

# Dynamique de processus océaniques de méso- et de subméso-échelle à partir de simulations numériques et de données *in situ*

Marion Kersalé

Soutenance de Thèse – 15 Octobre 2013

*Sous la présidence de :*

*Comité :*

*Directeurs de thèse :*

Ivan DEKEYSER

Gilles REVERDIN

Bruno BLANKE

Annalisa GRIFFA

Anne PETRENKO

Andrea DOGLIOLI

# Dynamics of meso- and submesoscale oceanic processes from numerical simulations and *in situ* data

Marion Kersalé

PhD defense – October 15, 2013

*Under the presidency of :*

*Committee :*

*PhD advisors :*

Ivan DEKEYSER

Gilles REVERDIN

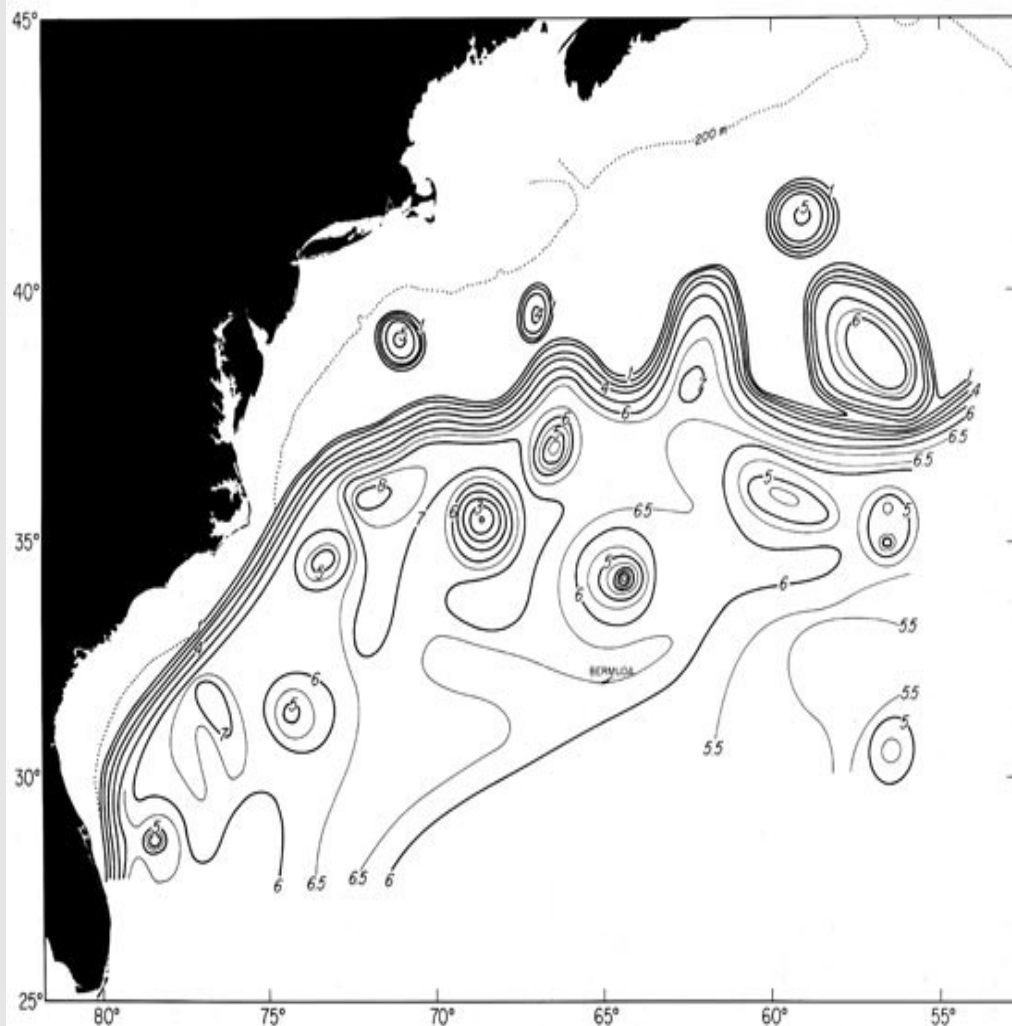
Bruno BLANKE

Annalisa GRIFFA

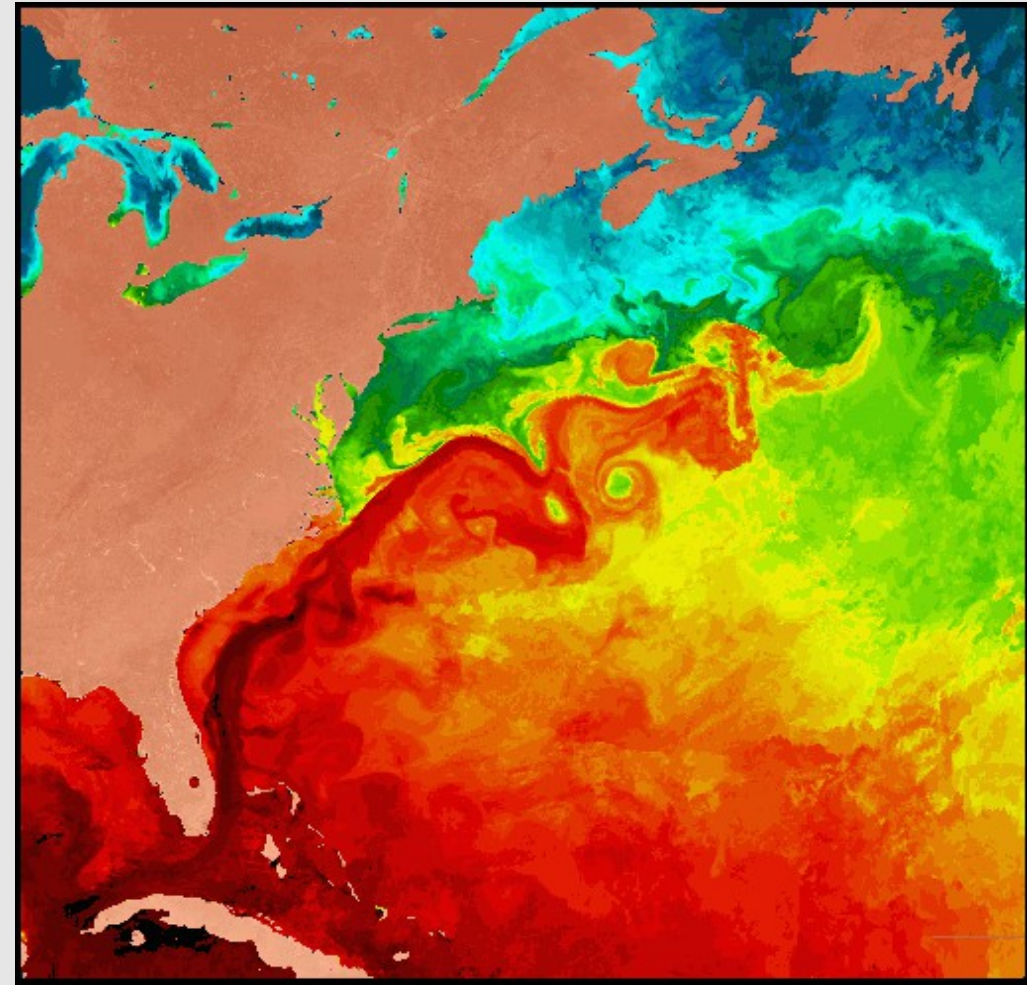
Anne PETRENKO

Andrea DOGLIOLI

## Discovering Gulf stream variability from space



Path of the Gulf Stream from hydrographic and satellite data (1975)

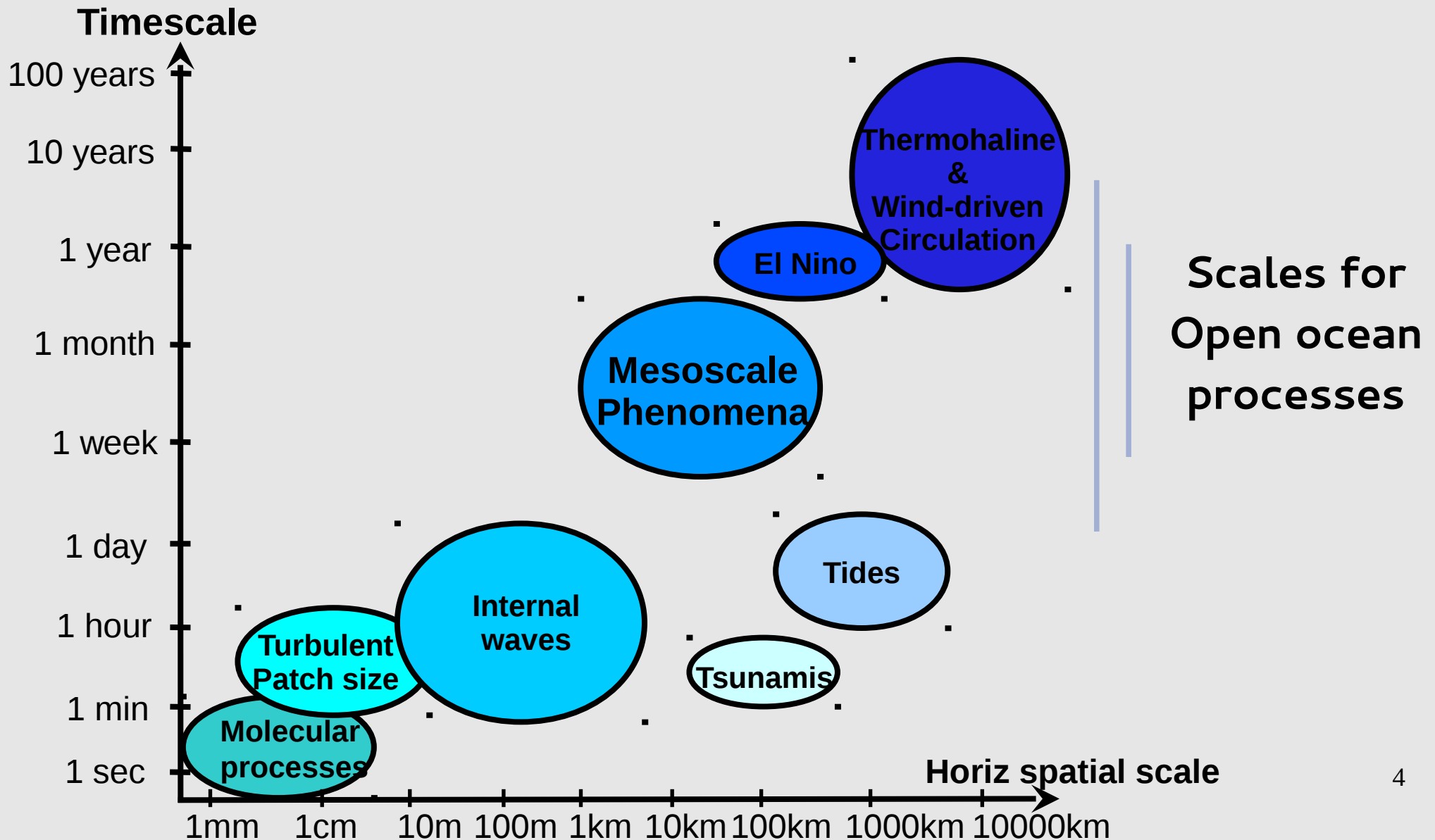


Thermal infrared image of the Gulf Stream ©NASA



## Numerous physical processes over a large range of scales

[Stommel, 1963 ; Dickey, 2003 ; Talley et al., 2011]





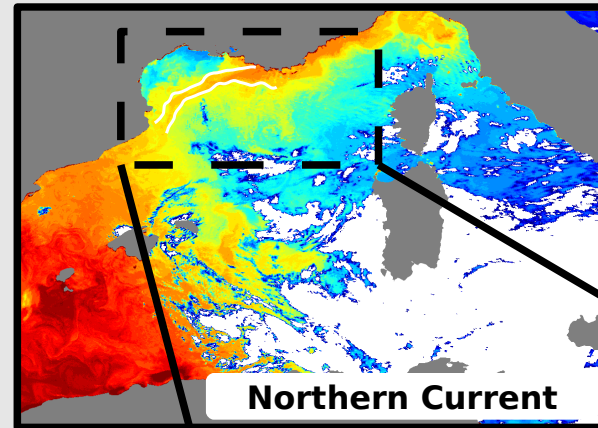
# Introduction – Coastal processes scales



Smaller scales than the open ocean characterization

Large scale flow

$\approx 1000$   
km



Sea Surface  
Temperature  
Images (SST)  
©NOAA

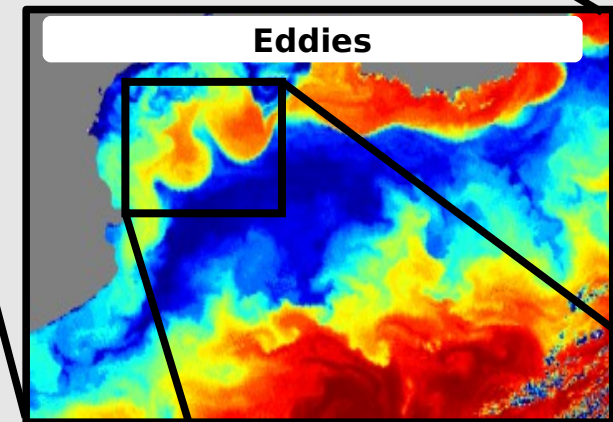
Mesoscale

Geostrophic equilibrium

Scales

$\sim O(R_d)$  [Chelton et al., 1998]

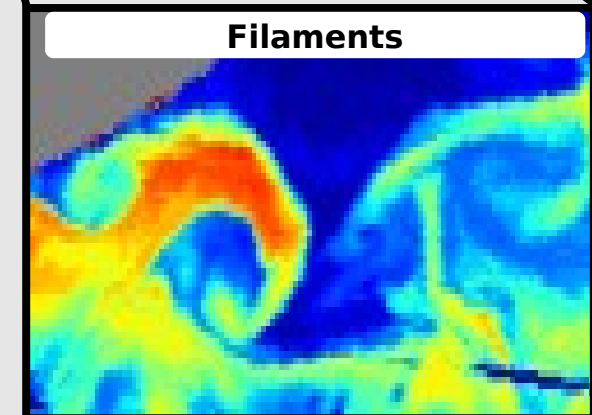
$\approx 10-100$   
km



Submesoscale

Scales  $< R_d$  [Capet et al., 2008]

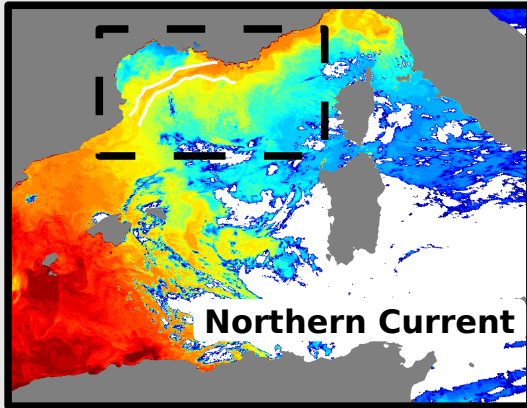
$\approx 1-10$   
km



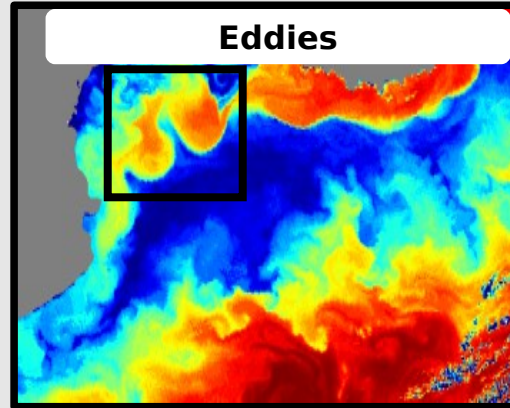
Numerous and energetic features  
 $\Rightarrow$  Transfer of energy



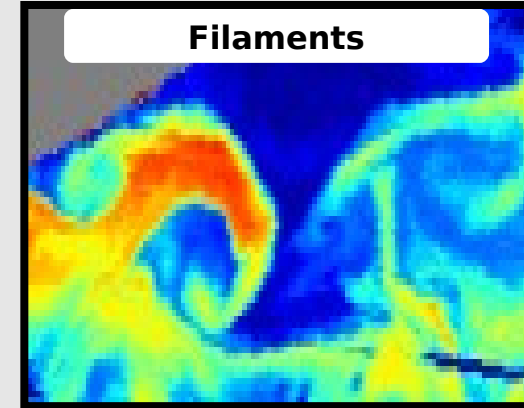
## Forward transfer of energy



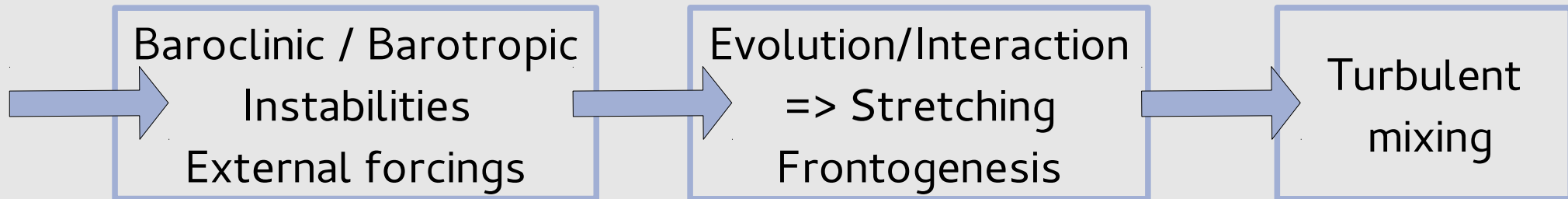
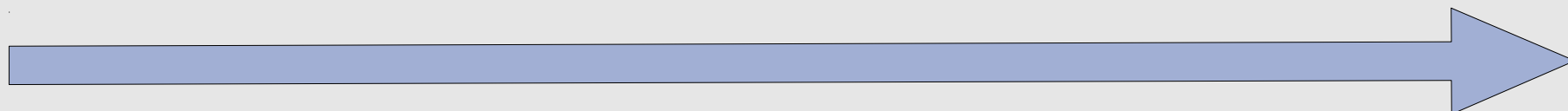
Large scale flow  
≈1000 km



