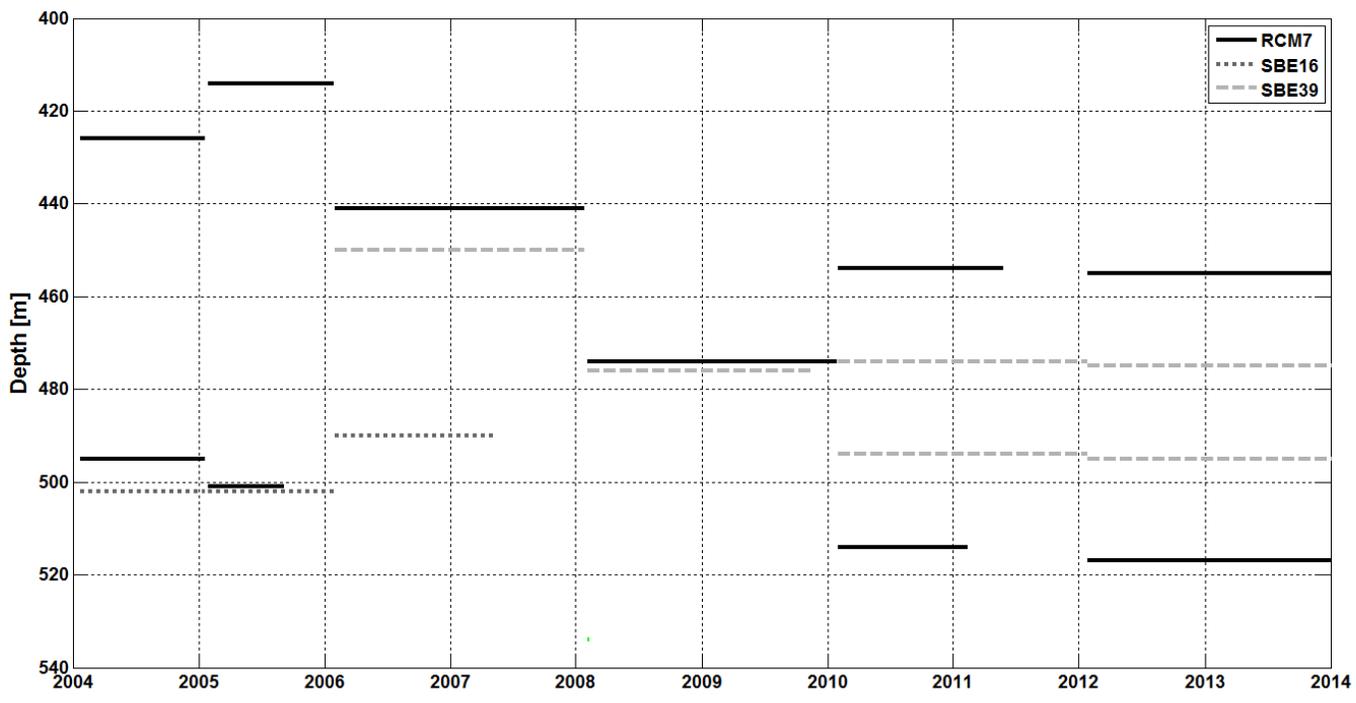
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Figure(s)

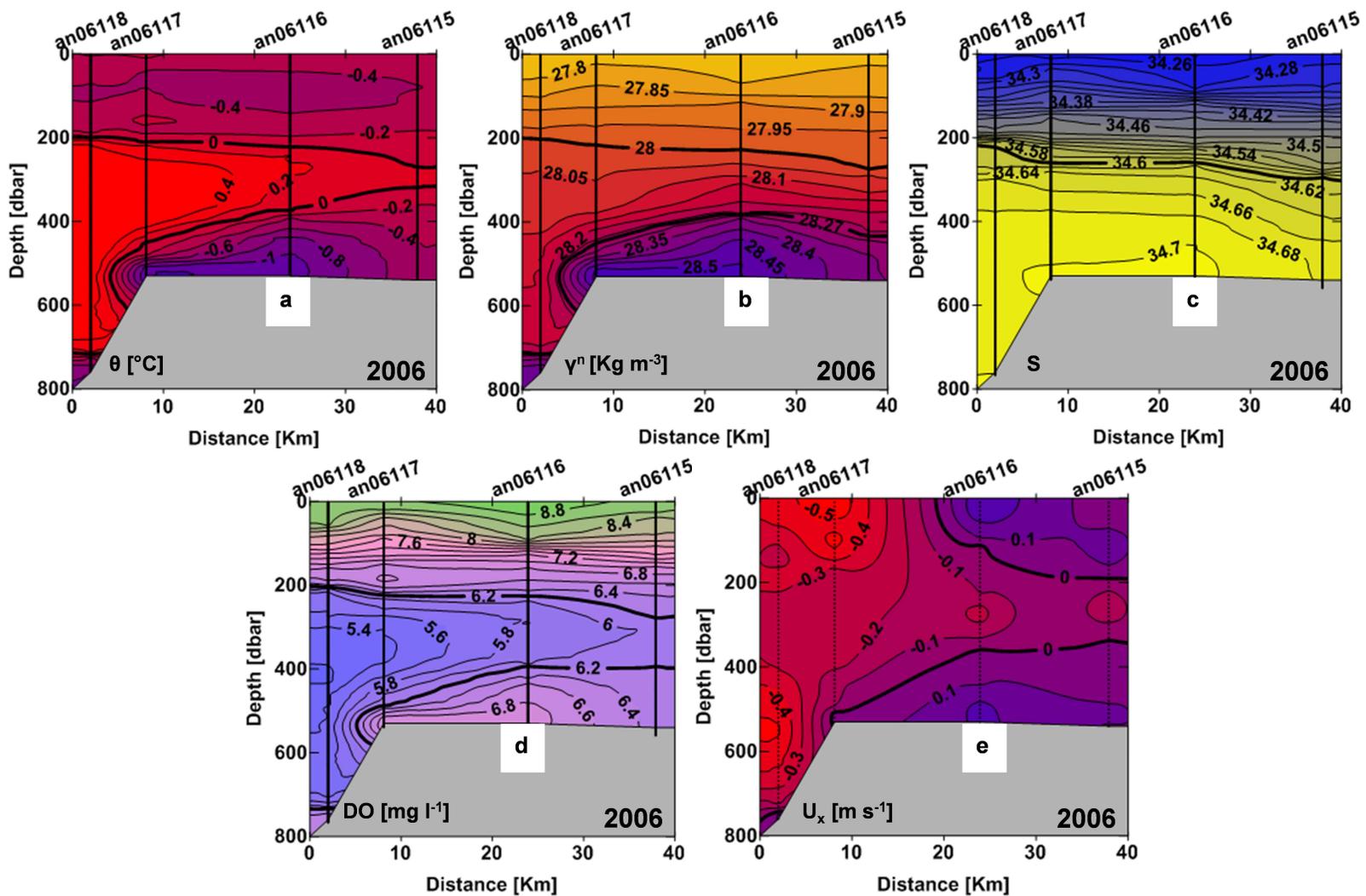
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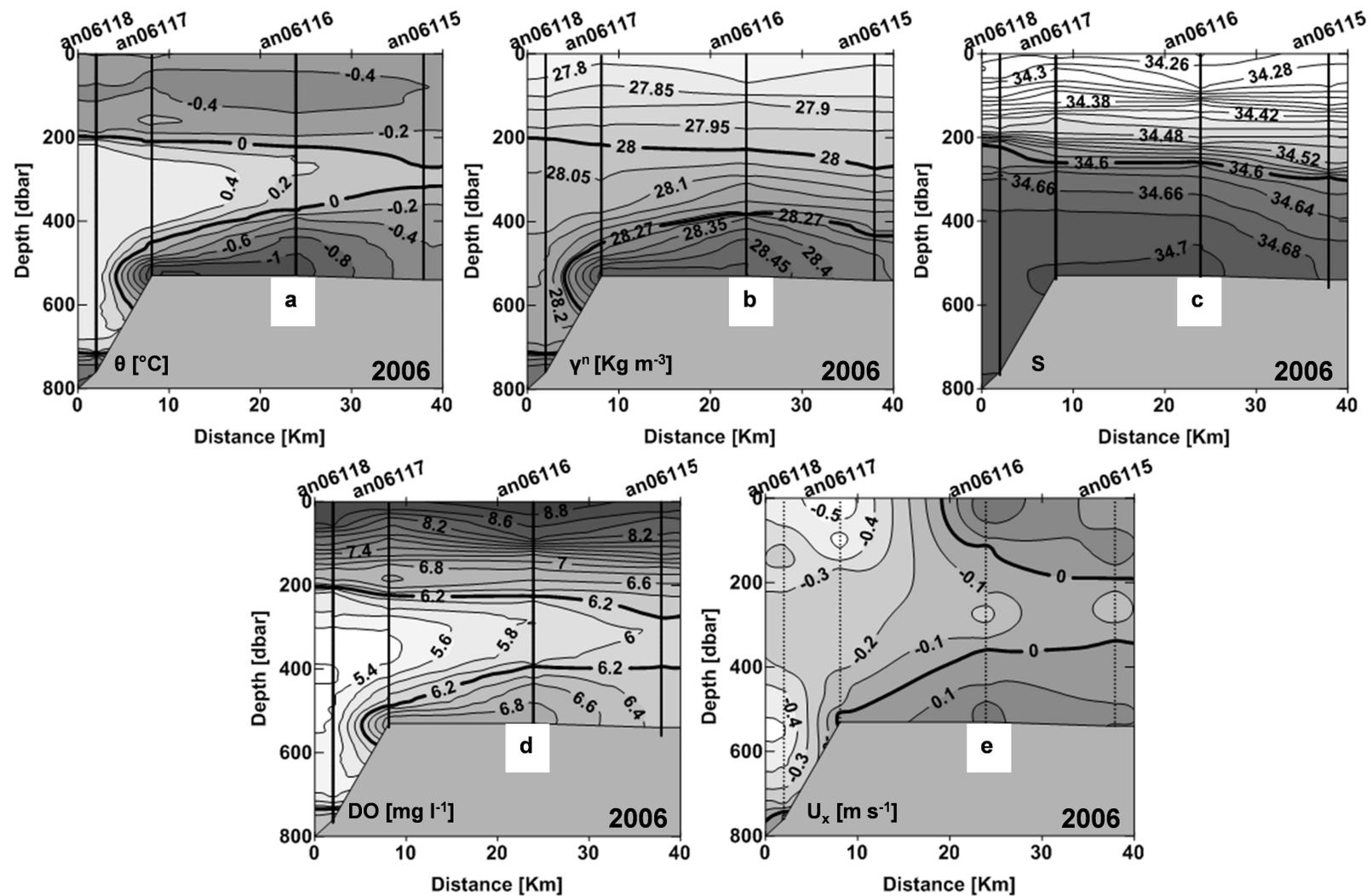




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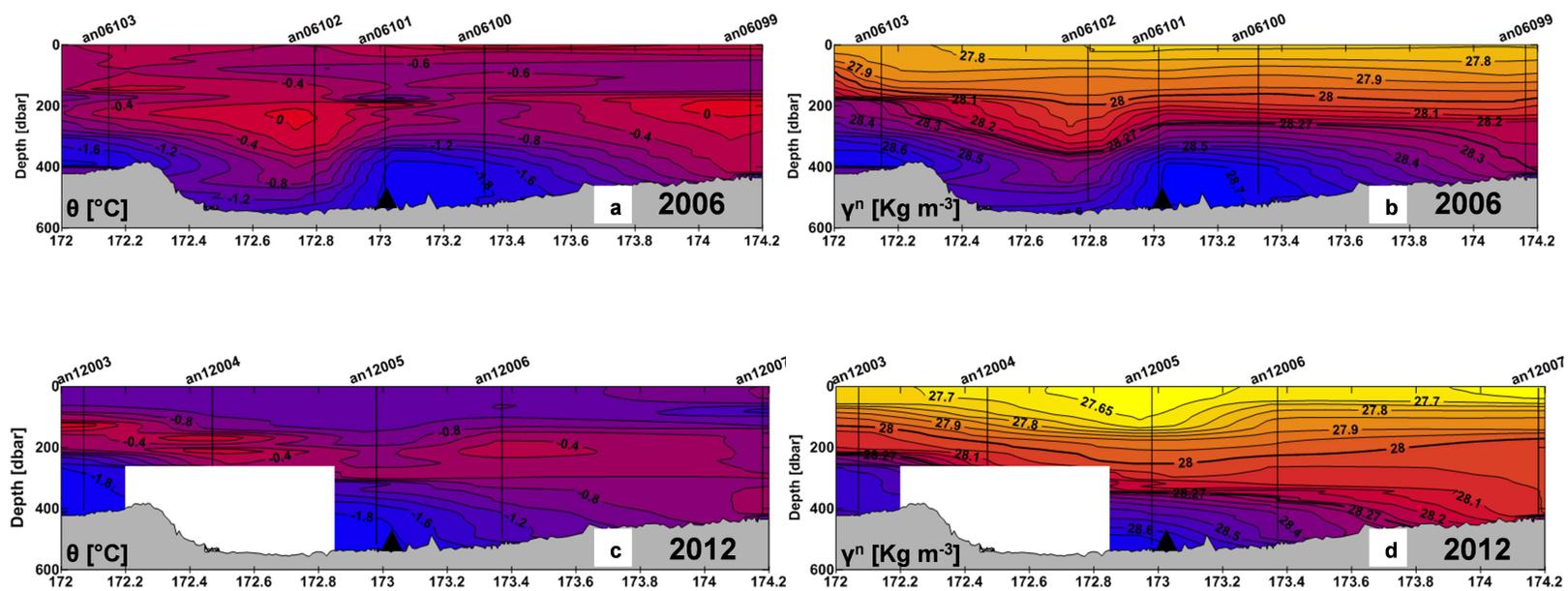
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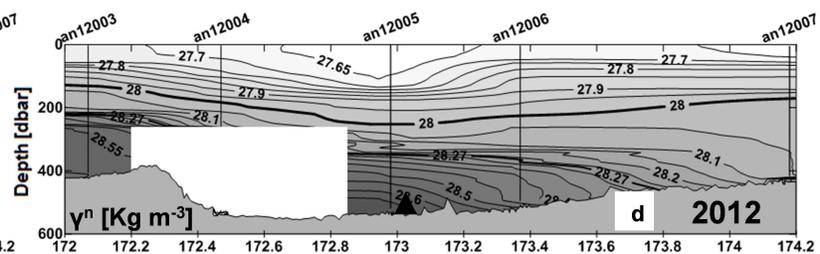
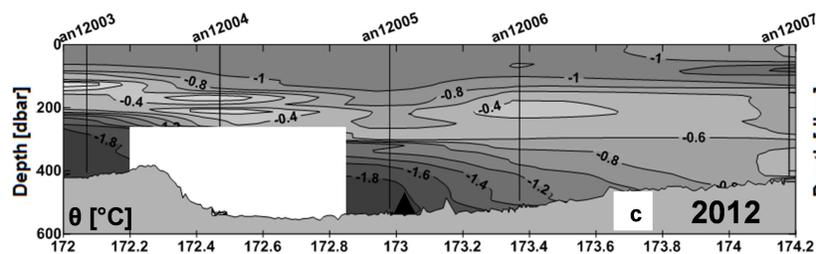
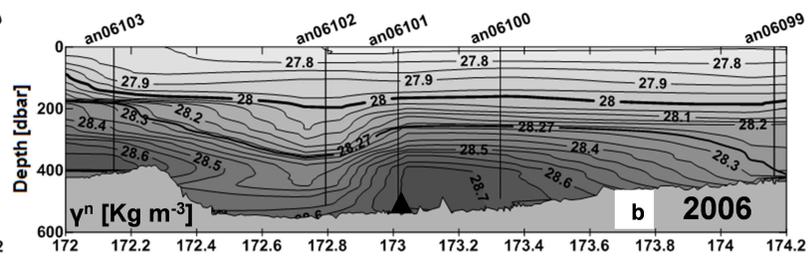
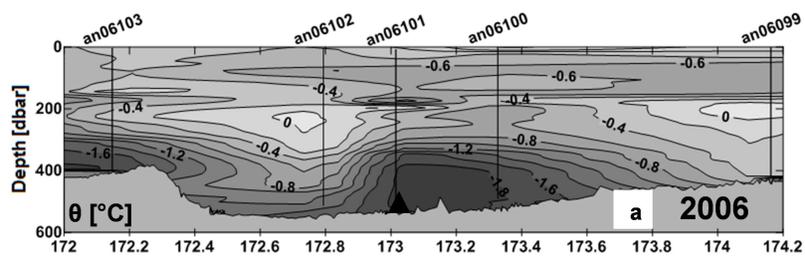
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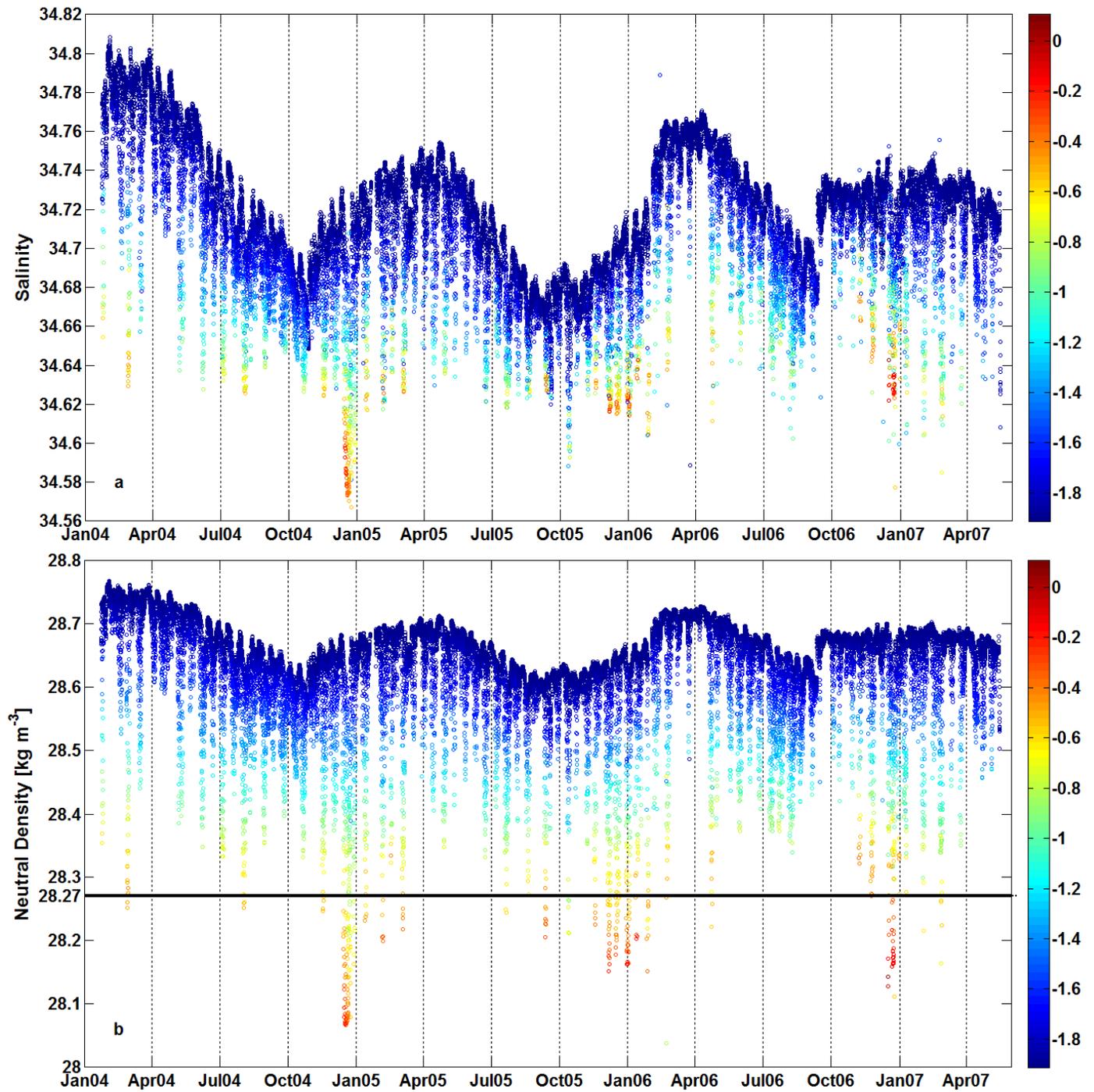
