



Session 01

SST patterns and dynamics of the Southern Senegal-Gambia upwelling center

Siny NDOYE^{1,*}, Xavier CAPET², Philippe ESTRADE¹, Bamol SOW³, Dominique DAGORNE⁴, Alban LAZAR⁵, Amadou T. GAYE¹ and Patrice BREHMER⁶

¹Laboratoire de Physique de l'Atmosphère et de l'Océan Siméon Fongang (LPAO-SF/ESP-UCAD), BP 5085 Dakar Fann, Sénégal

²CNRS- LOCEAN/IPSL Laboratory, 4 Place Jussieu, Paris 75252, France

³Laboratoire d'Océanographie, des Sciences de l'Environnement et du Climat (LOSEC) Département de Physique - UFR Sciences & Technologies, Université de Ziguinchor BP 523 Ziguinchor, Sénégal

⁴Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) - US IMAGO BP 70 29280 Plouzané, France

⁵CNRS-IRD-Sorbonne Universités (UPMC Univ. Paris 6)-MNHN, LOCEAN/IPSL Laboratory, 4 Place Jussieu, Paris 75252, France

⁶Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), ISRA/Centre de Recherche Océanographique de Dakar-Thiaroye (CRODT), UMR 195 LEMAR, BP 1386 Dakar, Senegal

*Correspondance: Tél: (+221) 77 76 00 287; Courriel: ndoyesiny@yahoo.fr (S. NDOYE)

Reçu le 09/12/2014; publié le 15/05/2015

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Abstract

The southern end of the Canary current system comprises an original upwelling center that has so far received limited attention, the Southern Senegal-Gambia Upwelling Center (SSUC). We investigate its dynamical functioning by taking advantage of favorable conditions in terms of limited cloud coverage. Analyses and careful examinations of over 1500 satellite images of sea surface temperature scenes contextualized with respect to wind conditions confirm the regularity and stability of the SSUC dynamical functioning (as manifested by the recurrence and persistence of particular SST patterns) but also reveal subtle aspects of its upwelling structure: shelf break cooling of surface waters consistent with internal tide breaking/mixing ; complex interplay between local upwelling and the Mauritanian current off the Cape Verde headland ; complexity of the inner-shelf/mid shelf frontal transition. The amplitude of the diurnal cycle suggests that large uncertainties exist in the SSUC heat budget. Study limitations underscore the need for continuous in situ measurement in the SSUC, particularly of winds.

Keywords: SST; Southern Senegal, Gambia, Upwelling, CCLME.



Commission Sous-Régionale des Pêches
Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission



Book of Abstract International Conference ICAWA 2014

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Trilateral German-French-African research initiative

ISBN :978-2-9553602-0-1

Edited by:

Patrice Brehmer (IRD) & Hamady Diop (SRFC/CSRP)

With the collaboration of:

Marie Madeleine Gomez, Ndague Diogoul, Viviane Koutob, Peter Brandt, Bamol Ali Sow, Alban Lazar, Xavier Capet, Heino Fock, Carlos F. Santos, Eric Machu, Hamet Diadihou, Didier Jouffre, Ibrahima Diallo, Joern Schmidt, Amadou Gaye, Mahfoudhould Taleb Sidi, Yves Gouriou, Rafael Almar, Moussa Sall, Dominique Duval Diop, Modou Thiow, Ross Wanless, Jacob Gonzales-Solis Bou, Ibrahima Ly, Dienaba Beye Traoré, Marie Bonnin, Werner Ekau.

ISBN: 978-2-9553602-0-0

SRFC/CSRP – IRD ©2015

Cover design: AWA (BMBF – IRD) project

Logo and flyers: Laurent Corsini (IRD)

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