Mesoscale  
≈10–100 km

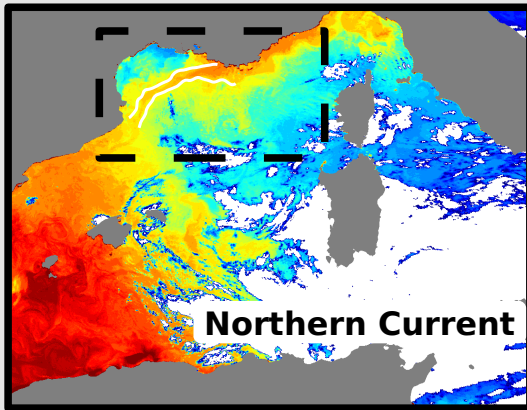


Submesoscale  
≈1–10 km

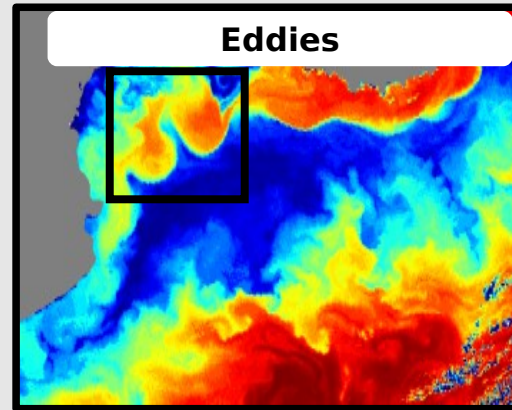


Processes involve in the forward transfer of energy

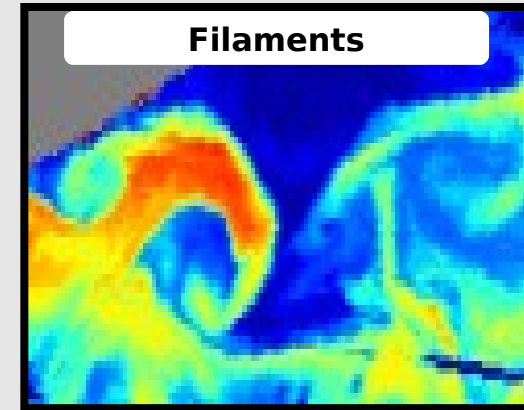
## Forward transfer of energy



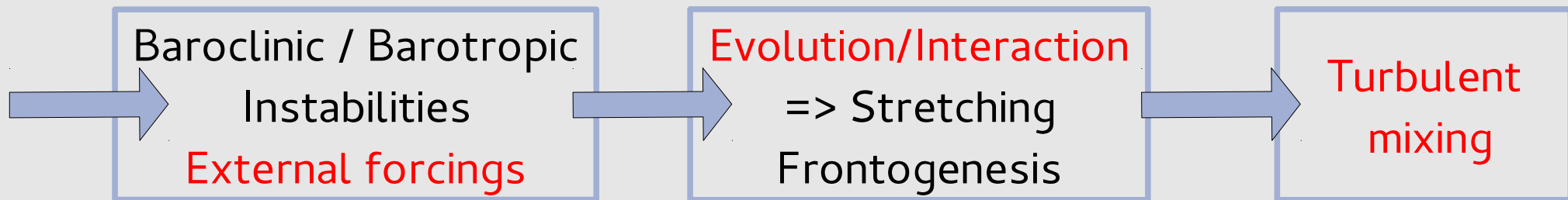
Large scale flow  
≈1000 km



Mesoscale  
≈10–100 km



Submesoscale  
≈1–10 km



Processes involve in the forward transfer of energy





Hawaiian archipelago

- Deep ocean eddies
- **Relative importance** of the external forcings on the **generation of mesoscale eddies**



Gulf of Lion

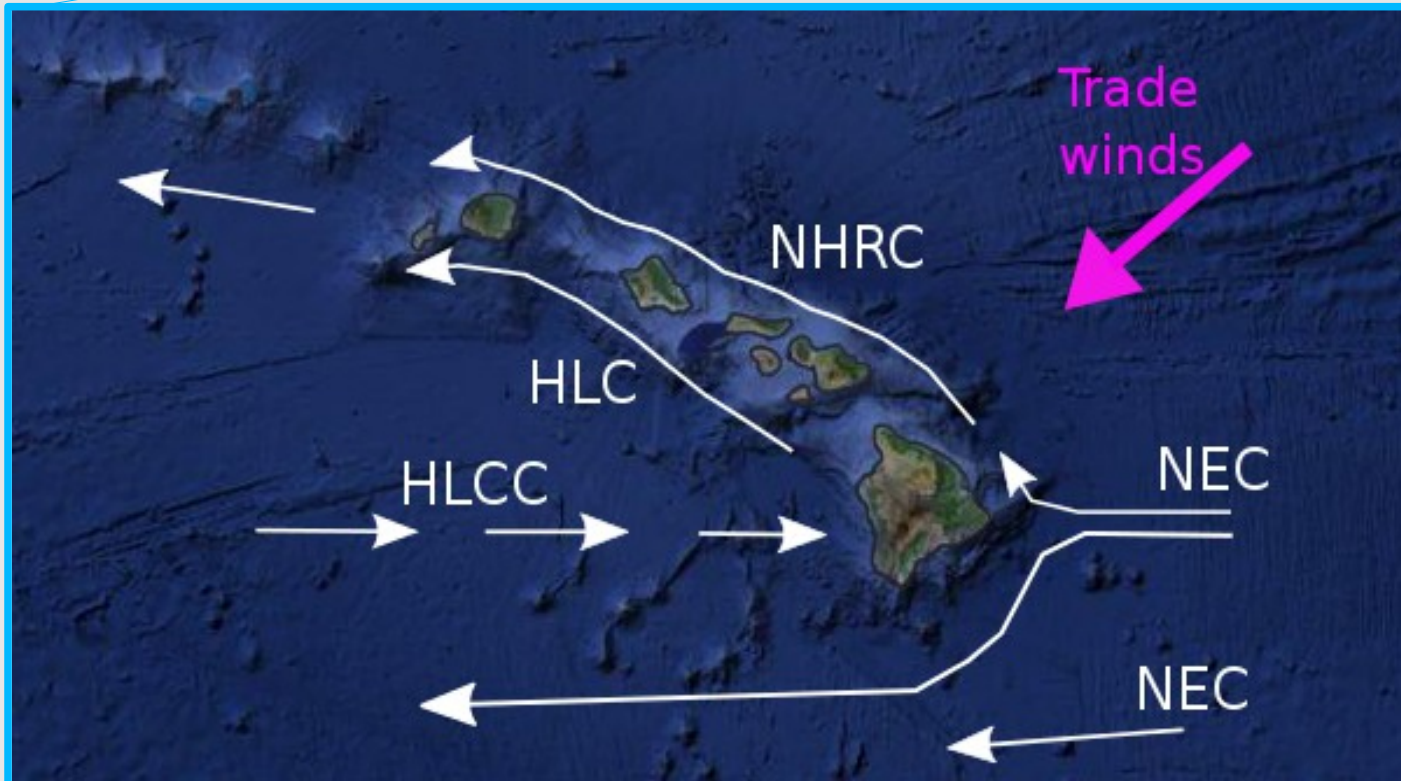
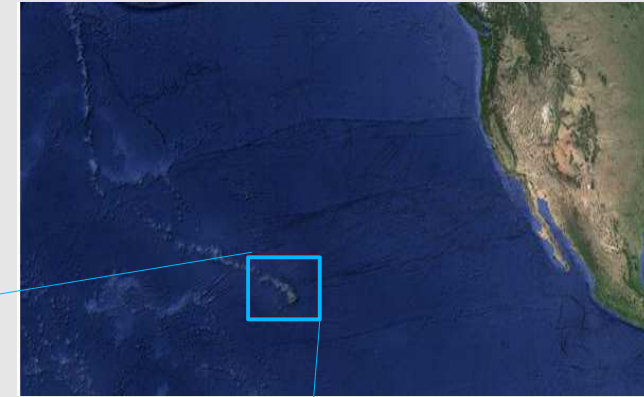
- **Coastal** eddies
- Process of generation
- Impact of meso- and submesoscale features on **exchanges** and **turbulent mixing**





## Hawaiian archipelago

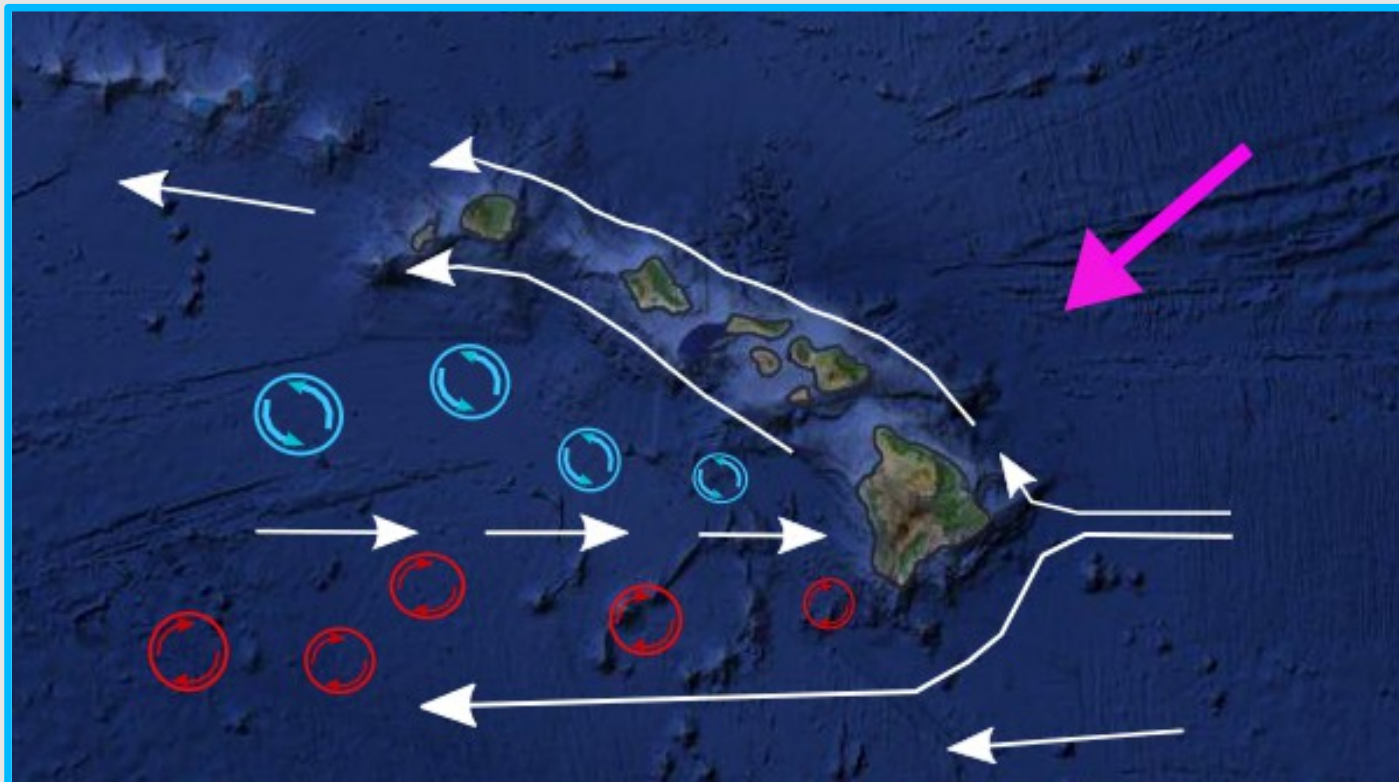
- Complex circulation
- Effects of the archipelago topographic forcing on both the NEC and the trade winds
- The wake is responsible for the formation of the HLCC





## Mesoscale activity in the lee of the islands

- Cyclonic/Anticyclonic eddies North/South the HLCC [*Lumpkin, 1998*]
- Classical mechanism of formation of eddies in the lee of an obstacle
- The wind stress variations drive divergent and convergent Ekman transports in the upper layer of the ocean [*Patzert, 1969; Chavanne, et al., 2002*]



Northern Hemisphere



Cyclonic



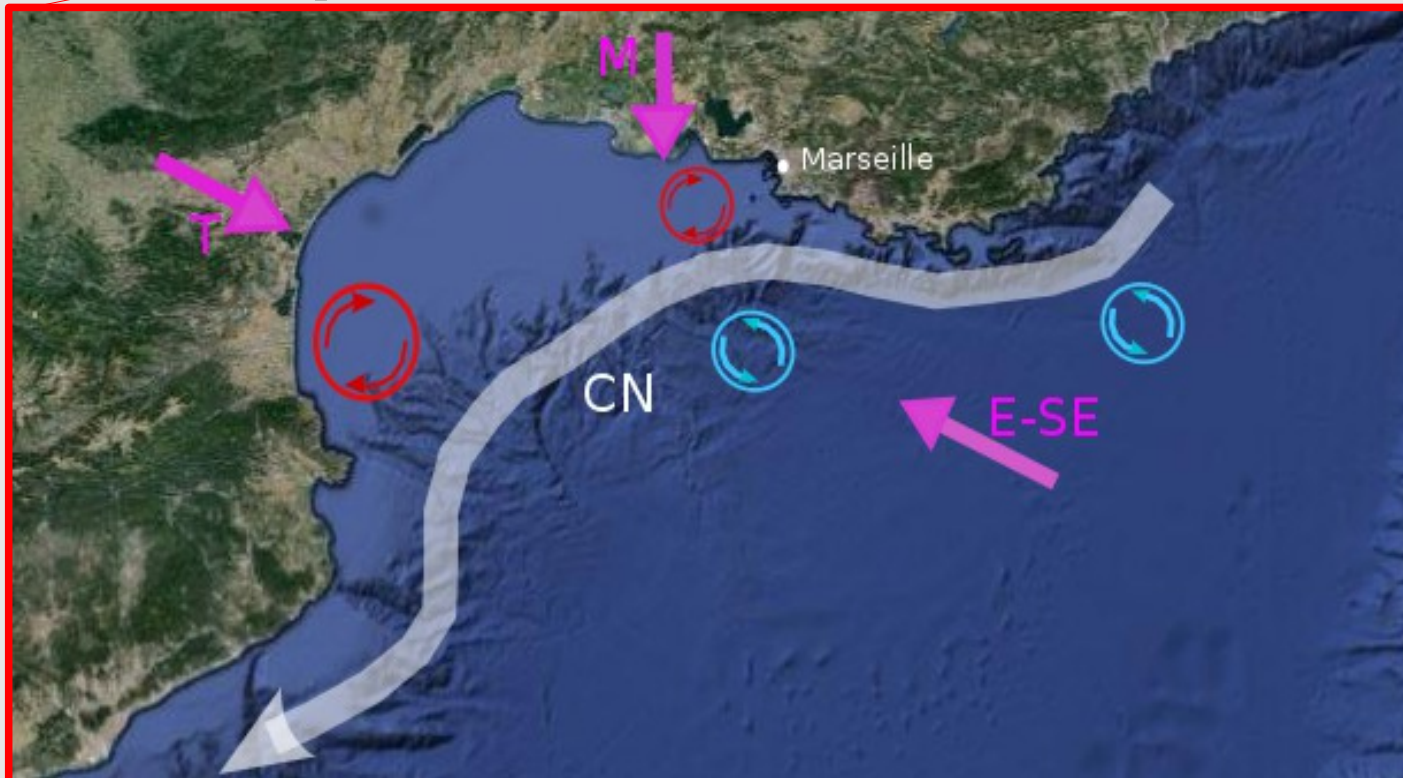
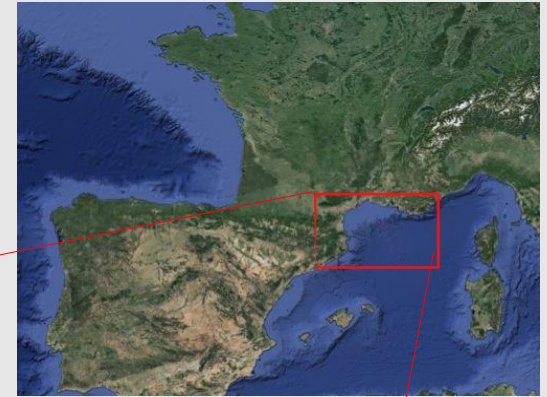
Anticyclonic





## Gulf of Lion (GoL)

- Hydrodynamics complex and highly variable  
*[Millot, 1990]*
- Influenced by the NC effective dynamical barrier
- Recurrent generation of mesoscale eddies  
*[Petrenko, 2003; Hu et al., 2009; Allou et al., 2010; Schaeffer et al., 2011]*