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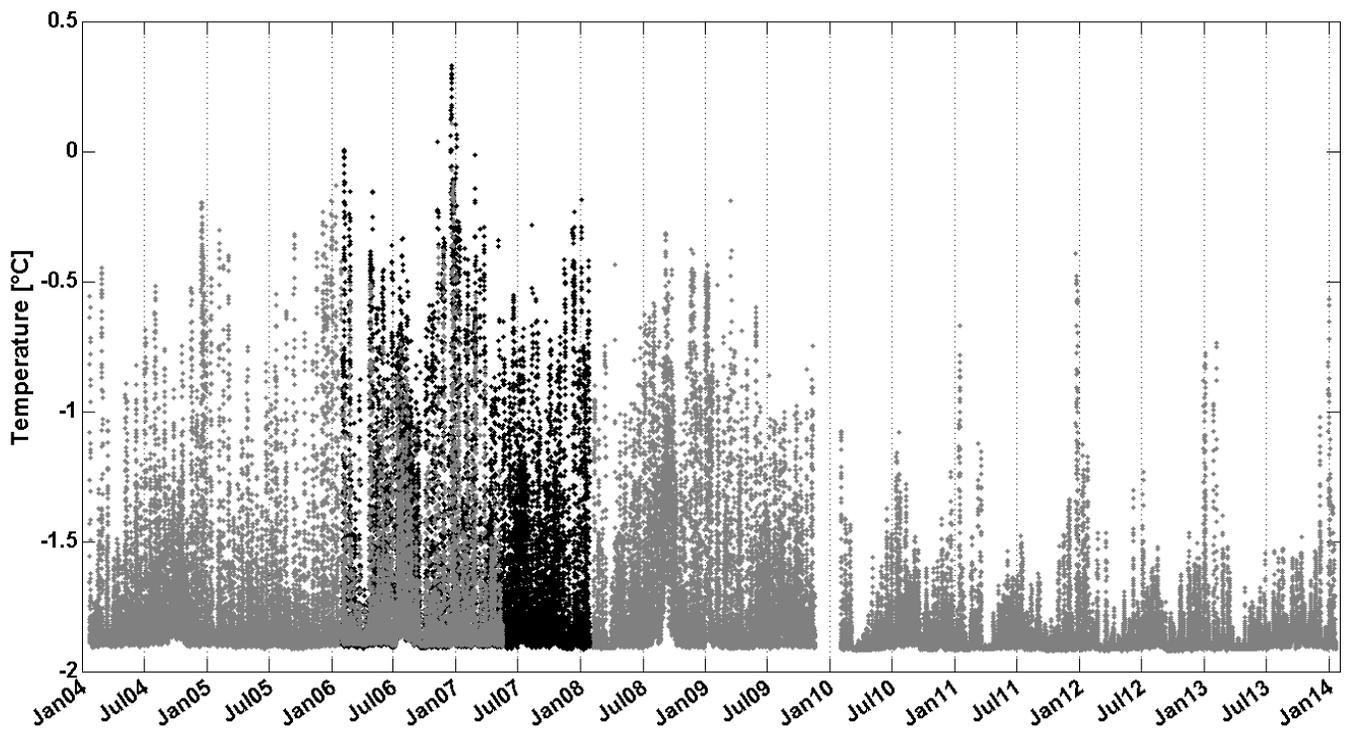


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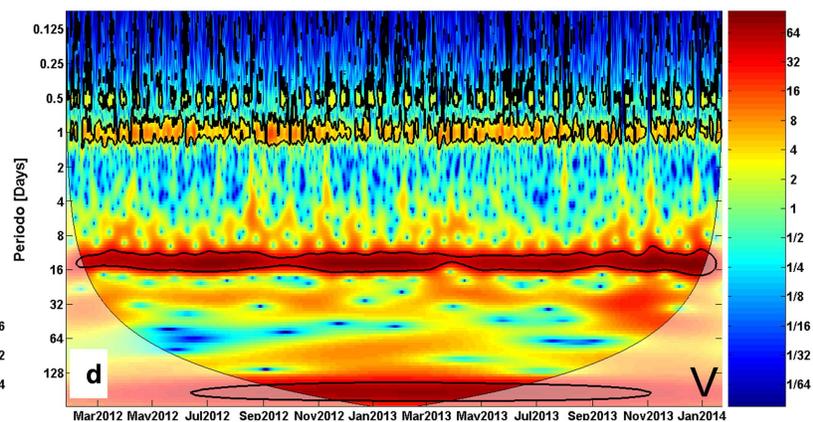
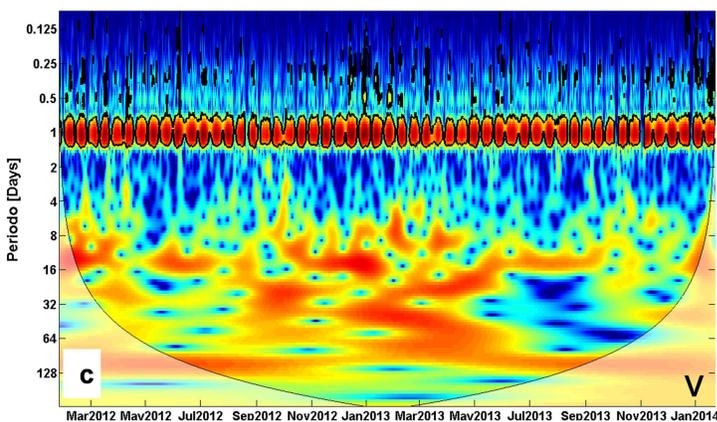
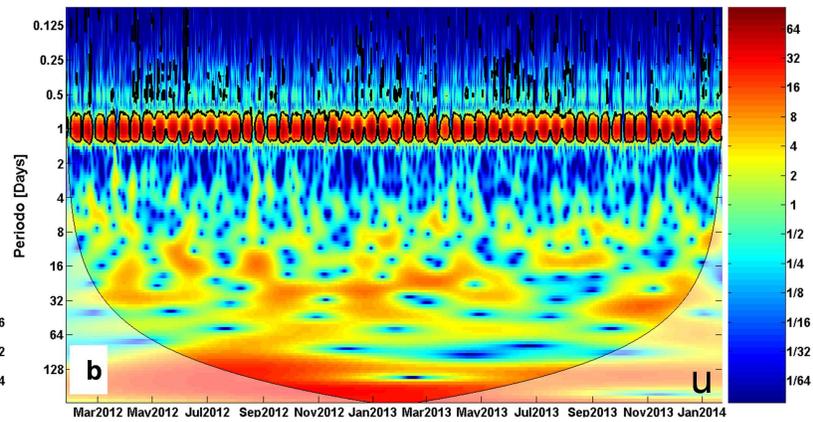
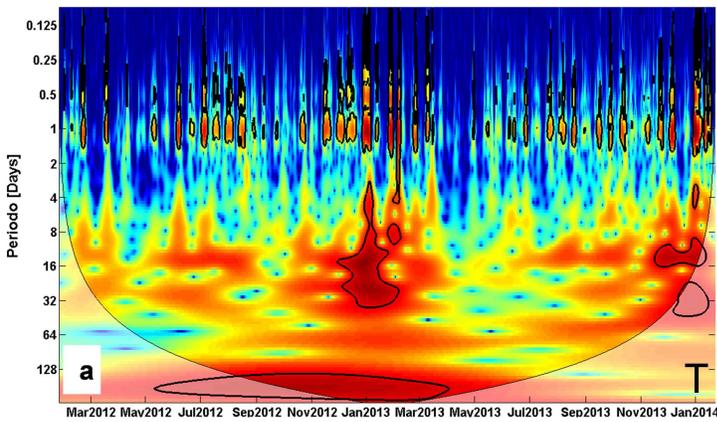






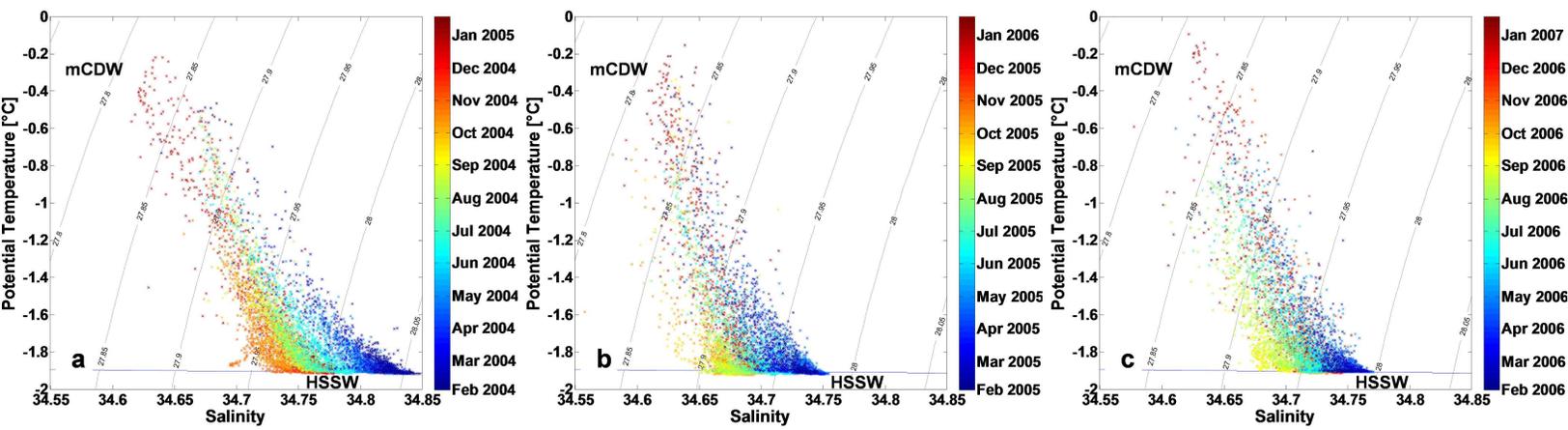
# Figure(s)

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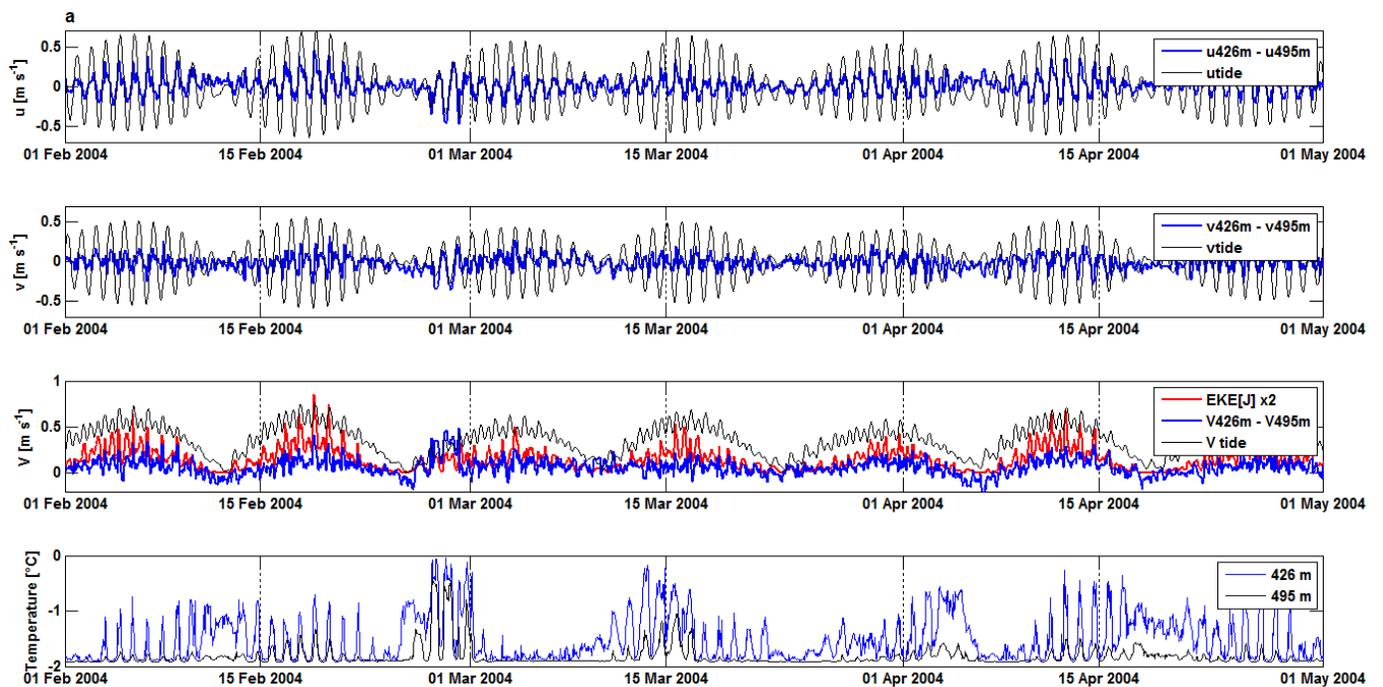
Figure(s)

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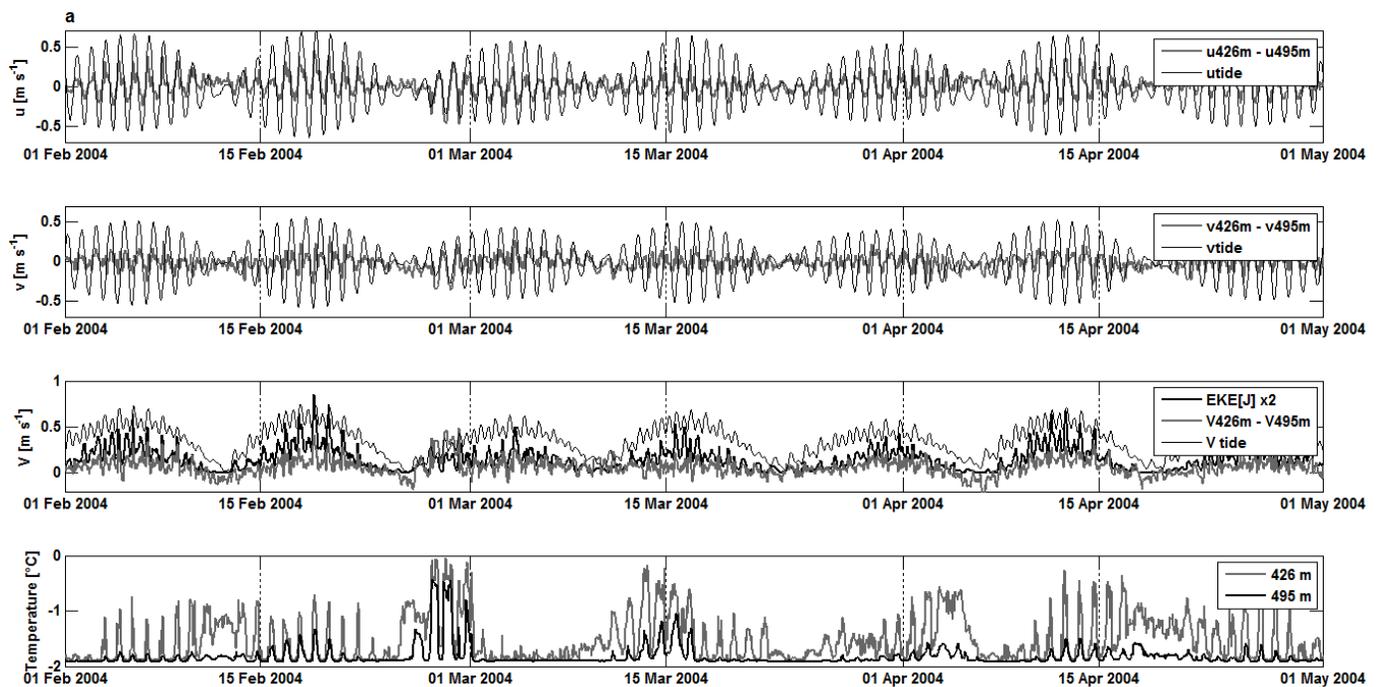
