

Webinar

Geophysical turbulence at oceanic mesoscales Jim Thomas

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Oceanic mesoscales, ranging from 10-100 km horizontal scales, are constrained by the effects of rapid rotation and strong density stratification. Conventional wisdom in the that decades used turbulence past to be the scales is set primarily by phenomenology at these nonlinear interaction of geostrophic vortices. In contrast, satellite altimeter datasets, in recent oceanic situ measurements, and realistically forced global scale oceanic model outputs point out that oceanic mesoscales rich with high energy internal gravity waves; are consisting of wind generated near-inertial waves and gravitationally generated tides. In this talk, I will present comprehensive overview of wave-geostrophic flow а interactions and subsequent energy transfers. The goal of this research direction is to understand how waves affect and potentially dissipate geostrophic vortices in the ocean, shaping the geophysical turbulence at oceanic mesoscales. The results of this study will benefit development of improved parameterizations for a broad set of large scale general circulation models.

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