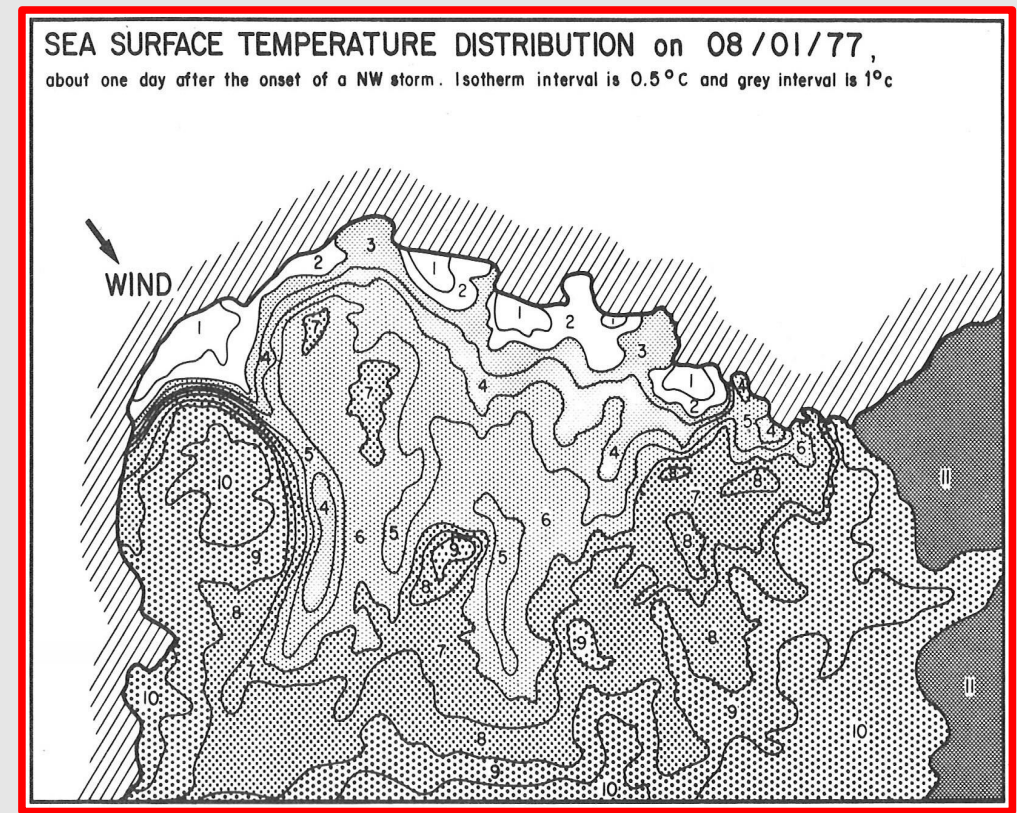
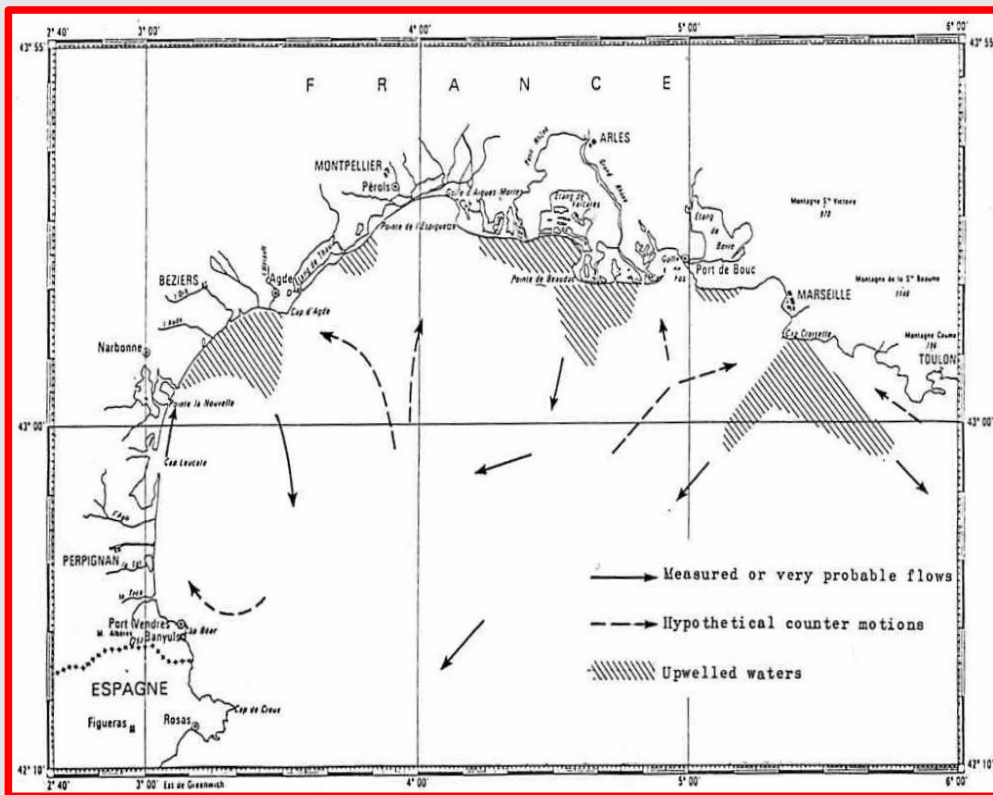


# Introduction – Area of study II



## Mesoscale activity in the western part of the GoL

- First observation of an anticyclonic circulation
- LATEX (LAgrangian Transport Experiment) Project  
Understand influence of coastal mesoscale eddies



Scheme of the circulation using mooring data [Millot, 1979]

Sea Surface Temperature Images (SST) [Millot, 1982]



# Plan

## Part I – Tools for study mesoscale features

Numerical codes  
In situ experiments } Strategies

## Part II – Characteristics of mesoscale eddies

Eddy center detection  
Horizontal characteristics  
Vertical characteristics

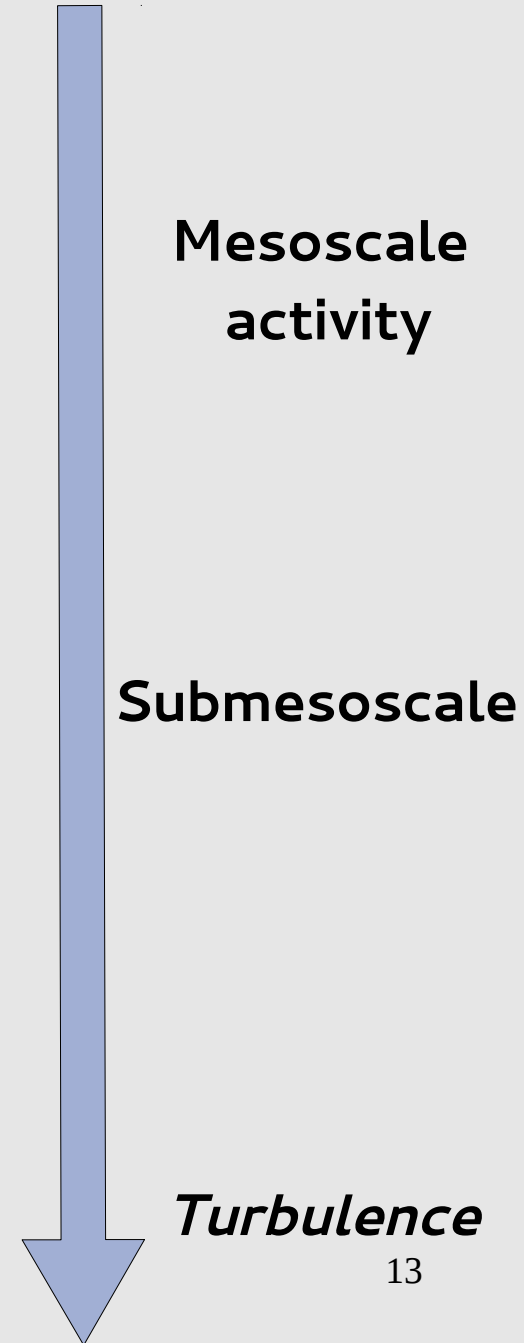
## Part III – Forcings and generation

Forcing sensitivity – Wind sensitivity  
Process of generation  
Generation of submesoscale structures  
Impact on coast-offshore exchanges

## Part IV – Study of turbulent mixing

In situ experiment  
Calculation of diffusion coefficients  
Lagrangian experiment

## Conclusion & perspectives



# Plan

## Part I – Tools for study mesoscale features

Numerical codes  
In situ experiments } Strategies

## Part II – Characteristics of mesoscale eddies

Eddy center detection  
Horizontal characteristics  
Vertical characteristics

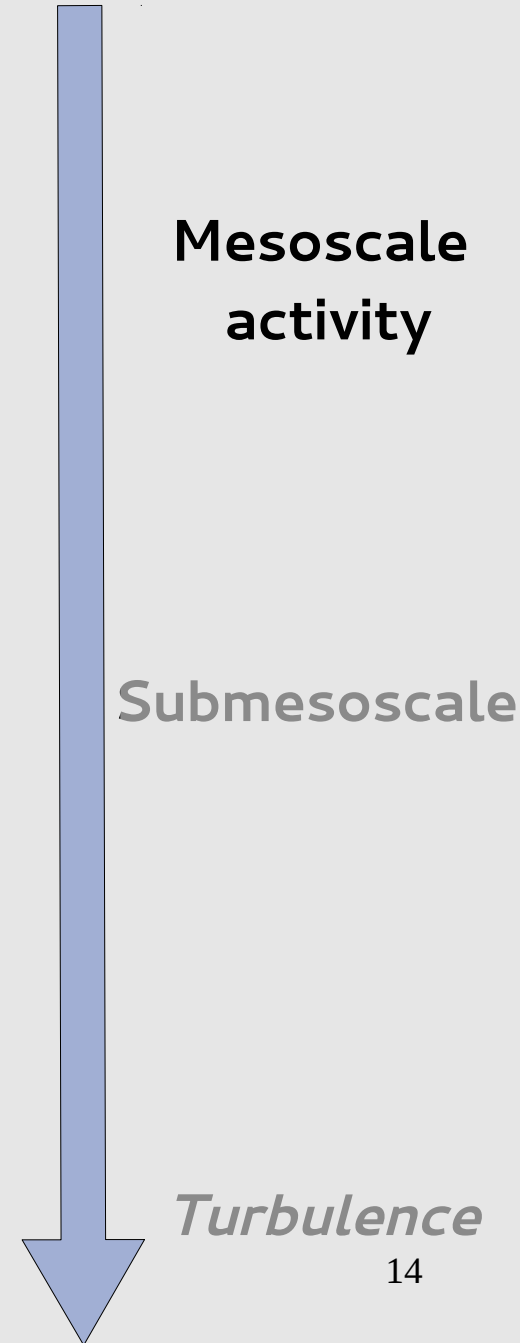
## Part III – Forcings and generation

Forcing sensitivity – Wind sensitivity  
Process of generation  
Generation of submesoscale structures  
Impact on coast-offshore exchanges

## Part IV – Study of turbulent mixing

In situ experiment  
Calculation of diffusion coefficients  
Lagrangian experiment

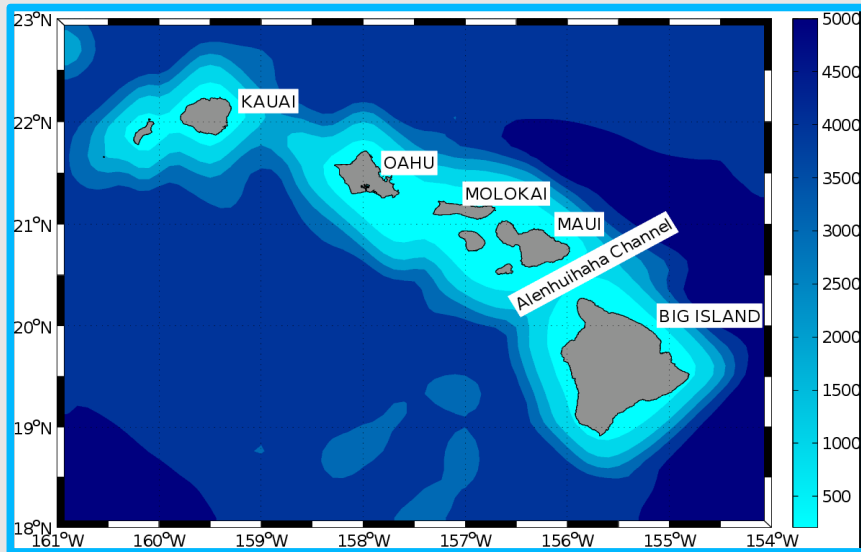
## Conclusion & perspectives



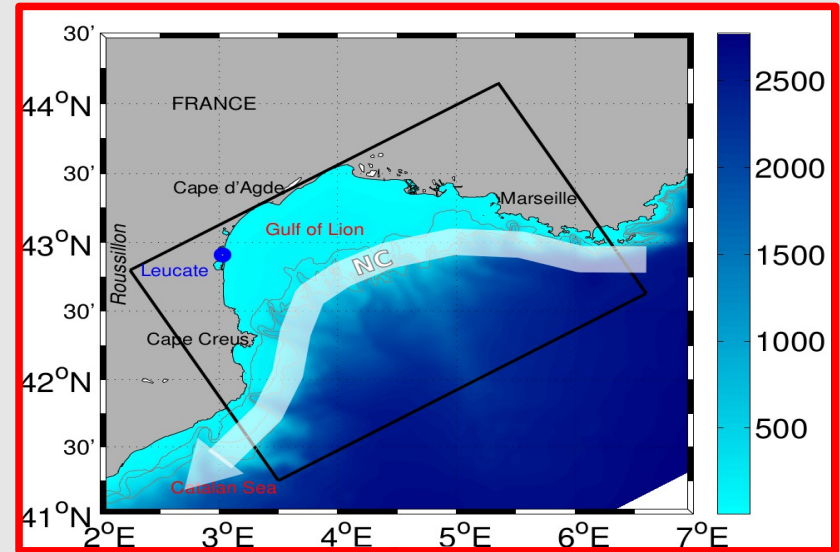
# Part I – Numerical codes



## Hawaiian archipelago – ROMS



## Gulf of Lion – Symphonie



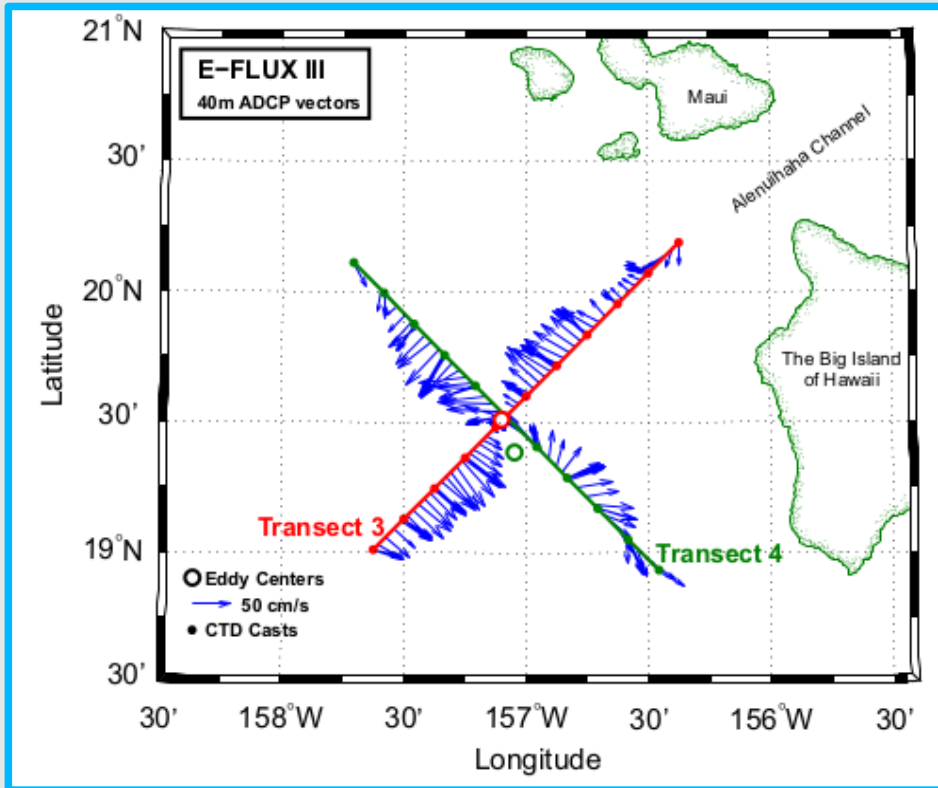
Model domains with realistic bathymetry [m]

	ROMS	Symphonie
Type	Climatology – 10 years	Realistic – Year 2009
Resolution	1/10° (~10km)	1km
Horizontal grid	Arakawa C	
Vertical grid	30 Sigma	40 sigma-z hybrid
Bathymetry	ETOPO	EPSHOM
Closure Scheme	Large et al. [1994]	Gaspar et al. [1990]
Atmospheric forcings	COADS/QuikSCAT	Météo-France Aladin
Boundaries	Radiation BC - WOA	Radiation BC - MFS
Initialization	WOA	Restart Hu et al. [2009]

# Part I – *In situ* experiments



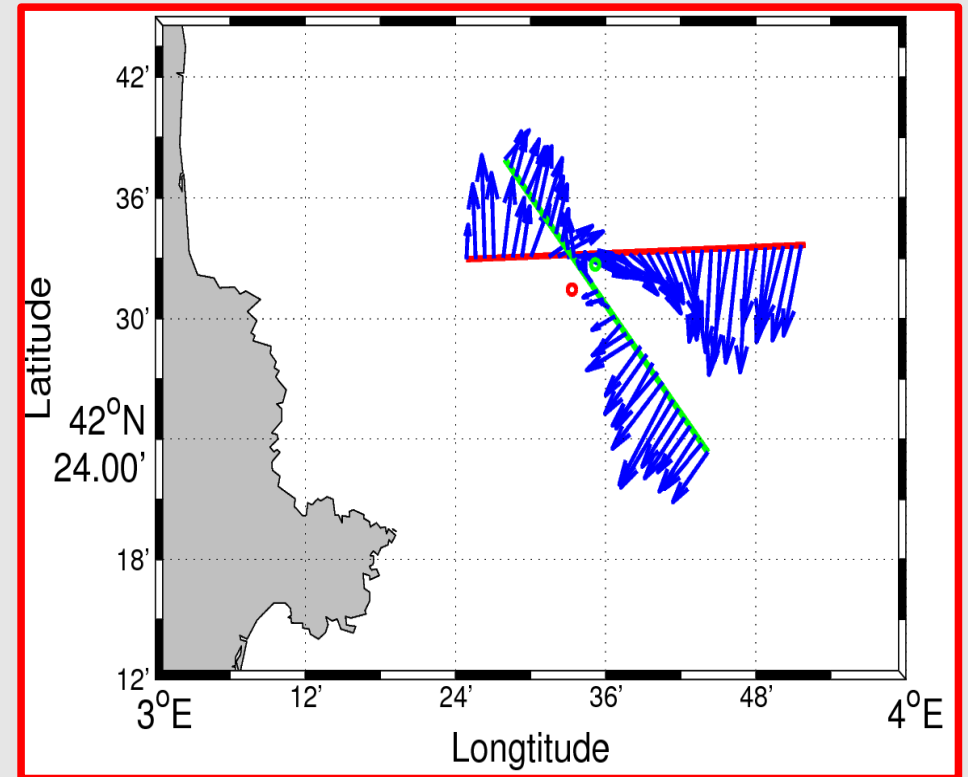
## Hawaiian archipelago – E-Flux III March 10–27, 2005



ADCP current vectors at 40m depth  
[Nencioli et al., 2008]

- Sampling of a cyclonic mesoscale eddy: **Opal** [Dickey et al., 2008]

## Gulf of Lion – Latex09 campaign August 24–28, 2009



ADCP current vectors  
at 15m depth

- Sampling of an anticyclonic mesoscale eddy: **Latex-09 eddy**



## Hawaiian archipelago

*Climato. forcings*  
Wind Topo Currents

*In situ* data

Model



Opal characteristics



Numerical eddy characteristics

Validate the model and find the best set up

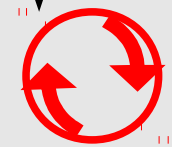
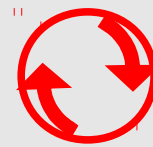
What is the **relative importance** of the forcings on the **generation of mesoscale eddies**?