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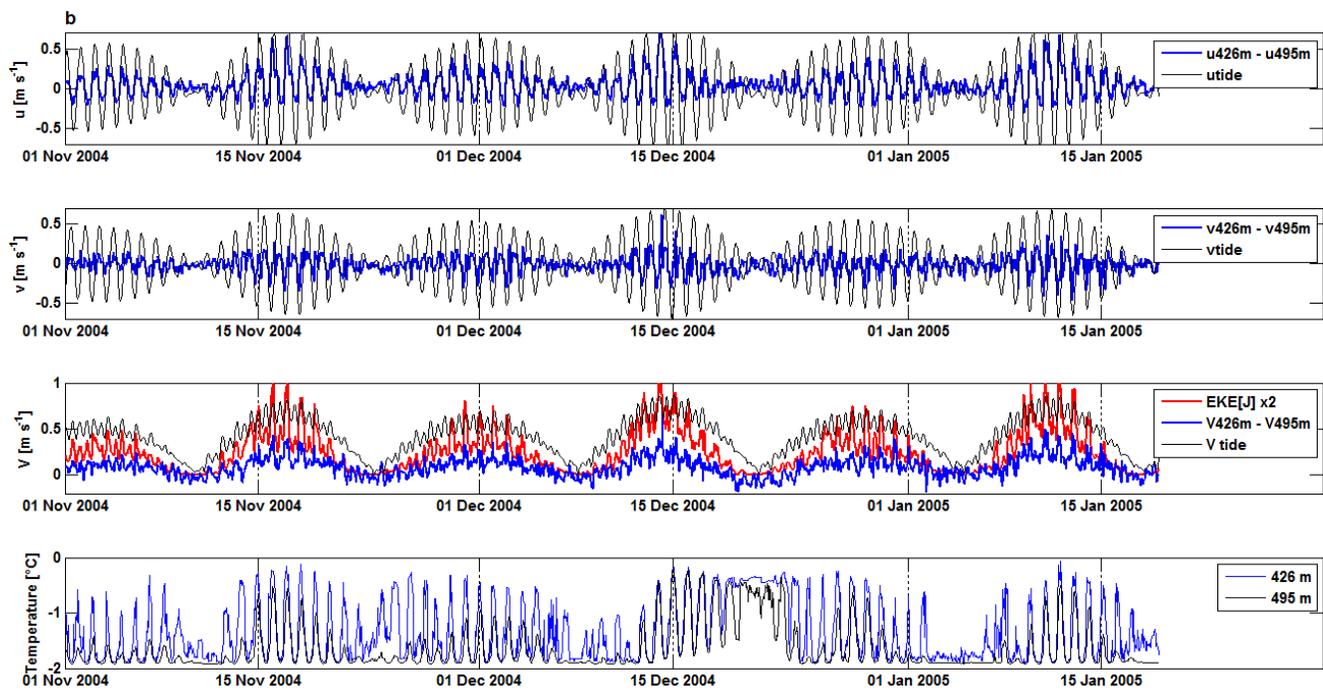
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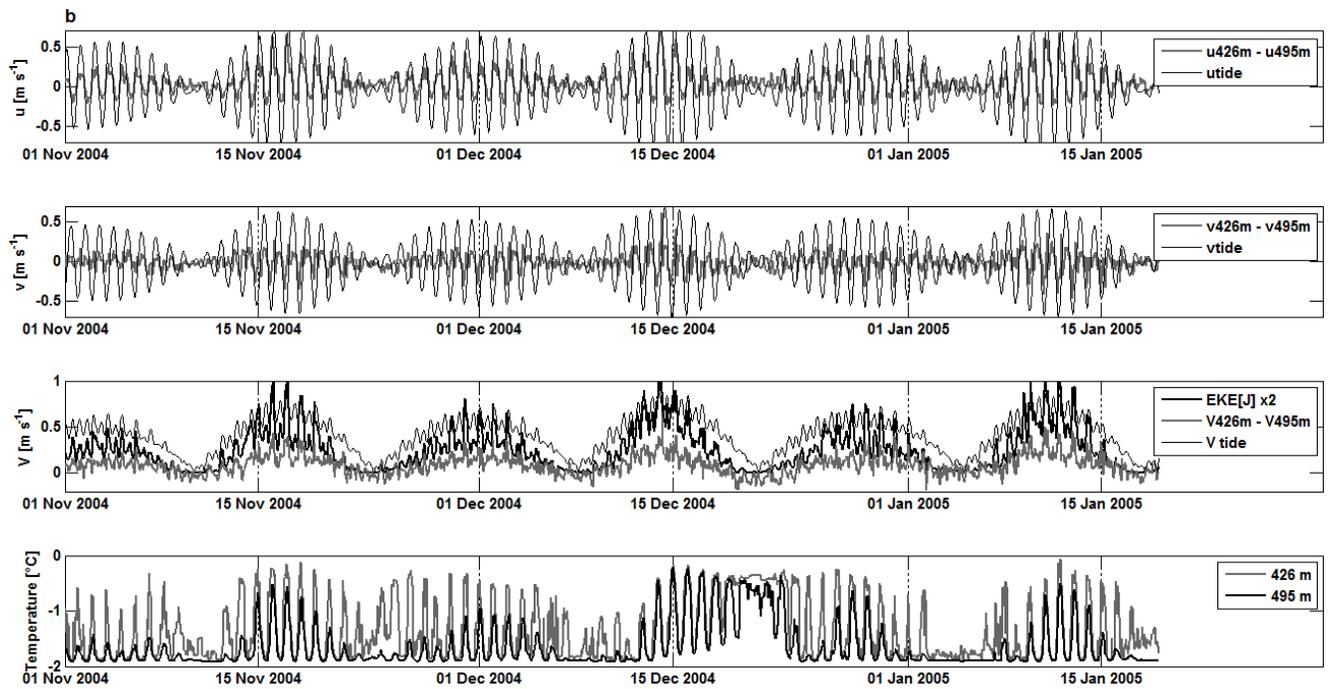
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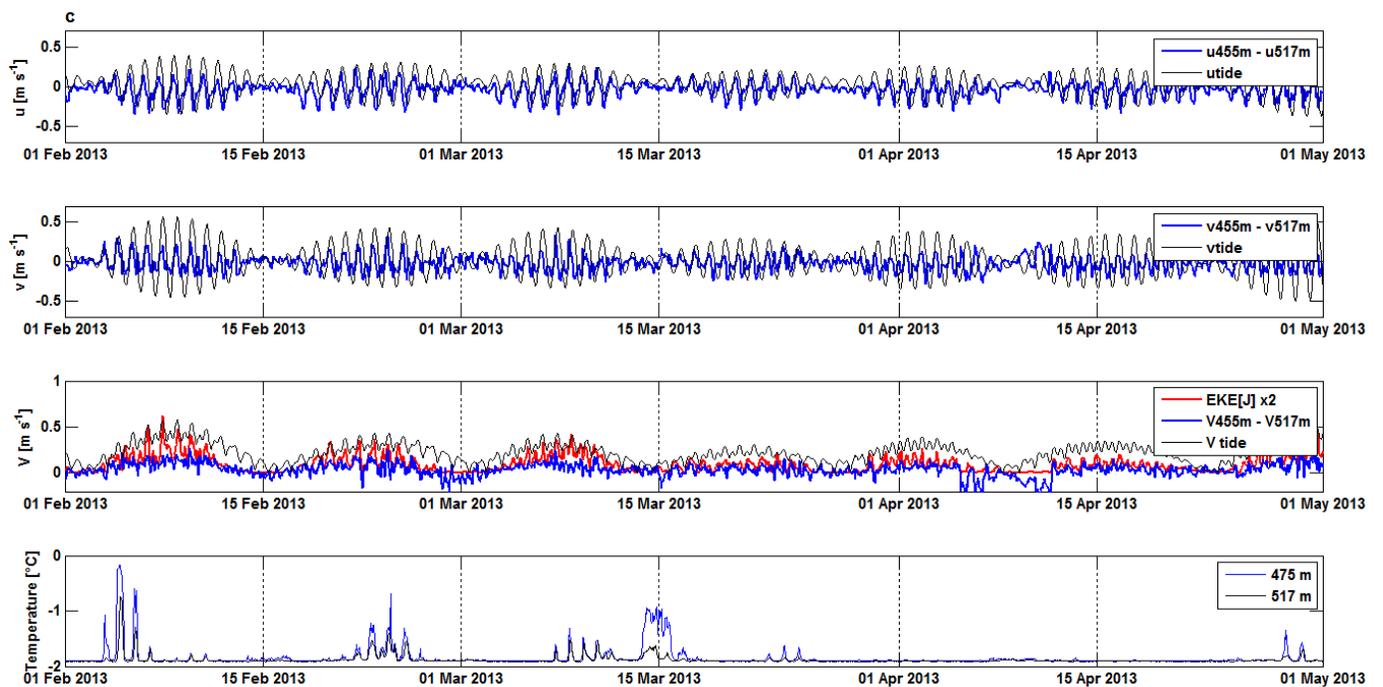
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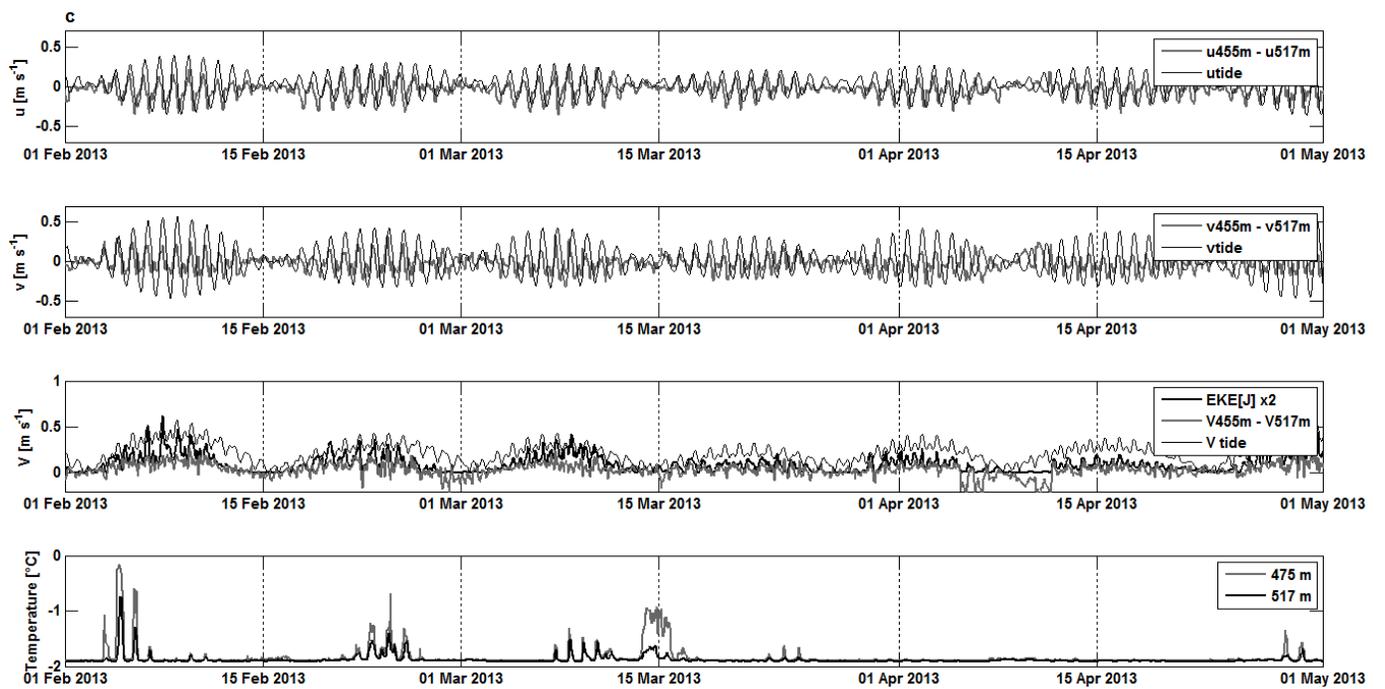
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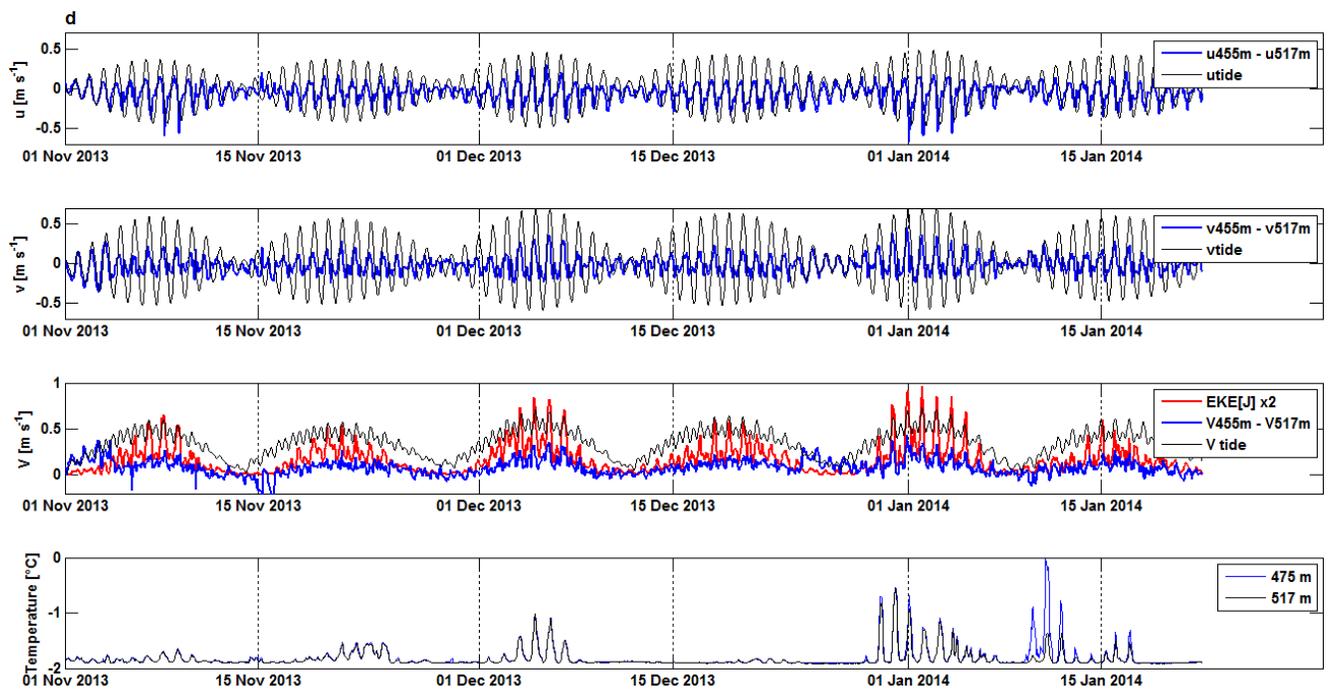
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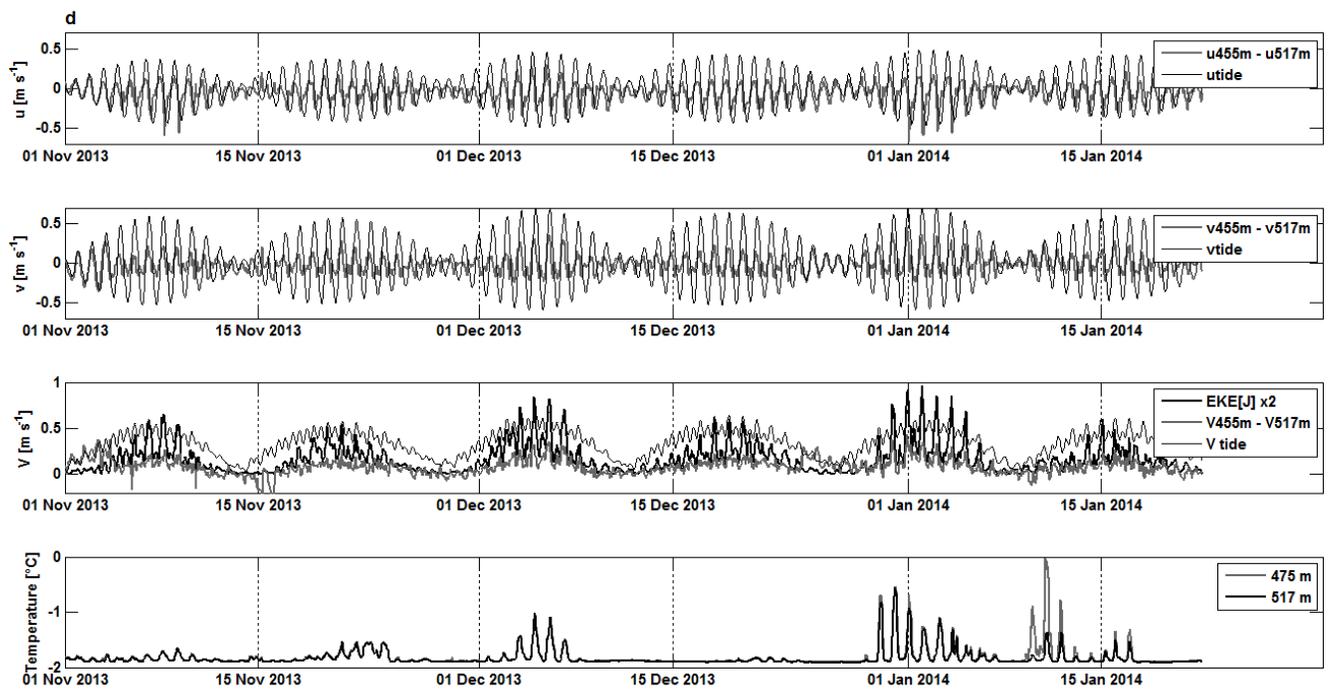
Figure(s)

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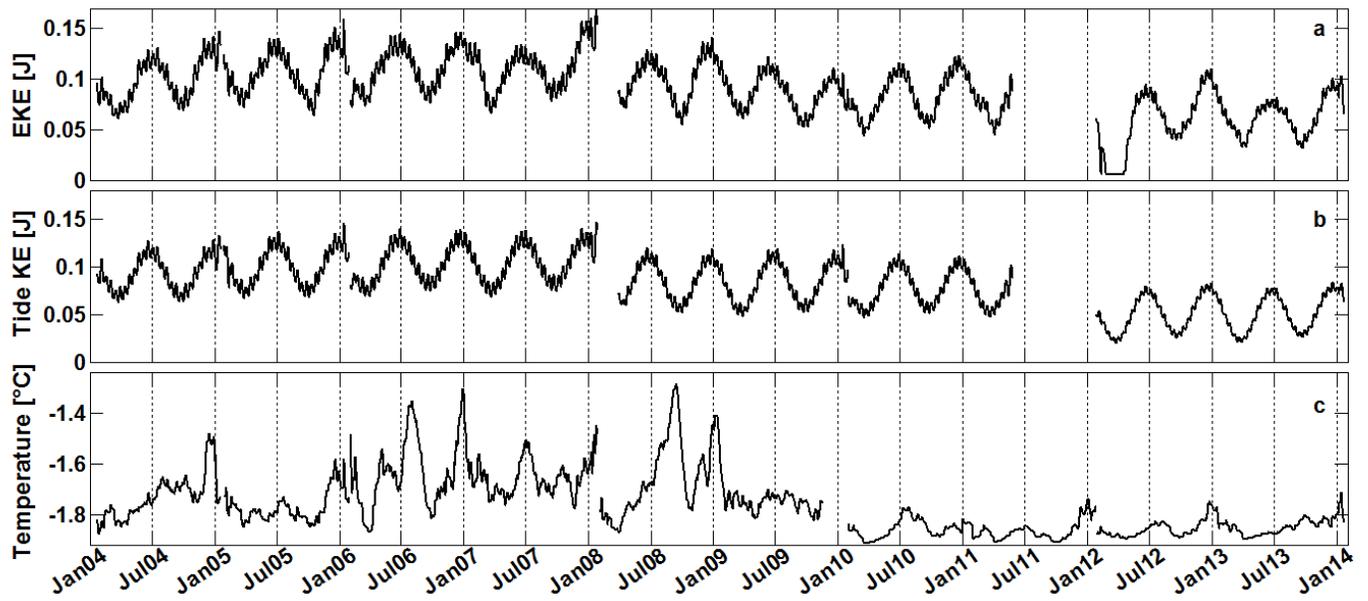