## Gulf of Lion

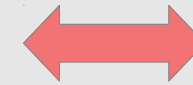
*Realistic forcings*  
Year 2009

*In situ* data

Model



Latex-09 characteristics



Numerical eddy characteristics

Find a similar numerical eddy at the same period

What is the **generation process** of the Latex-09 eddy?

# Plan

## Part I – Tools for study mesoscale features

Numerical codes  
In situ experiments } Strategies

## Part II – Characteristics of mesoscale eddies

Eddy center detection  
Horizontal characteristics  
Vertical characteristics

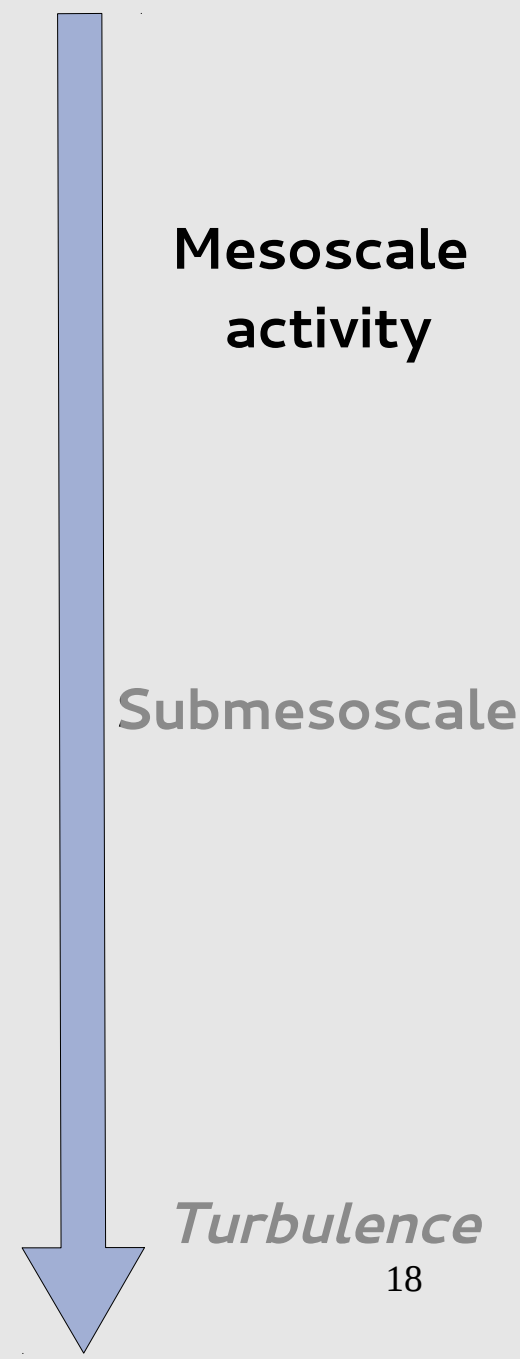
## Part III – Forcings and generation

Forcing sensitivity – Wind sensitivity  
Process of generation  
Generation of submesoscale structures  
Impact on coast-offshore exchanges

## Part IV – Study of turbulent mixing

In situ experiment  
Calculation of diffusion coefficients  
Lagrangian experiment

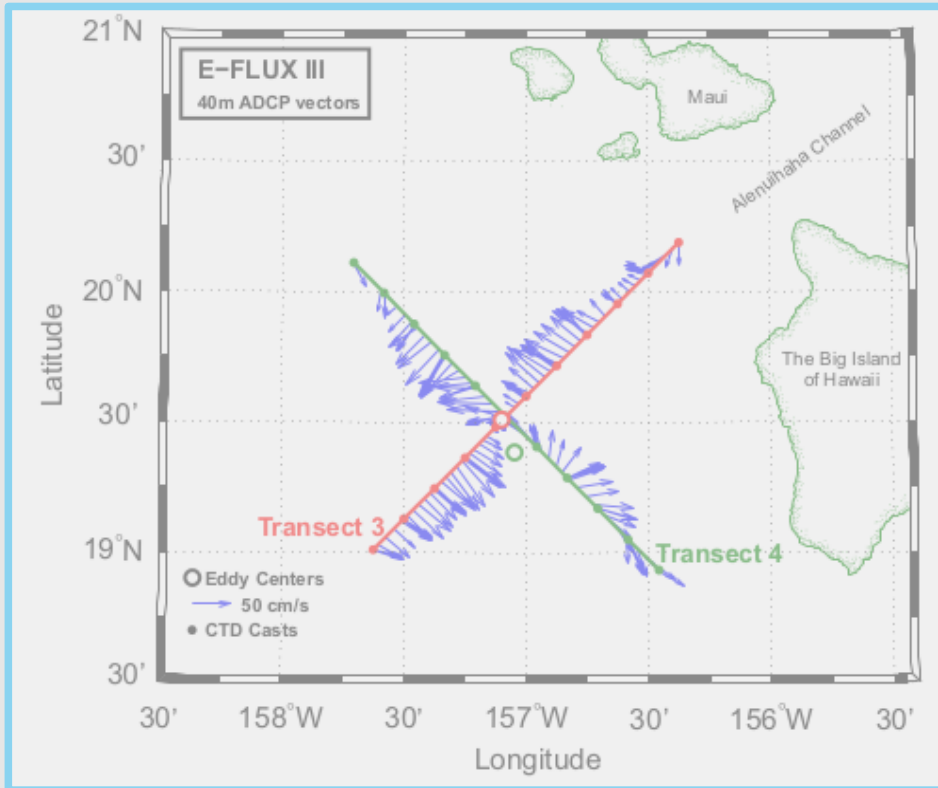
## Conclusion & perspectives



# Part II – Characteristics



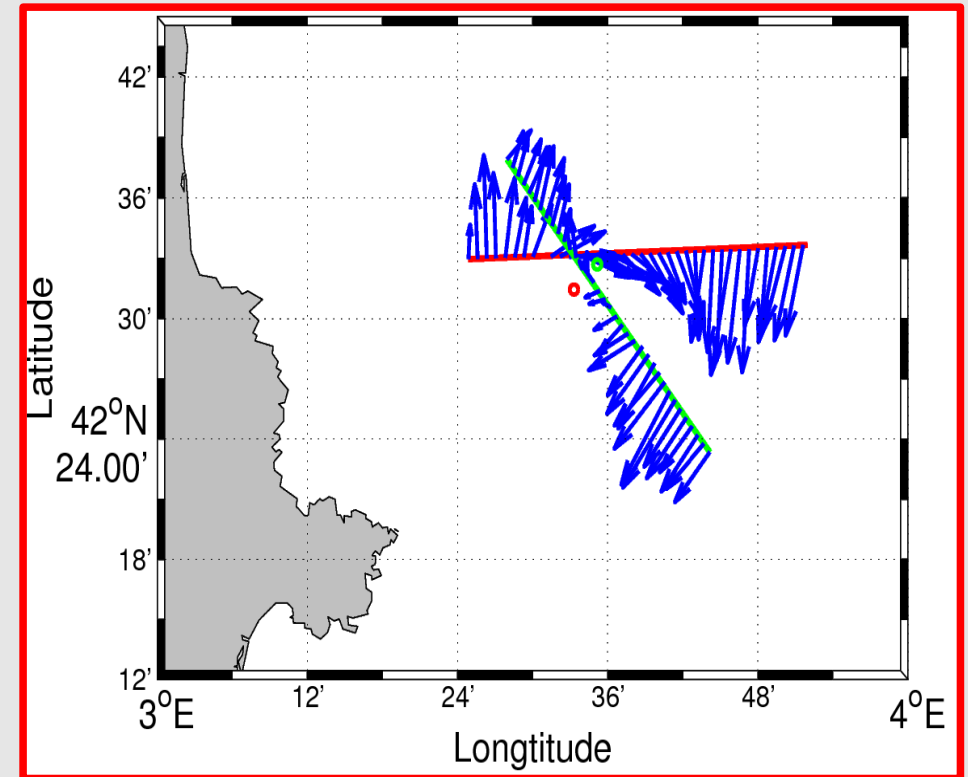
## Hawaiian archipelago – E-Flux III March 10–27, 2005



ADCP current vectors at 40m depth  
[Nencioli et al., 2008]

- Sampling of a cyclonic mesoscale eddy: **Opal** [Dickey et al., 2008]

## Gulf of Lion – Latex09 campaign August 24–28, 2009



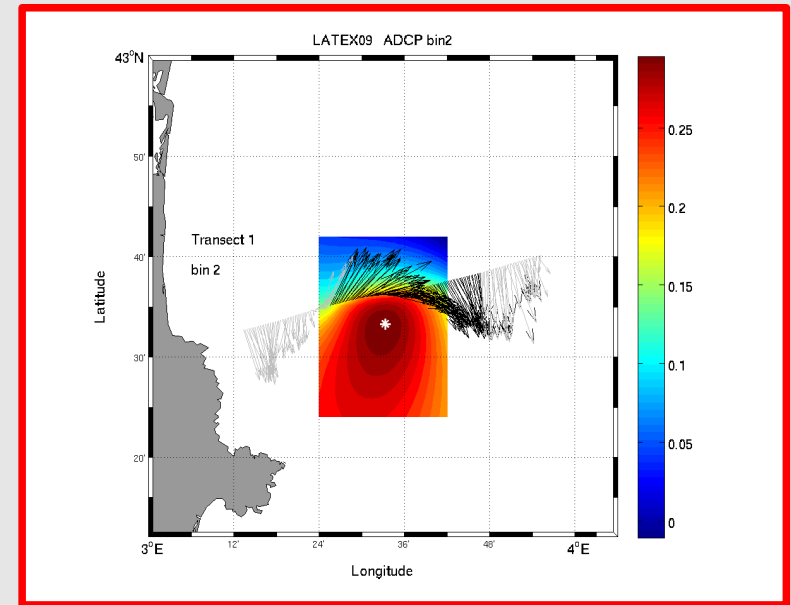
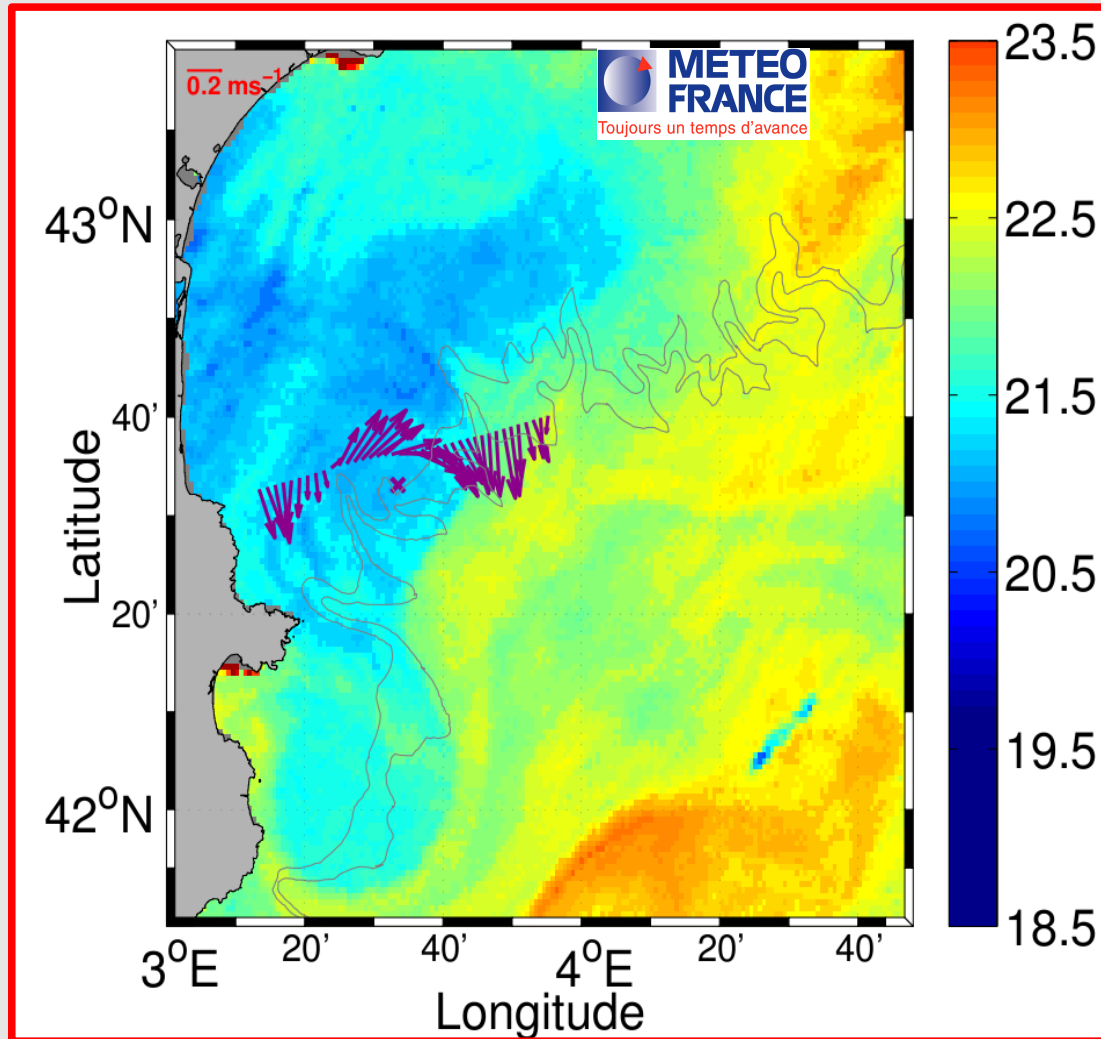
ADCP current vectors  
at 15m depth

- Sampling of an anticyclonic mesoscale eddy: **Latex-09 eddy**
- Ships, surface drifters, and satellite sensors

## Eddy center detection

### Transect 1

Latex09 campaign  
ADCP 15m depth – SST (°C) August 28



**Center of the eddy :**  
Grid point for which the mean tangential velocity computed from the nearest ADCP records is maximum  
[Nencioli et al., 2008]

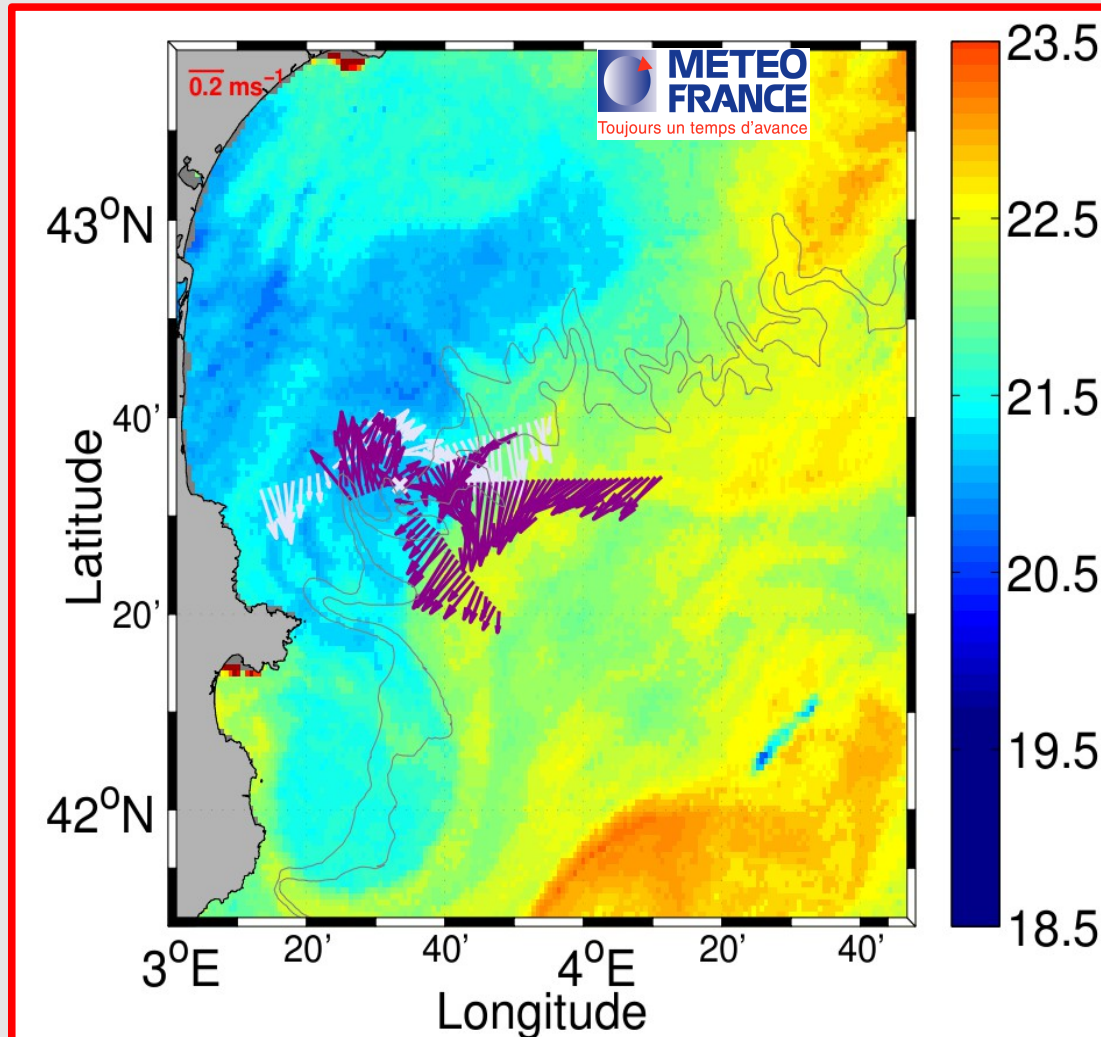


## Horizontal Characteristics

Transect 1-2-3-4

Latex09 campaign

ADCP 15m depth – SST (°C) August 28

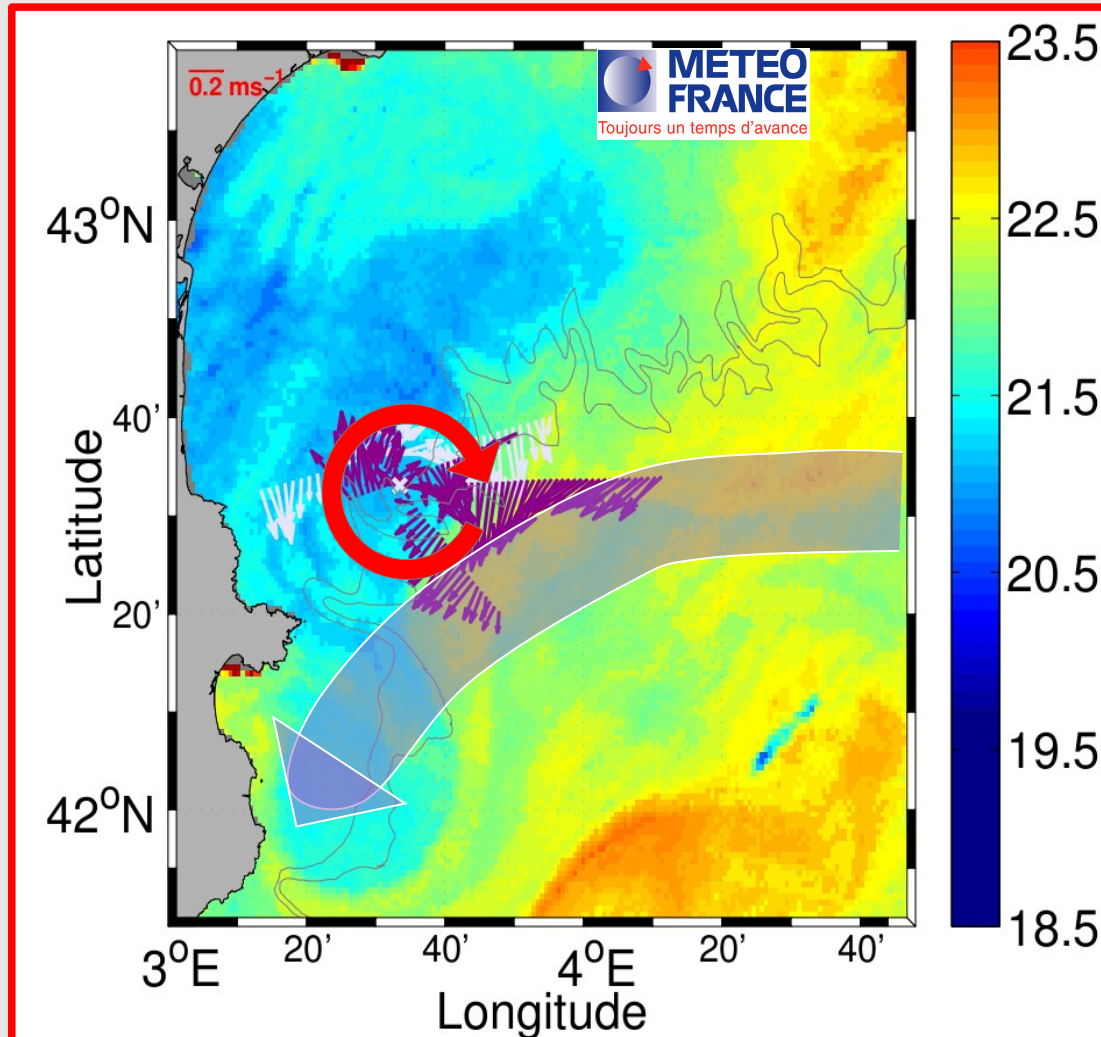


## Horizontal Characteristics

Transect 1-2-3-4

Latex09 campaign

ADCP 15m depth – SST (°C) August 28



**Anticyclonic  
circulation**

$$V_{\max} \sim 0.4 \text{ m.s}^{-1}$$

$$T \sim 3 \text{ days}$$

Center:

3°34'E – 42°33'N

**Presence of the NC**

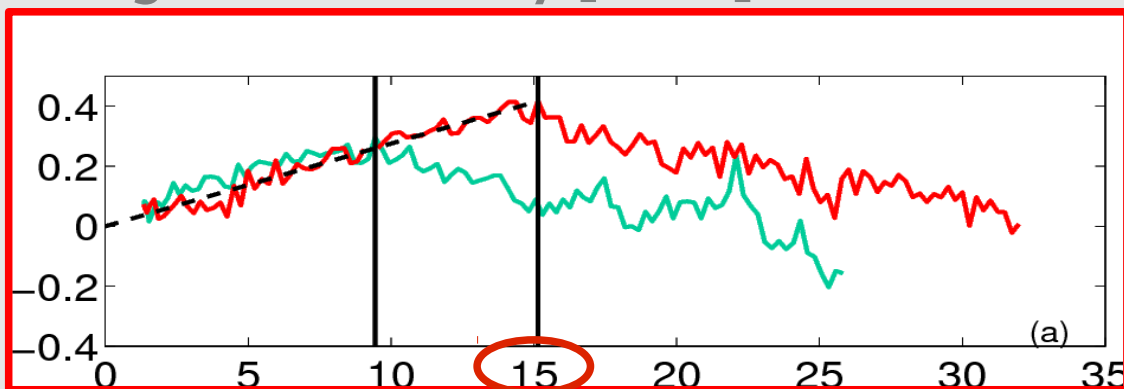
## Horizontal Characteristics

### Transect 3

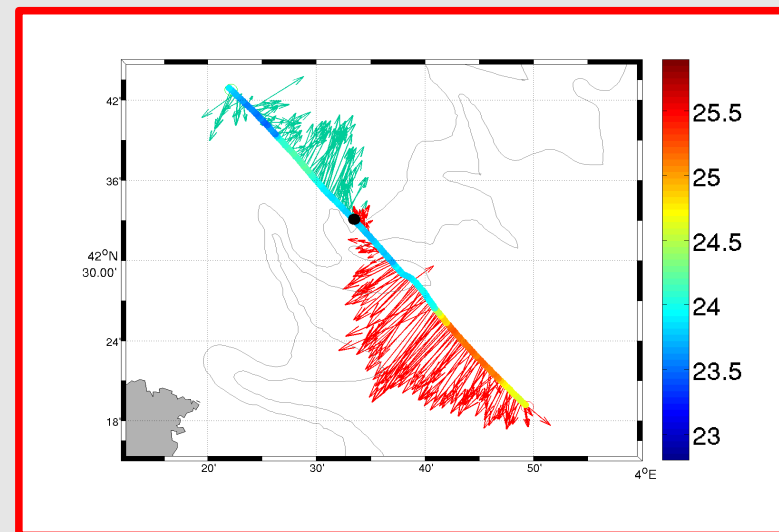
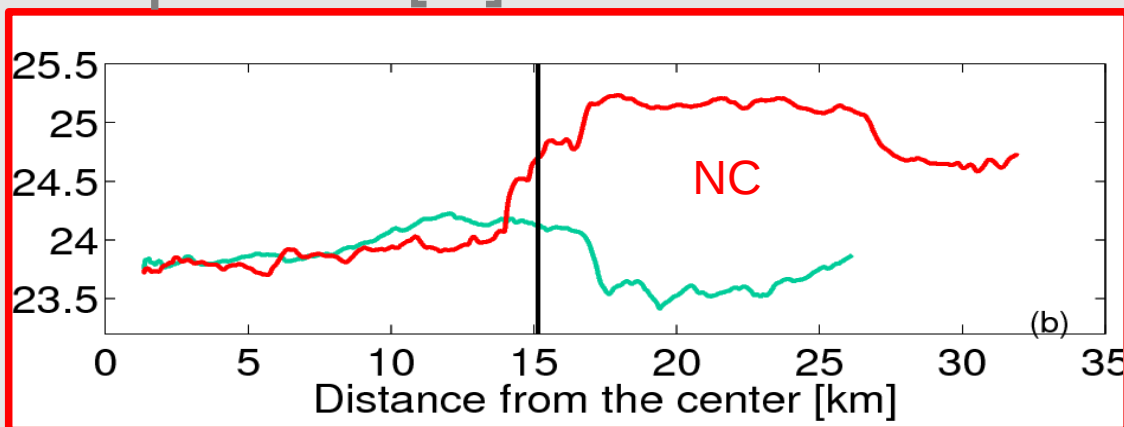
Tangential component decomposition with respect to the position of the center

[Nencioli et al., 2008]

Tangential velocity [ $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ]



Temperature [ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ]



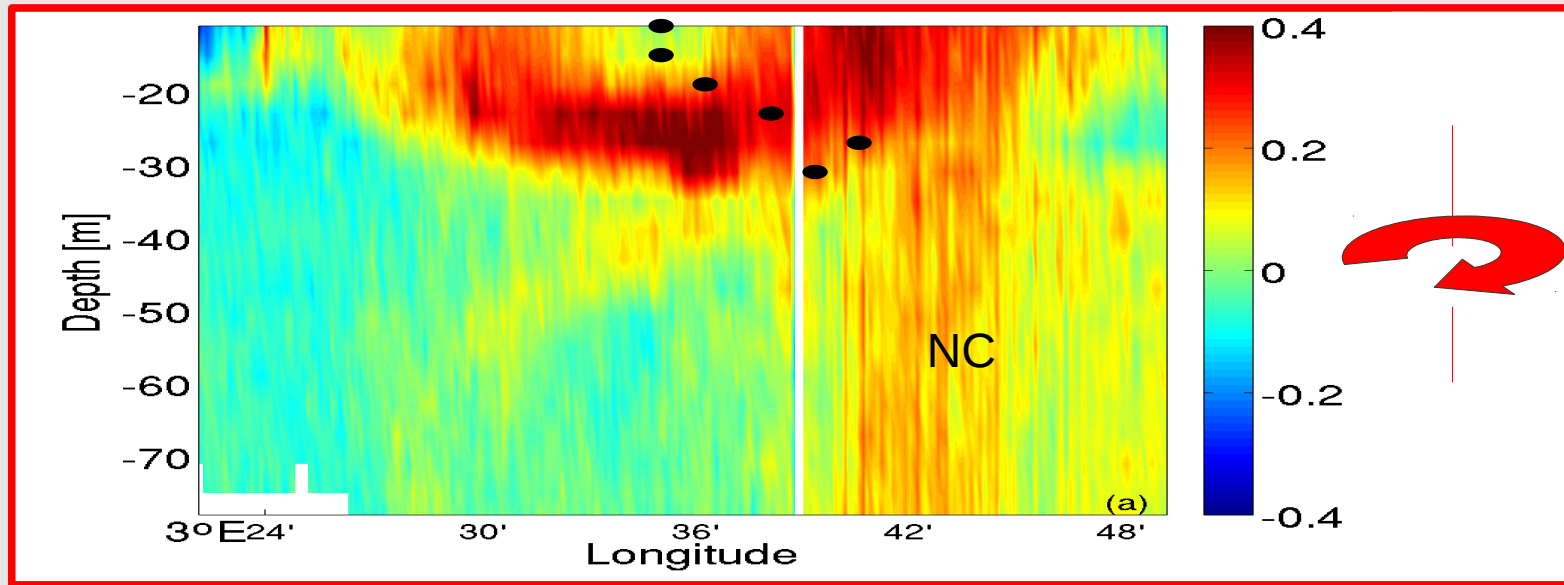
Latex09 campaign  
ADCP 15m depth - SST ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

$$\mathbf{D}_{\text{eddy}} = \bar{\mathbf{D}} \pm \sqrt{\mathbf{D}_{\text{var}}}$$

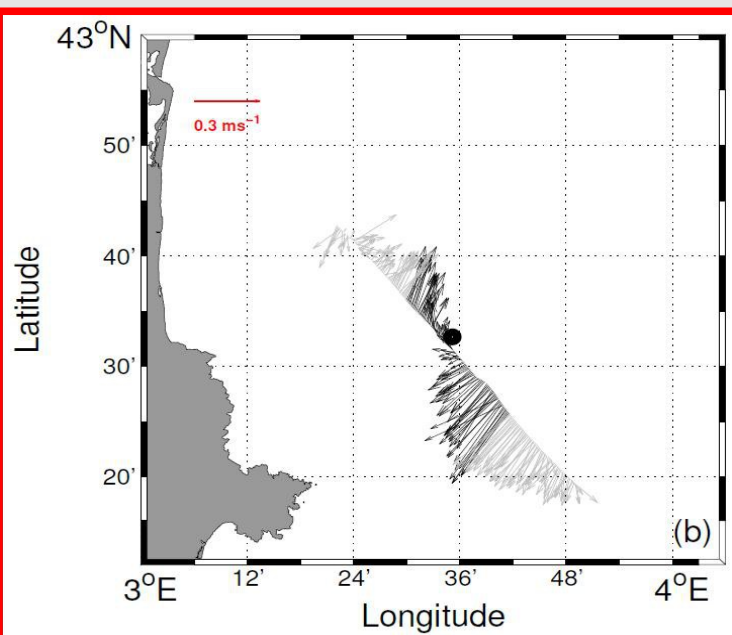
$$\mathbf{D}_{\text{eddy}} = 22.7 \pm 1.2 \text{ km}$$



## Vertical Characteristics

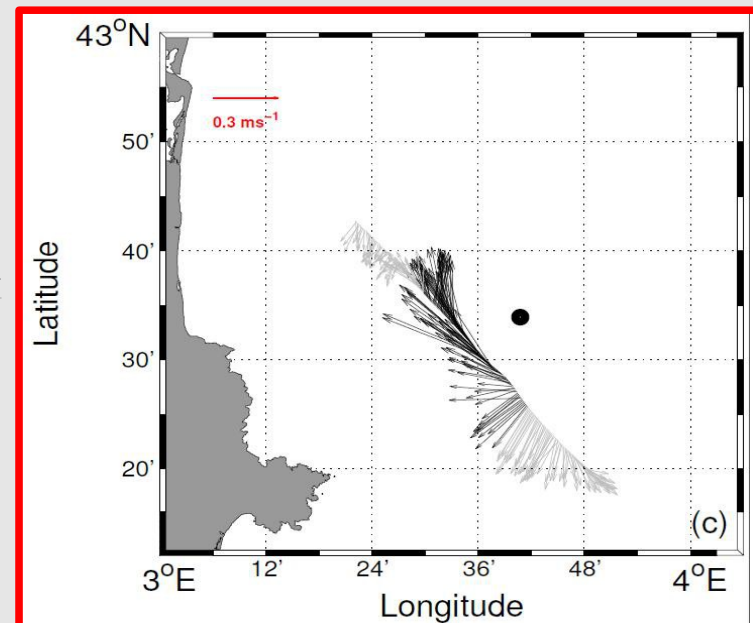


Vertical section of the absolute tangential component of the horizontal current ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) for Transect 3