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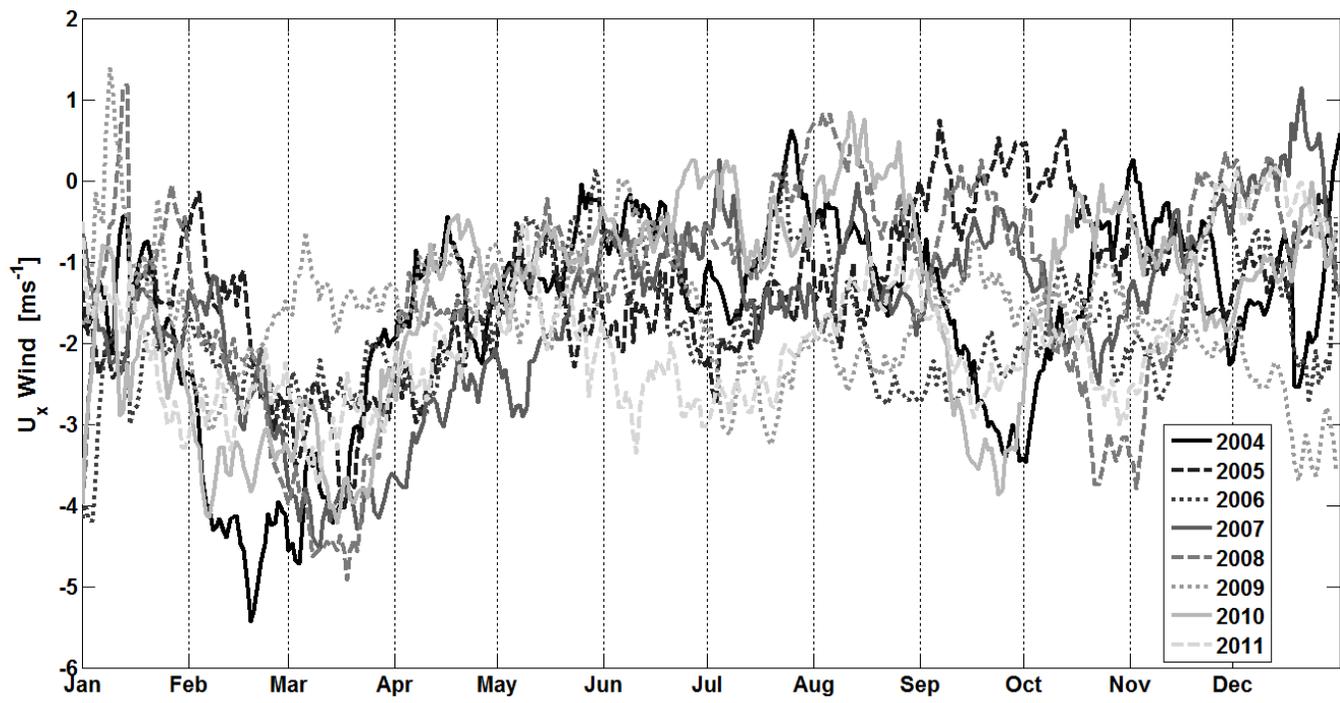
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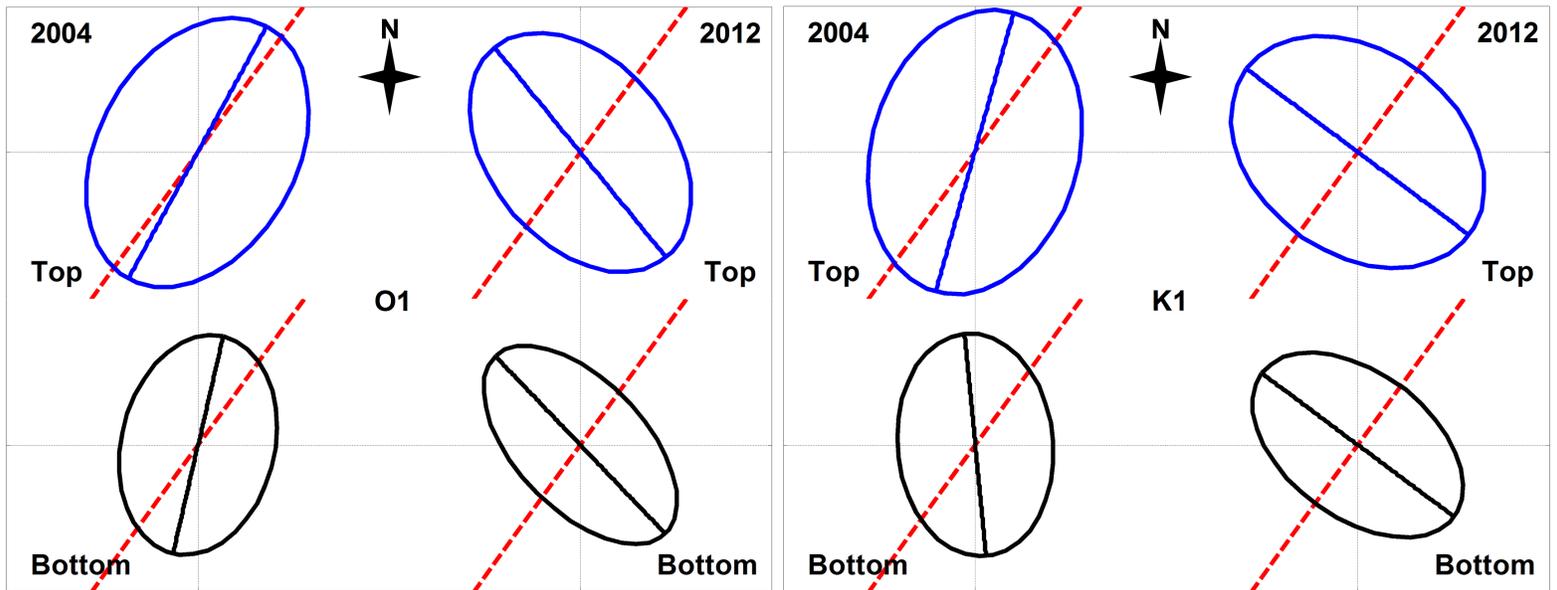
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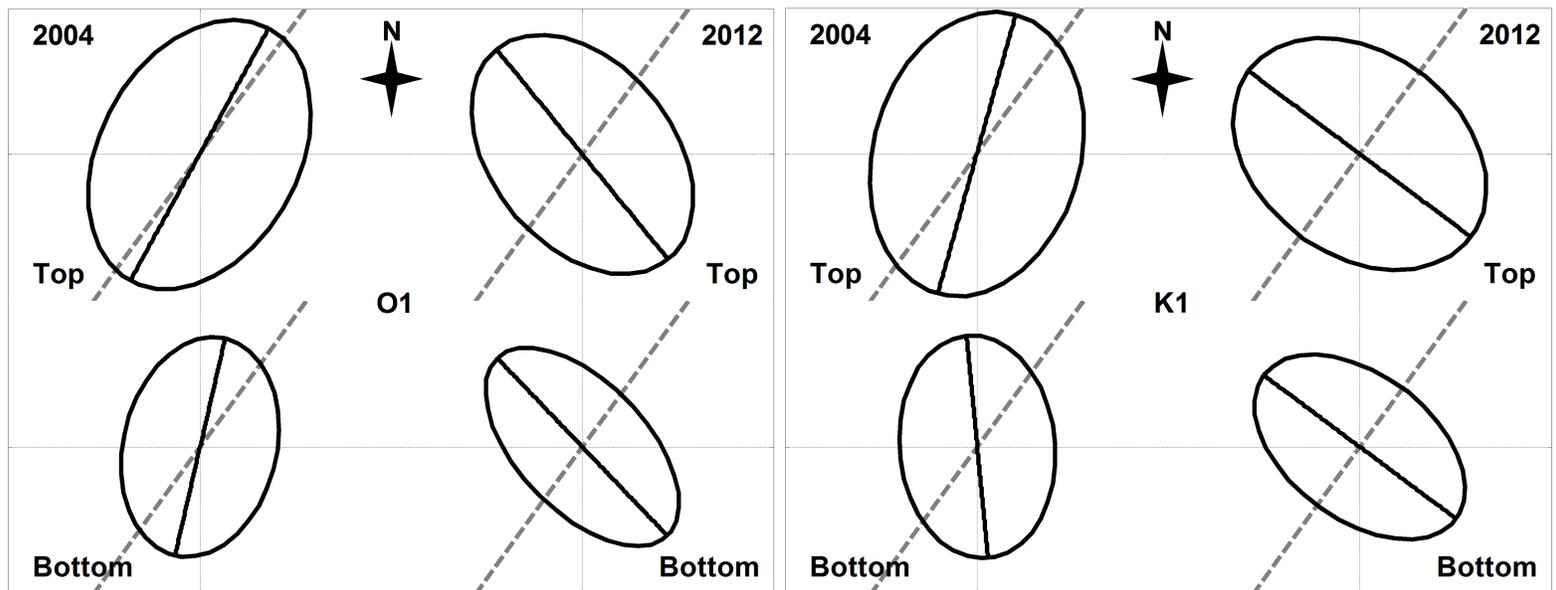


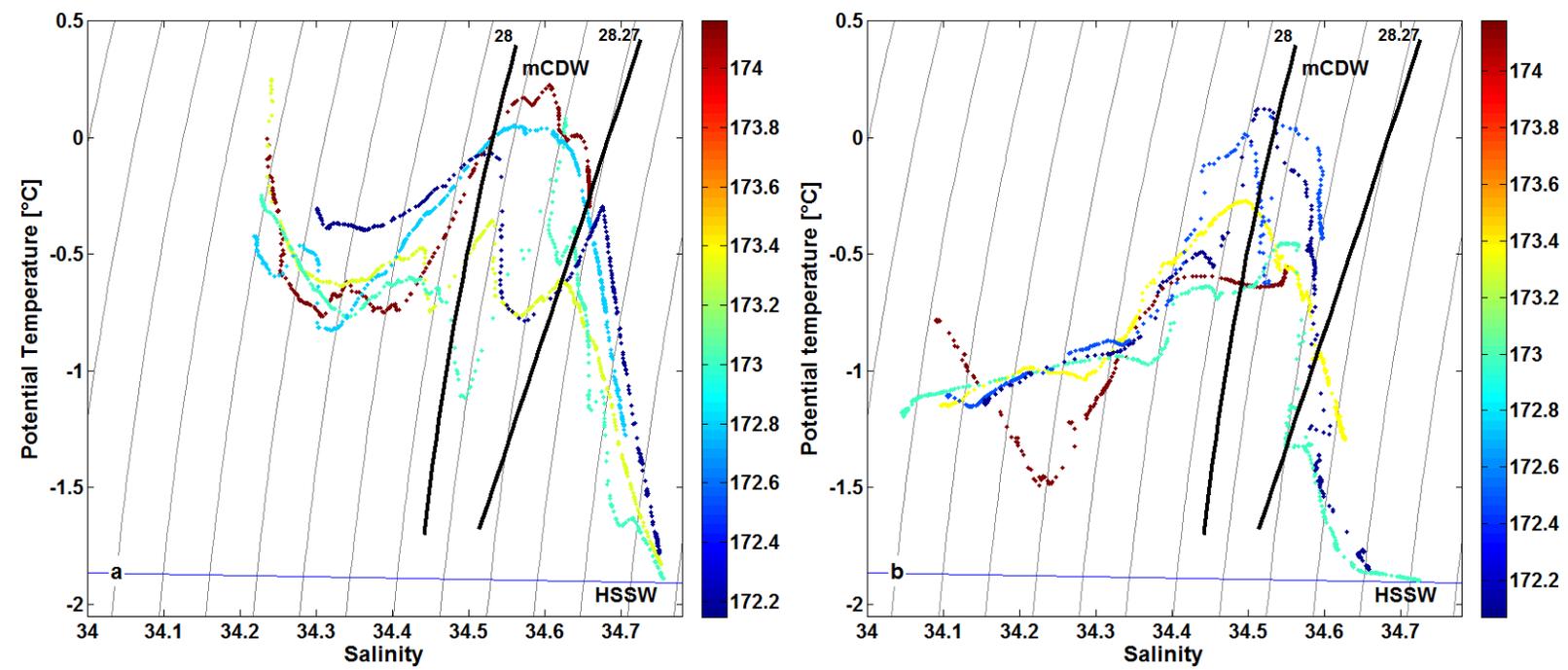
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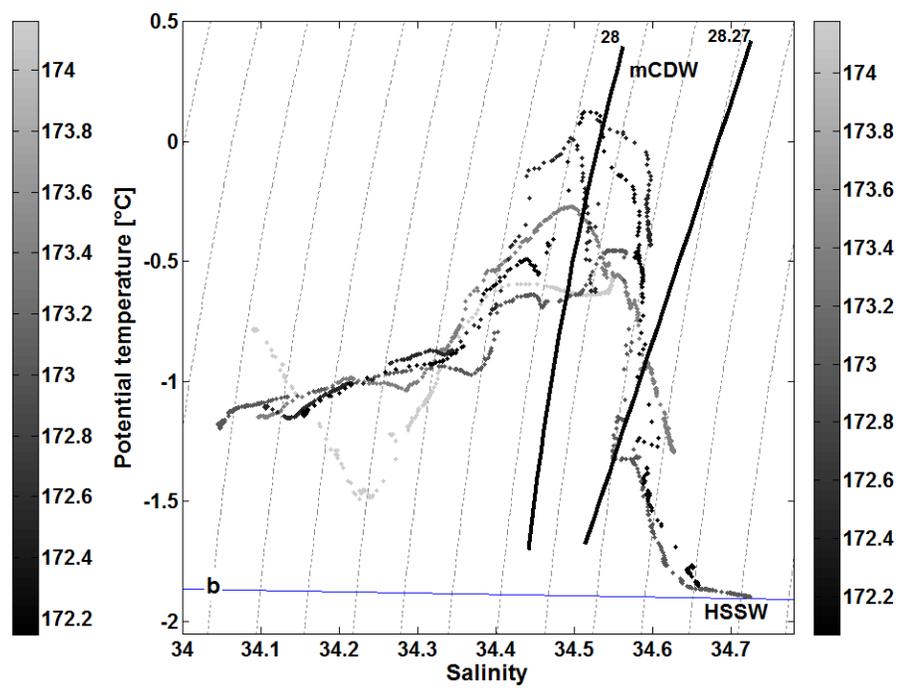
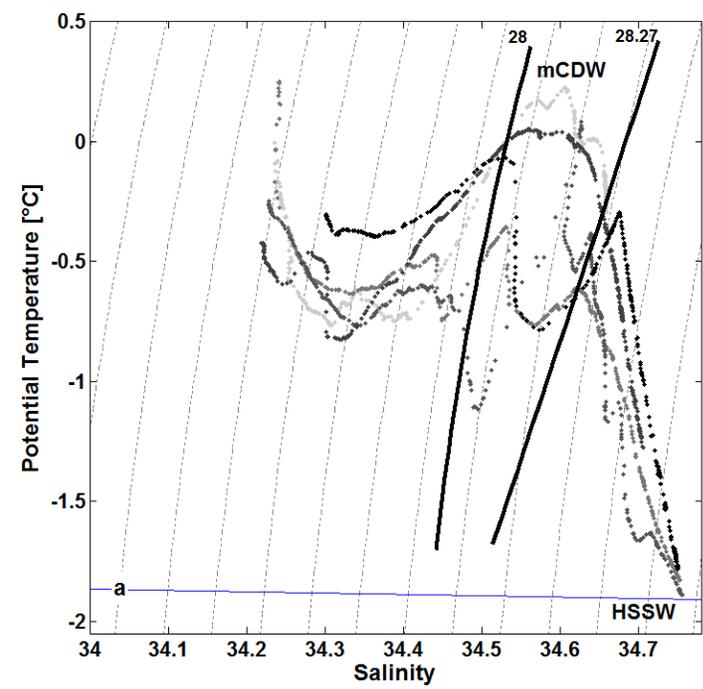
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## Table(s)