ADCP current at  
15 m depth  
27 m depth

**Depth<sub>max</sub>  
30-35 m**



- Near real- time determination of eddy center
- Local **characterization** of coastal **mesoscale** features
  - Horizontal and vertical characteristics
    - Solid body rotation
    - Tilted axis of rotation

# Plan

## Part I – Tools for study mesoscale features

- Numerical codes
  - In situ experiments
- } Strategies

## Part II – Characteristics of mesoscale eddies

- Eddy center detection
- Horizontal characteristics
- Vertical characteristics

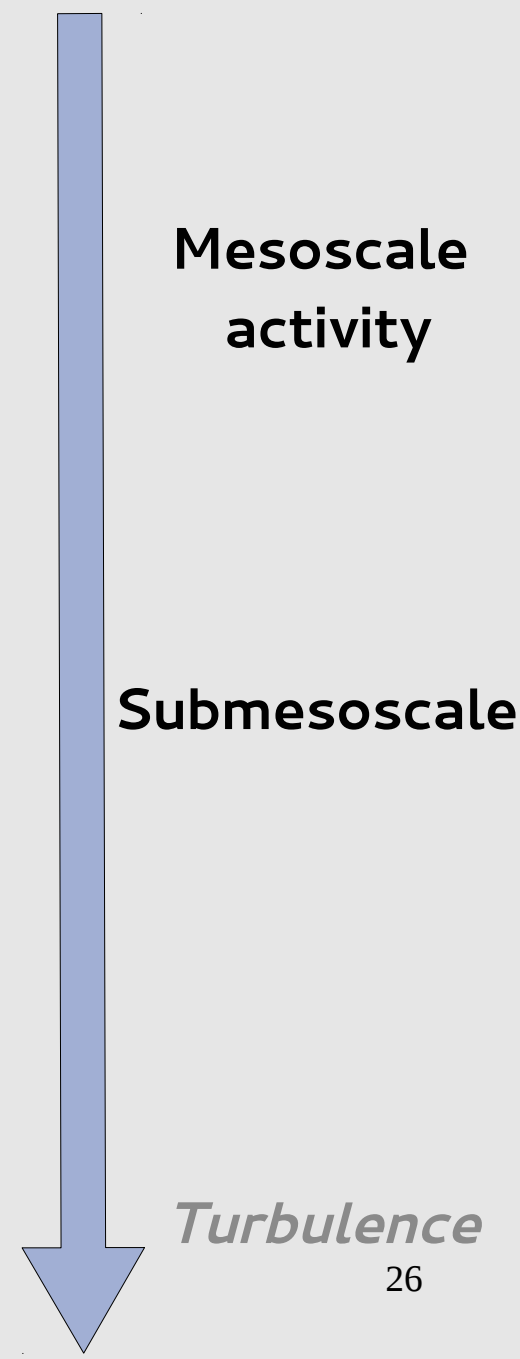
## Part III – Forcings and generation

- Forcing sensitivity – Wind sensitivity
- Process of generation
- Generation of submesoscale structures
- Impact on coast-offshore exchanges

## Part IV – Study of turbulent mixing

- In situ experiment
- Calculation of diffusion coefficients
- Lagrangian experiment

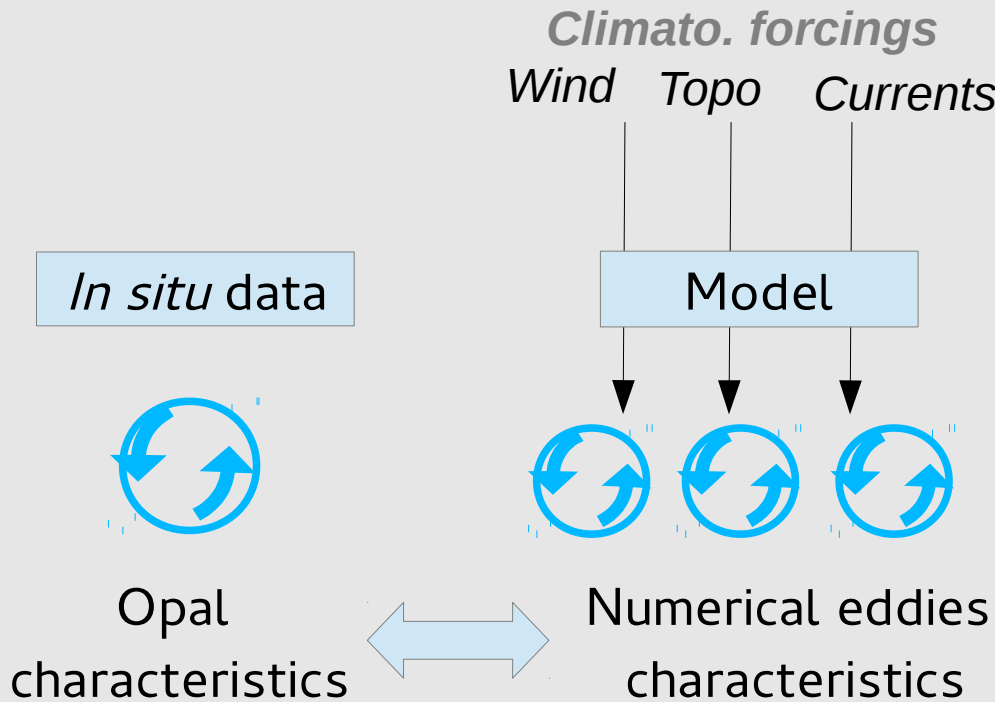
## Conclusion & perspectives





# Strategies

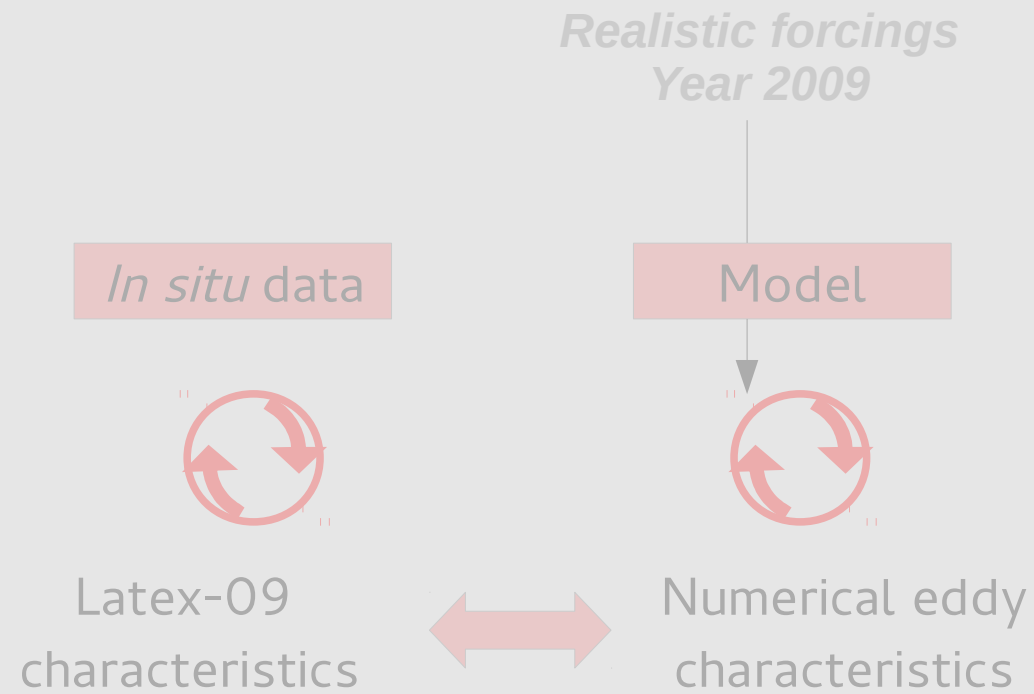
## Hawaiian archipelago



Validate the model and find the best set up

What is the **relative importance** of the forcings on the **generation of mesoscale eddies**?

## Gulf of Lion



Find a similar numerical eddy at the same period

What is the **generation process** of the Latex-09 eddy?

## Relative importance of the forcings

	Wind Forcing	Advection	Drag coeff.
Run-A	none	Ugeo	Cd
Run-B	none	2Ugeo	Cd
Run-C	QuikSCAT	none	Cd
Run-D	QuikSCAT	Ugeo	none

### Inadequacies :

Run-A & Run-B (No wind forcing)

Ocean circulation not realistic

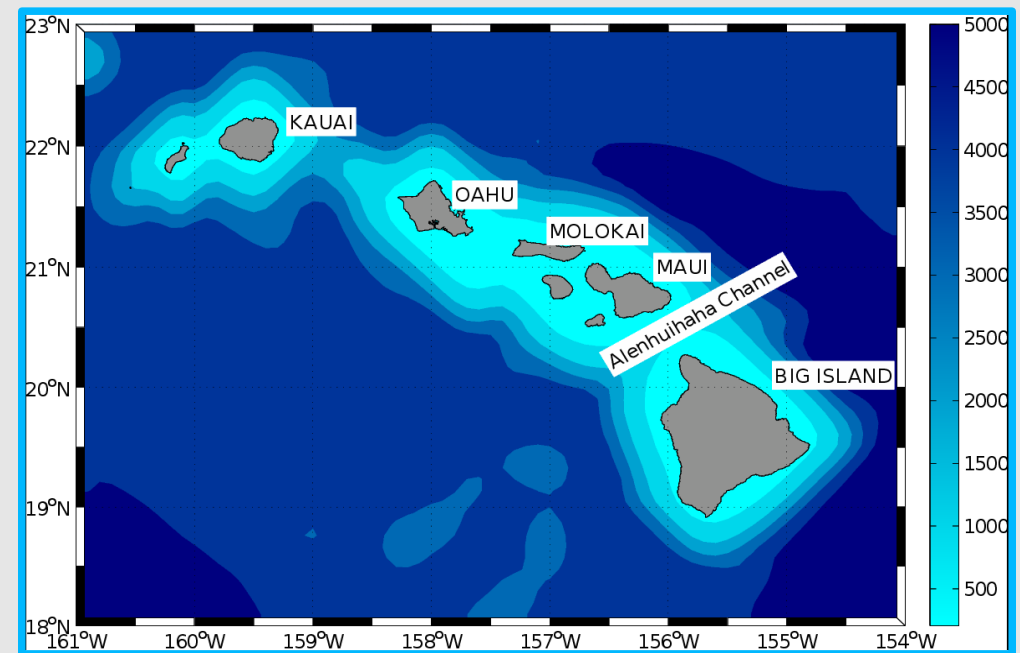
Intensity of the eddies is too low

Run-C (No advection)

Stationary eddies- No expected westward drift

Run-D (No Drag. Coeff)

Eddies too large





## Relative importance of the forcings

	Wind Forcing	Advection	Drag coeff.
Run-A	none	Ugeo	Cd
Run-B	none	2Ugeo	Cd
Run-C	QuikSCAT	none	Cd
Run-D	QuikSCAT	Ugeo	none

### Inadequacies :

#### Run-A & Run-B (No wind forcing)

Ocean circulation not realistic  
Intensity of the eddies is too low

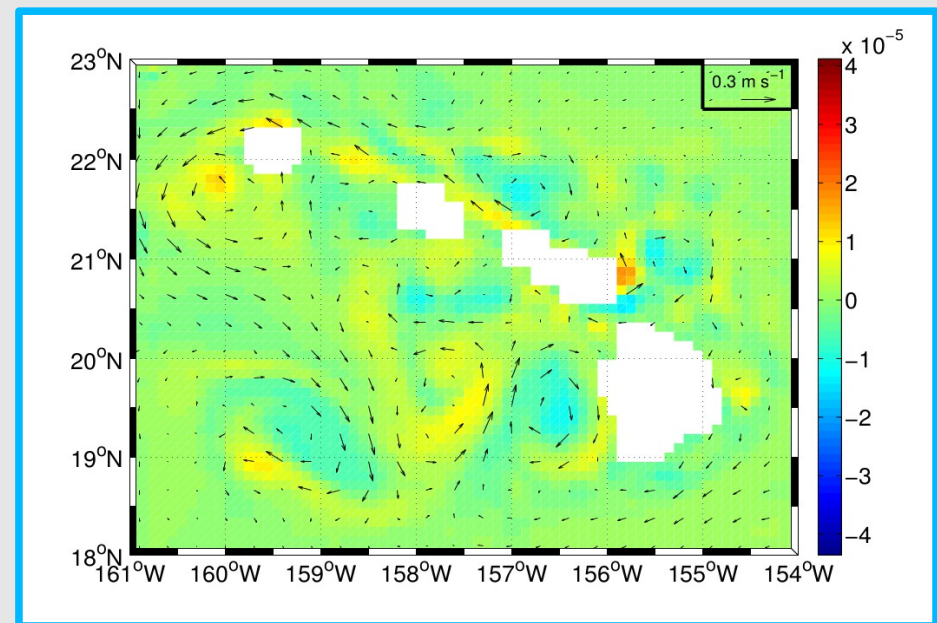
#### Run-C (No advection)

Stationary eddies- No expected westward drift

#### Run-D (No Drag. Coeff)

Eddies too large

### Relative vorticity field ( $s^{-1}$ ) at 20m depth







## Relative importance of the forcings

	Wind Forcing	Advection	Drag coeff.
Run-A	none	Ugeo	Cd
Run-B	none	2Ugeo	Cd
Run-C	QuikSCAT	none	Cd
Run-D	QuikSCAT	Ugeo	none

### Inadequacies :

Run-A & Run-B (No wind forcing)

Ocean circulation not realistic

Intensity of the eddies is too low

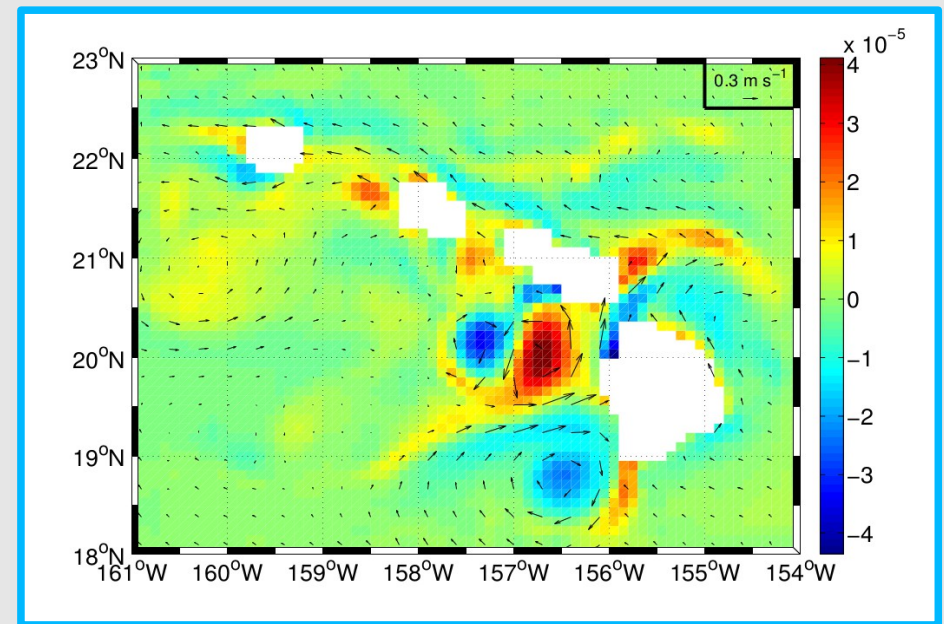
Run-C (No advection)

Stationary eddies- No expected westward drift

Run-D (No Drag. Coeff)

Eddies too large

## Relative vorticity field ( $s^{-1}$ ) at 20m depth





## Relative importance of the forcings

	Wind Forcing	Advection	Drag coeff.
Run-A	none	Ugeo	Cd
Run-B	none	2Ugeo	Cd
Run-C	QuikSCAT	none	Cd
Run-D	QuikSCAT	Ugeo	none

### Inadequacies :

**Run-A & Run-B (No wind forcing)**

Ocean circulation not realistic

Intensity of the eddies is too low

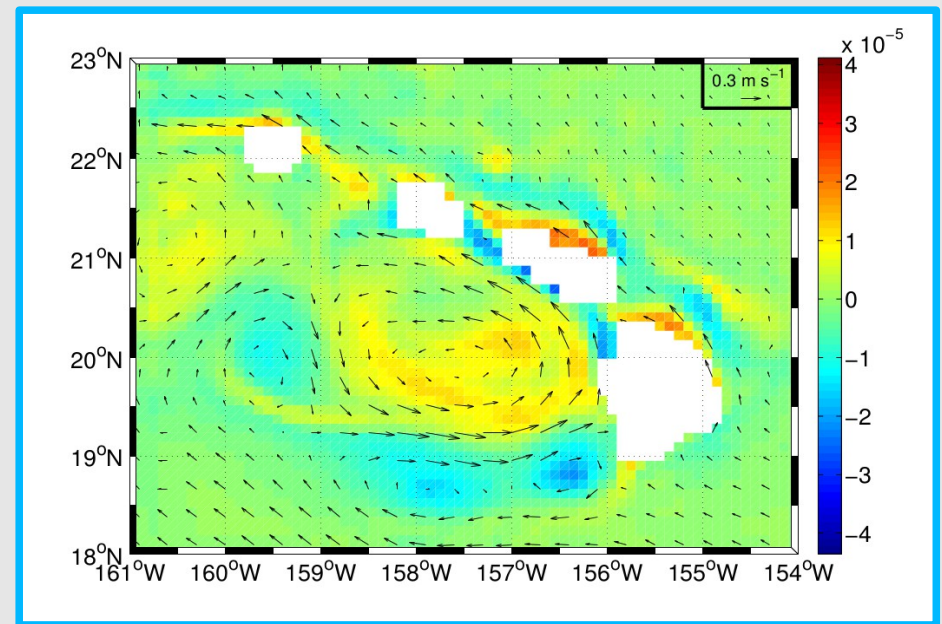
**Run-C (No advection)**

Stationary eddies- No expected westward drift

**Run-D (No Drag. Coeff)**

Eddies too large

## Relative vorticity field ( $s^{-1}$ ) at 20m depth





## Relative importance of the forcings

	Wind Forcing	Advection	Drag coeff.
Run-A	none	Ugeo	Cd
Run-B	none	2Ugeo	Cd
Run-C	QuikSCAT	none	Cd
Run-D	QuikSCAT	Ugeo	none

### Inadequacies :

#### Run-A & Run-B (No wind forcing)

Ocean circulation not realistic  
Intensity of the eddies is too low

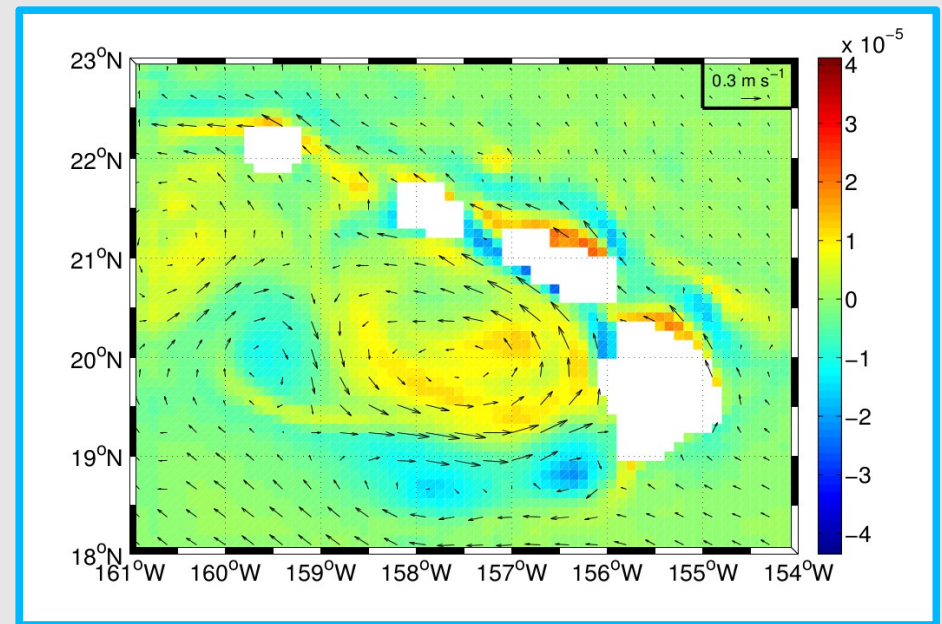
#### Run-C (No advection)

Stationary eddies- No expected westward drift

#### Run-D (No Drag. Coeff)

Eddies too large

### Relative vorticity field ( $s^{-1}$ ) at 20m depth



 Cumulative effect of the three forcings

[Kersalé et al., 2011]



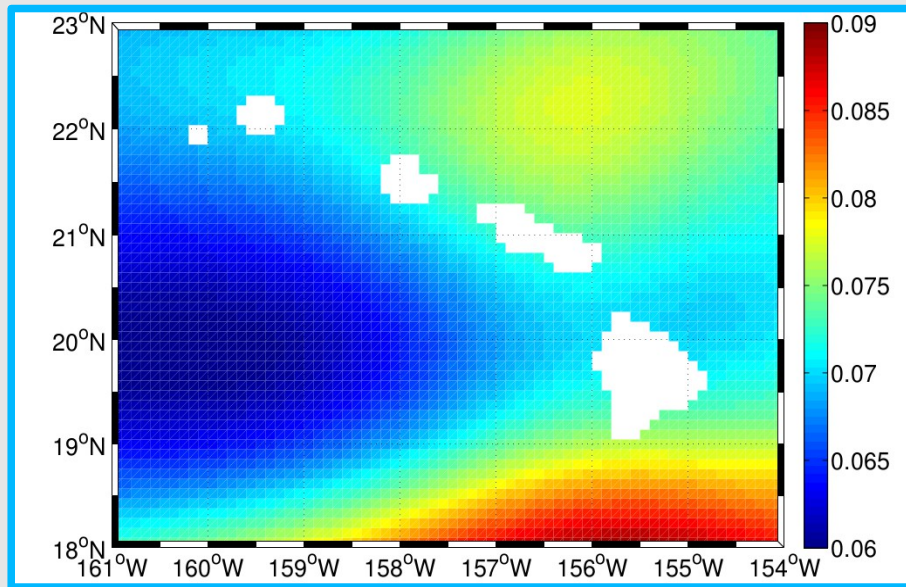


## Resolution of wind forcing

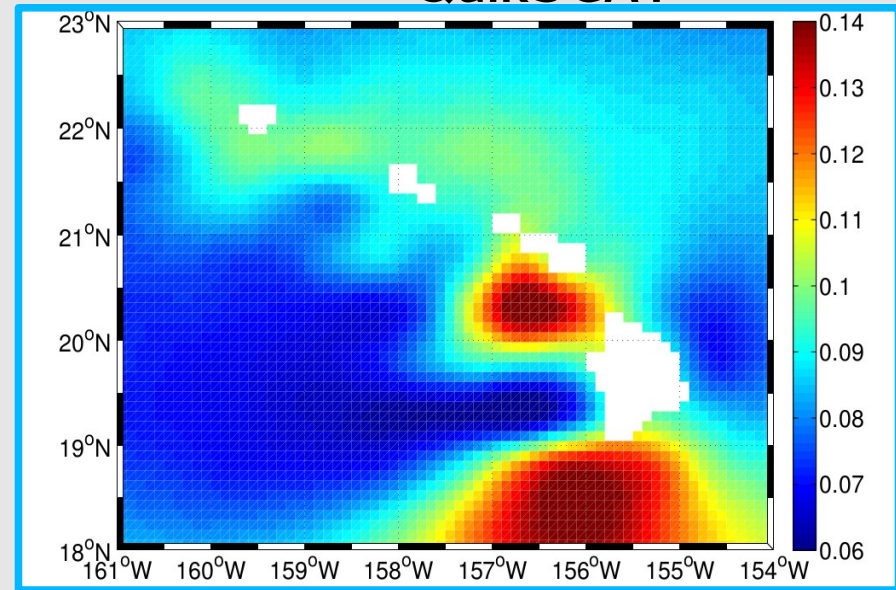
	Wind Forcing	Advection	Drag coeff.
Run-E	COADS (1/2°)	Ugeo	Cd
Run-F	QuikSCAT (1/4°)	Ugeo	Cd

Performed numerical experiments

COADS



QuikSCAT



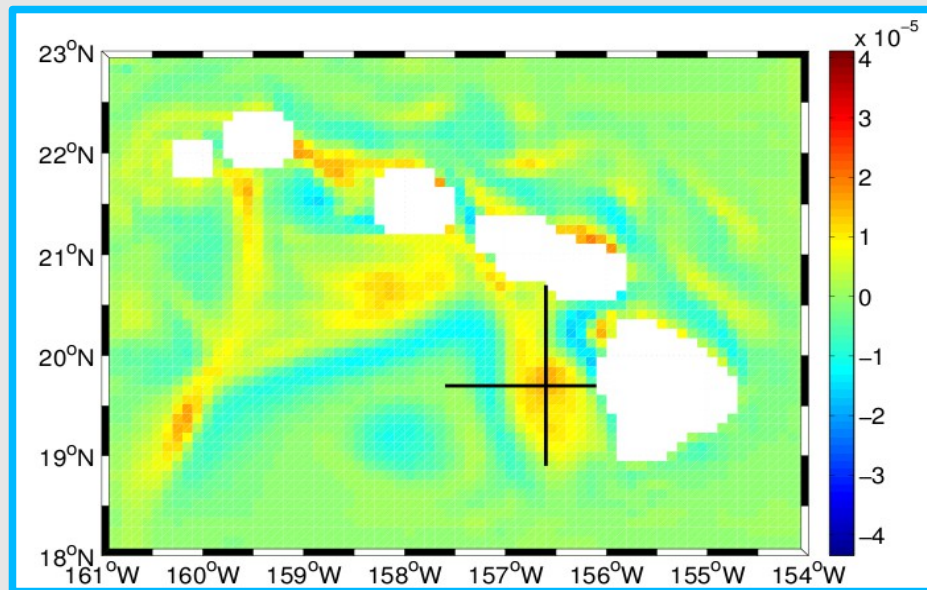
Annually-averaged wind stress values [ $\text{Nm}^{-2}$ ]

## Resolution of wind forcing

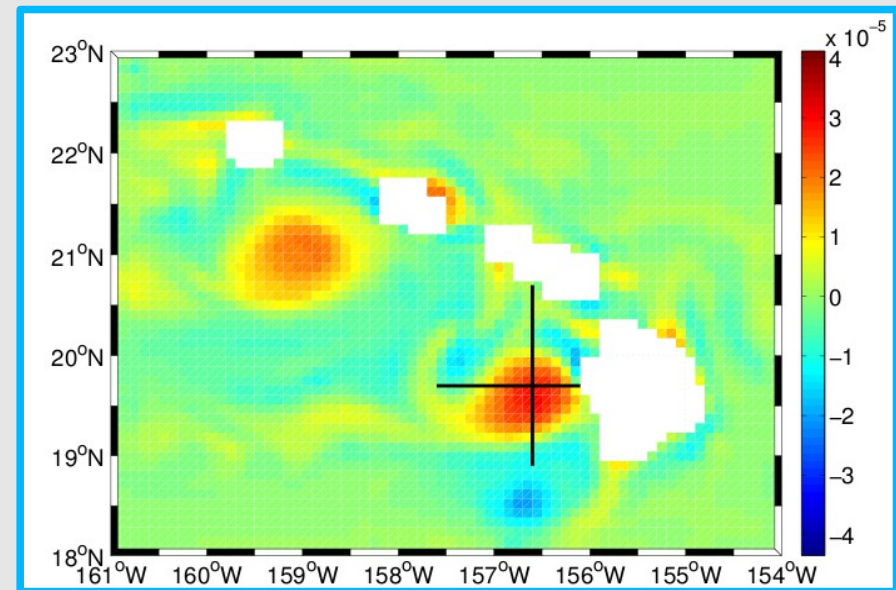
	Wind Forcing	Advection	Drag coeff.
Run-E	COADS (1/2°)	Ugeo	Cd
Run-F	QuikSCAT (1/4°)	Ugeo	Cd

Performed numerical experiments

### COADS



### QuikSCAT



Relative vorticity field ( $s^{-1}$ )

at 20m depth

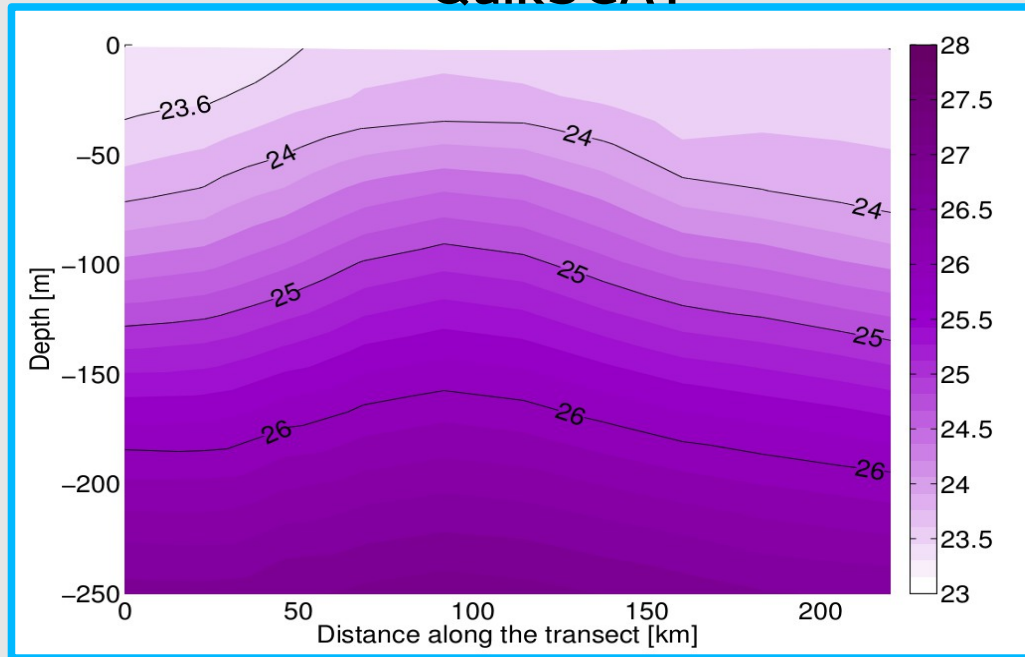
- Ocean circulation realistic
- Focus on **numerical cyclones** chosen because they are spatially and temporally representative of **cyclone Opal** studied during the E-FLUX III<sup>34</sup>



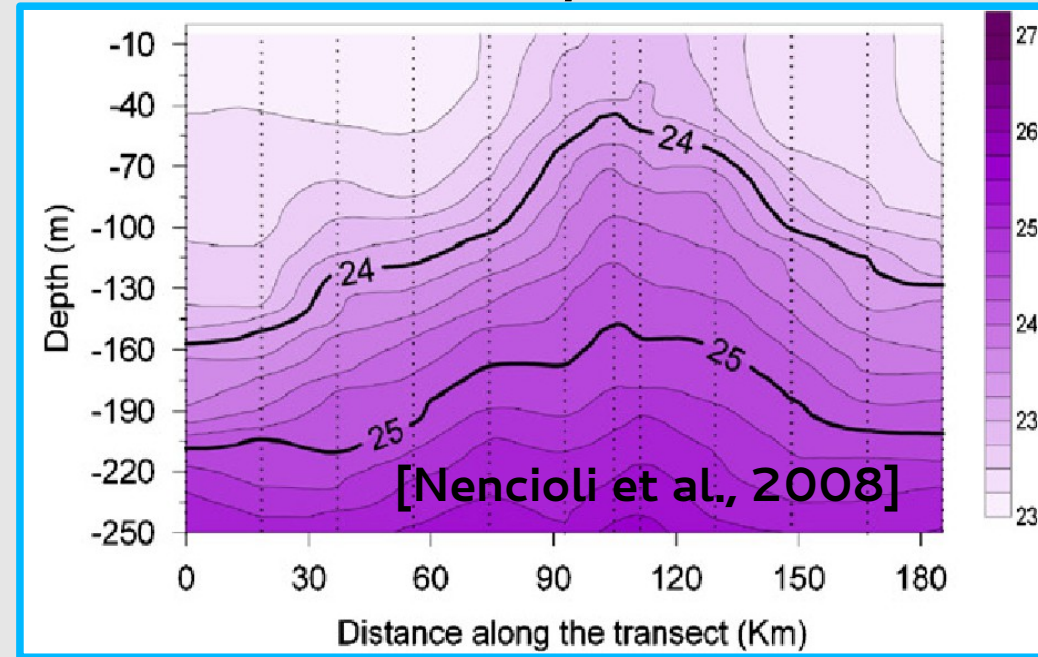
# Part III – Forcings and generation



## QuikSCAT



## Opal



Transect of density ( $\text{kg m}^{-3}$ ) + isopycnals

	COADS	QuikSCAT	Opal
Isopycnal outcrop.	$\sigma_{t_{23.6/23.8}}$	$\sigma_{t_{23.6/23.8}}$	$\sigma_{t_{23.6}}$
Depth impact (m)	$130 \pm 70$	$>250$	$>250$
Diameter (km)	$180 \pm 20$	$180 \pm 30$	180-200
Velocity ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )	$0.3 \pm 0.05$	$0.53 \pm 0.09$	0.6

Good representation of mesoscale features in the simulation forced by QuikSCAT



**Importance of wind-forcing spatial resolution**

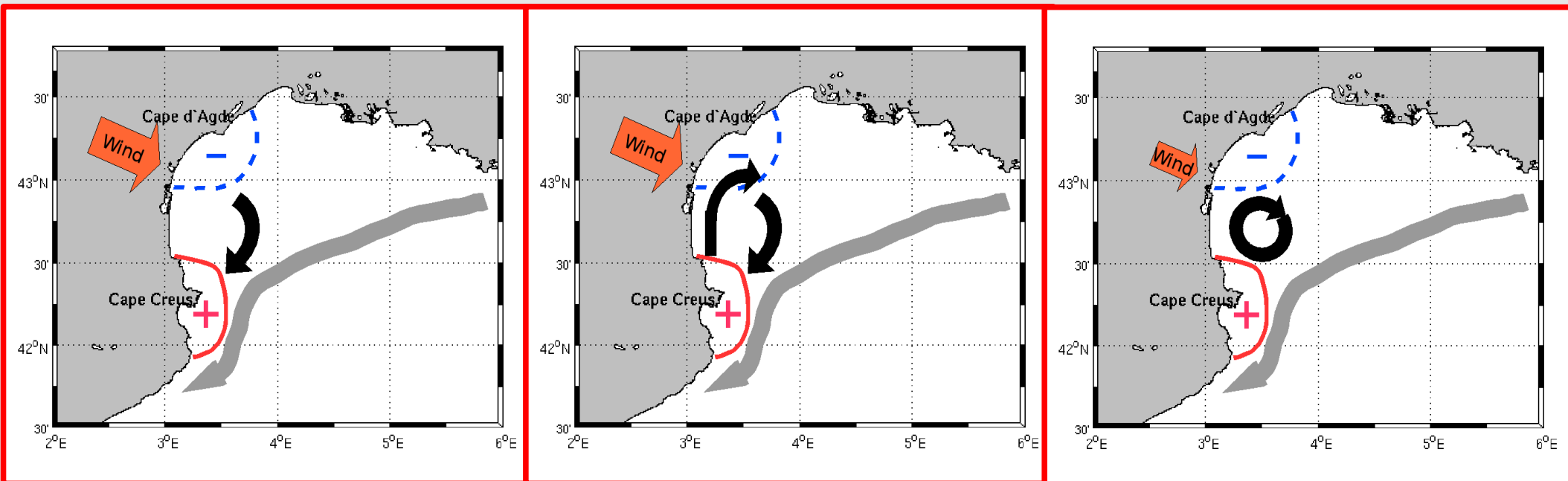


## Hypothesis of generation

Mesoscale eddies in the western part of the GoL

2001-2008 [Hu et al., 2011]