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Deployment Year	Instrument Depth (m)	Tide	Freq (cph)	U <sub>maj</sub> (ms <sup>-1</sup> )	U <sub>min</sub> (ms <sup>-1</sup> )	Inc (°N)	Pha (°)
2004	426	MF	0.0031	0.048	-0.008	236.72	76.51
		Q1	0.0372	0.058	0.041	210.58	128.85
		O1	0.0387	0.301	0.208	208.72	135.03
		P1	0.0416	0.100	0.070	198.17	169.25
		K1	0.0418	0.303	0.217	195.58	168.32
		M2	0.0805	0.022	0.008	202.23	44.82
2004	495	MF	0.0031	0.026	0.001	193.23	86.15
		Q1	0.0372	0.042	0.029	192.25	114.64
		O1	0.0387	0.232	0.160	193.03	122.74
		P1	0.0416	0.075	0.050	175.27	147.98
		K1	0.0418	0.233	0.162	174.45	148.70
		M2	0.0805	0.045	0.024	147.75	73.28
2005	414	MF	0.0031	0.061	-0.007	241.55	63.35
		Q1	0.0372	0.060	0.036	206.26	86.82
		O1	0.0387	0.320	0.212	213.41	107.21
		P1	0.0416	0.104	0.075	194.23	129.17
		K1	0.0418	0.294	0.213	200.5	135.37
		M2	0.0805	0.052	0.044	192.14	10.03
2005	501	MF	0.0031	0.021	-0.005	236.26	99.00
		Q1	0.0372	0.045	0.030	202.71	99.91
		O1	0.0387	0.246	0.178	207.49	112.56
		P1	0.0416	0.083	0.055	170.66	116.22
		K1	0.0418	0.236	0.185	186.14	131.89
		M2	0.0805	0.053	0.044	157.15	25.27
2006	441	MF	0.0031	0.051	-0.011	248.06	176.36
		Q1	0.0372	0.068	0.039	217.72	269.21
		O1	0.0387	0.324	0.208	217.39	194.43
		P1	0.0416	0.104	0.071	206.06	334.64
		K1	0.0418	0.310	0.211	205.56	334.57
		M2	0.0805	0.047	0.039	190.84	299.92
2008	474	MF	0.0031	0.038	-0.003	220.38	73.37
		Q1	0.0372	0.056	0.033	207.88	190.07
		O1	0.0387	0.289	0.192	206.72	196.97
		P1	0.0416	0.110	0.071	196.23	233.56
		K1	0.0418	0.295	0.195	194.19	235.58
		M2	0.0805	0.038	0.021	160.31	235.80
2010	454	MF	0.0031	0.045	-0.008	167.95	232.85
		Q1	0.0372	0.055	0.032	144.87	152.42
		O1	0.0387	0.306	0.200	142.52	171.00
		P1	0.0416	0.101	0.071	133.01	219.91
		K1	0.0418	0.304	0.213	131.11	221.72
		M2	0.0805	0.025	0.020	113.67	352.02
2010	514	MF	0.0031	0.034	0.000	148.56	221.18
		Q1	0.0372	0.039	0.021	134.14	12.63
		O1	0.0387	0.230	0.134	135.16	25.17
		P1	0.0416	0.075	0.053	128.89	63.90
		K1	0.0418	0.225	0.153	123.16	62.15
		M2	0.0805	0.021	0.017	234.23	215.14
2012	455	MF	0.0031	0.034	-0.008	190.47	269.55
		Q1	0.0372	0.052	0.032	143.35	285.00
		O1	0.0387	0.284	0.190	140.79	148.24
		P1	0.0416	0.106	0.075	130.8	112.38
		K1	0.0418	0.290	0.212	126.68	232.34
		M2	0.0805	0.026	0.020	123.46	335.22
2012	517	MF	0.0031	0.033	-0.003	160.3	227.36
		Q1	0.0372	0.046	0.021	136.9	311.87
		O1	0.0387	0.256	0.135	136.3	327.66
		P1	0.0416	0.087	0.050	130.94	7.46
		K1	0.0418	0.250	0.151	126.77	4.58
		M2	0.0805	0.033	0.018	119.72	24.33