- 2 conditions : → Persistent & strong northwest wind
- Strong stratification

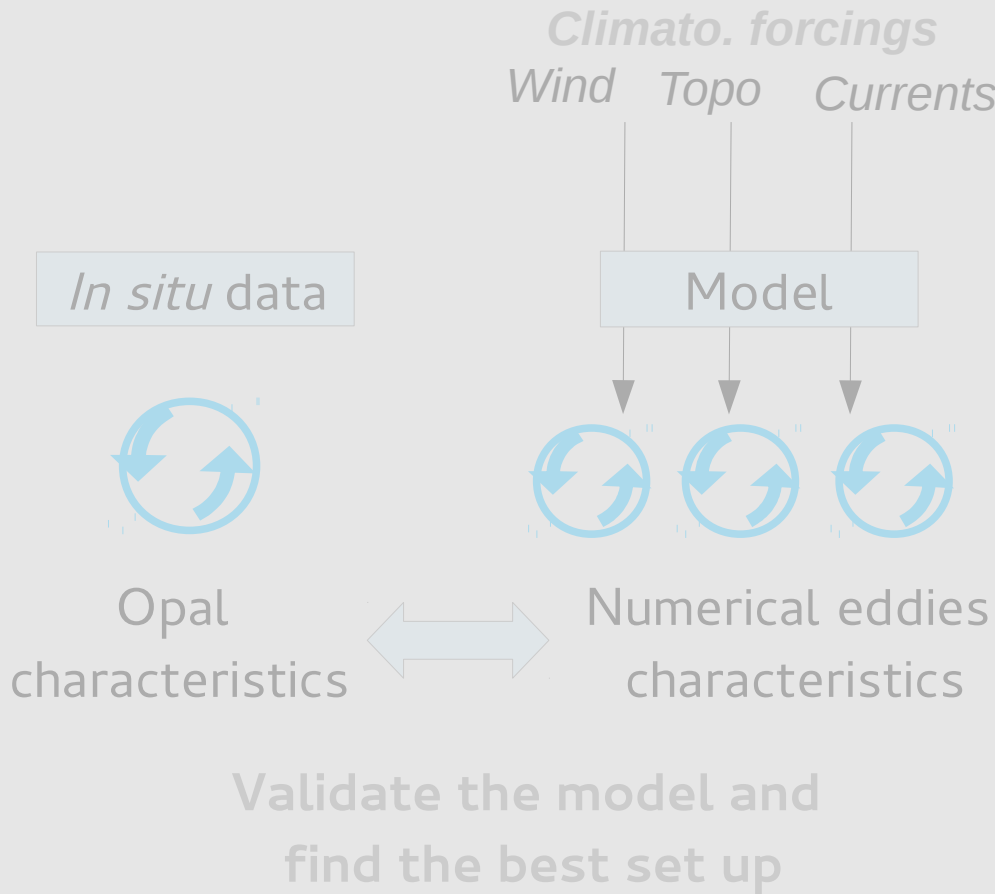


Process of generation  
[Hu et al., 2011]



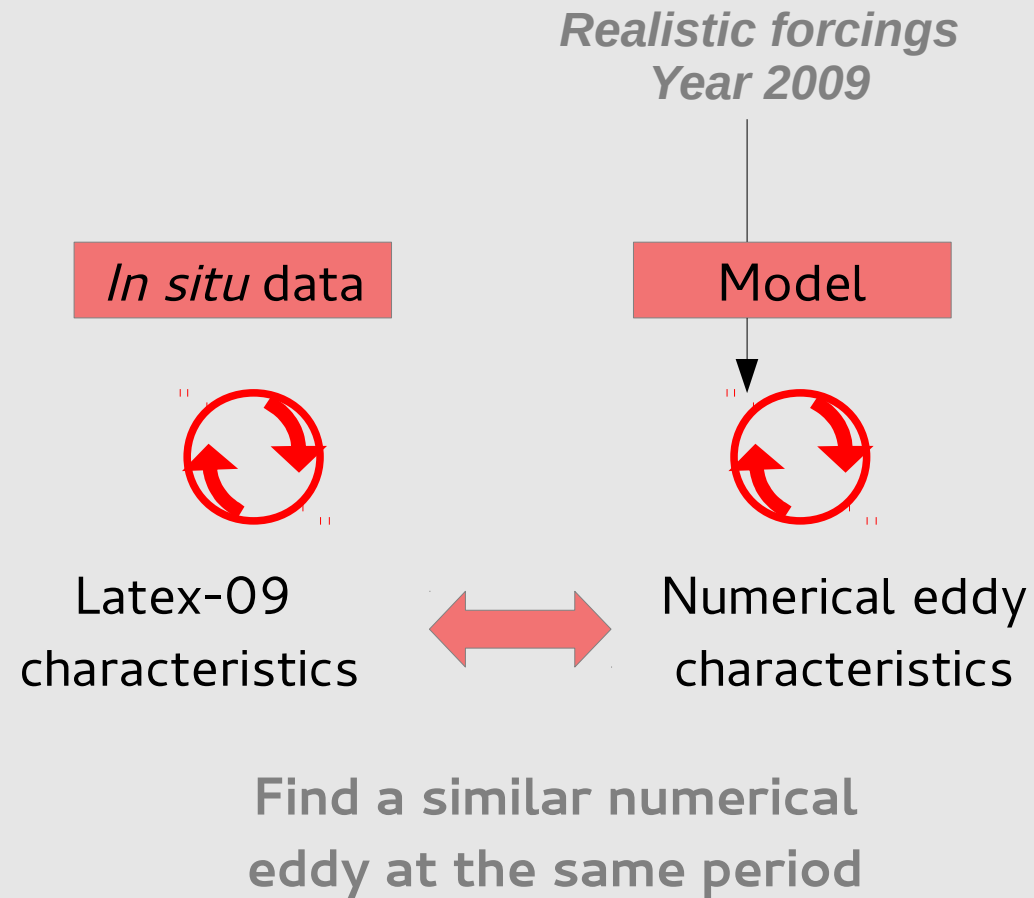
# Strategies

## Hawaiian archipelago

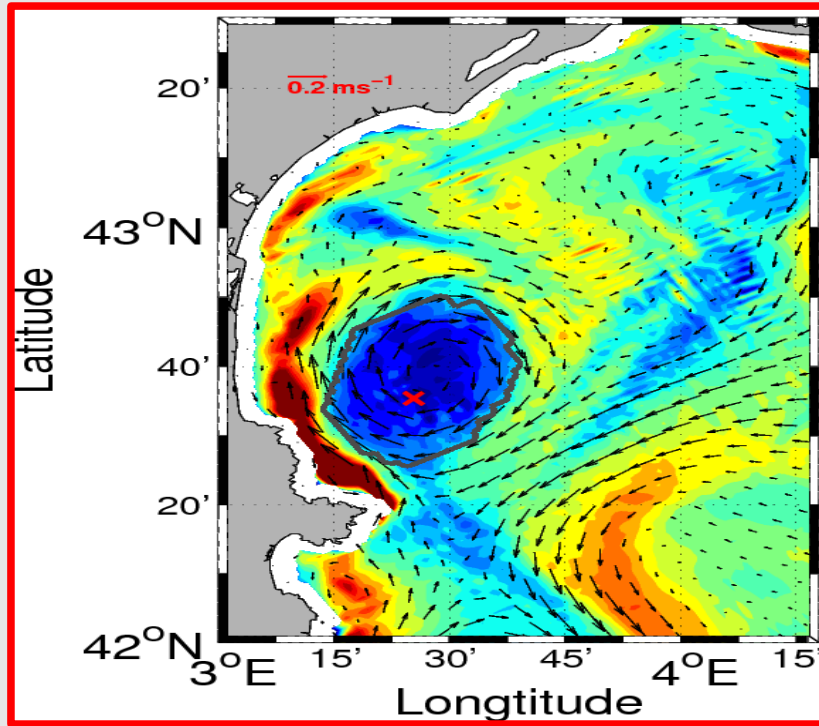


What is the **relative importance** of the forcings on the generation of mesoscale eddies?

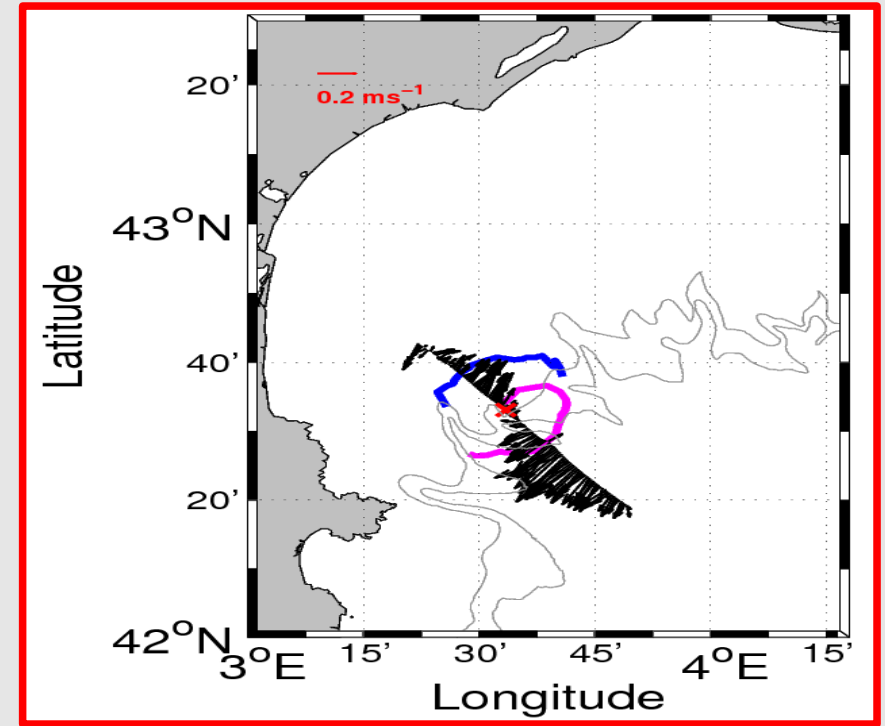
## Gulf of Lion



What is the **generation process** of the Latex-09 eddy?



Eddy detected by wavelet analysis [Doglioli et al., 2007] – Relative vorticity [ $s^{-1}$ ] 15m depth August 27



Latex09 ADCP data August 27 +Buoys from August 26–29

	Model	Data
Center	3°26'E – 42°36'N	3°34'E – 42°33'N
Depth impact (m)	37	35
Diameter (km)	28.6±1.4	22.7±1.2

**➔ Similar eddy found in the numerical results**

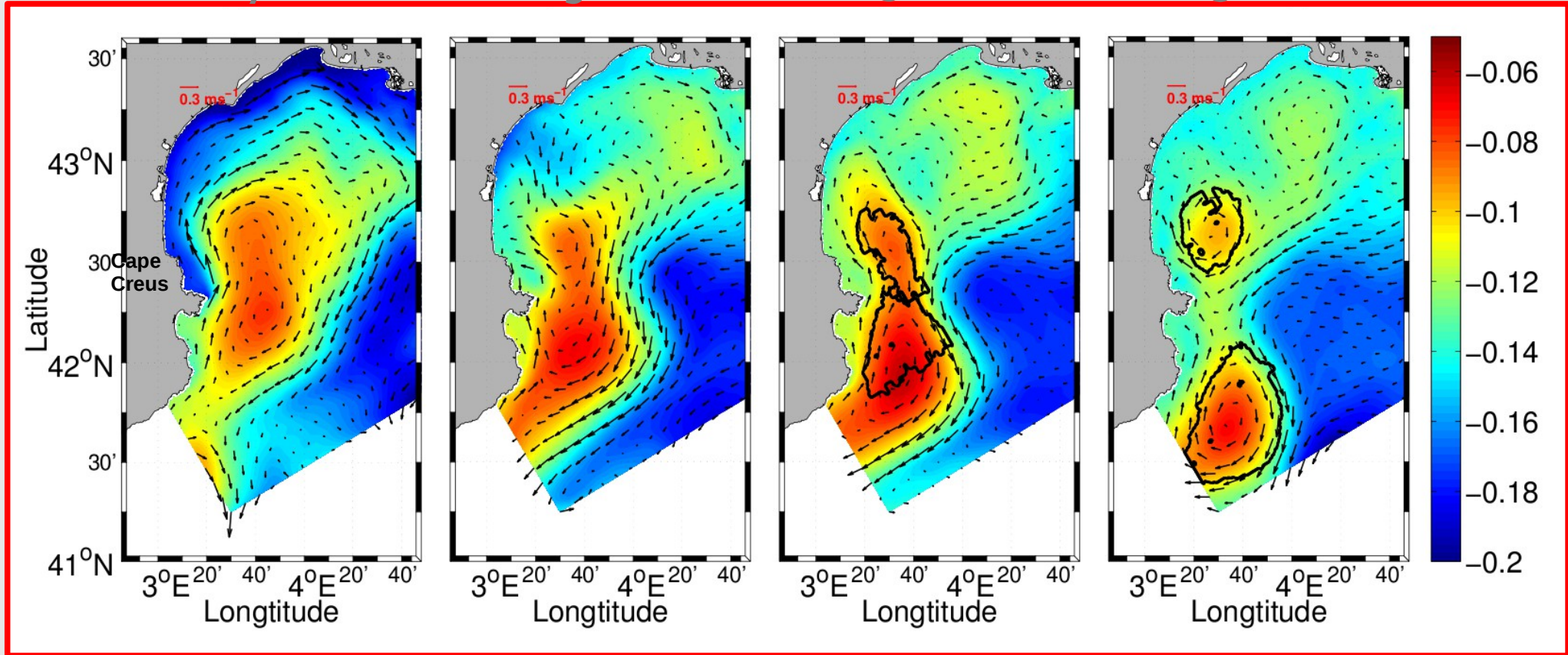
## Eddy Generation Process

July 20

August 8

August 16

August 27



Eddies detected by wavelet analysis – Sea Surface Height [m]

- Pushing and squeezing of an anticyclonic circulation between a meander of the NC and the coast
- Separation in two structures

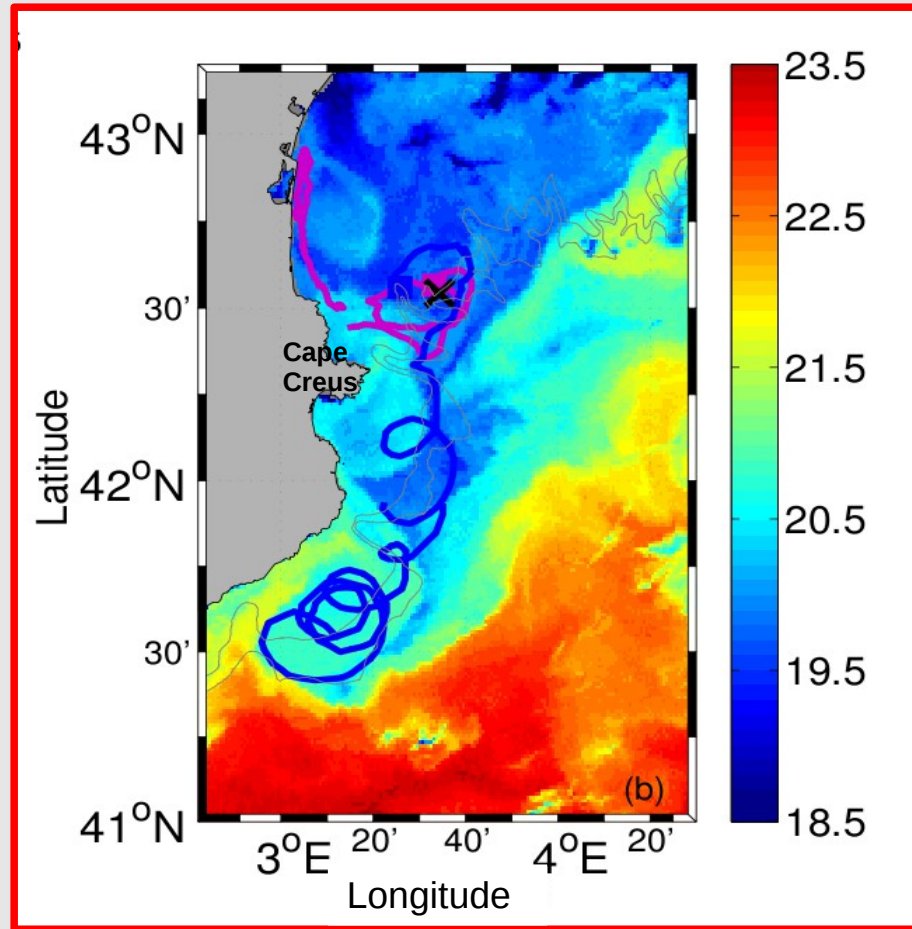
**New Generation Process  
of the Latex-09 eddy**

[Kersalé et al., 2013]

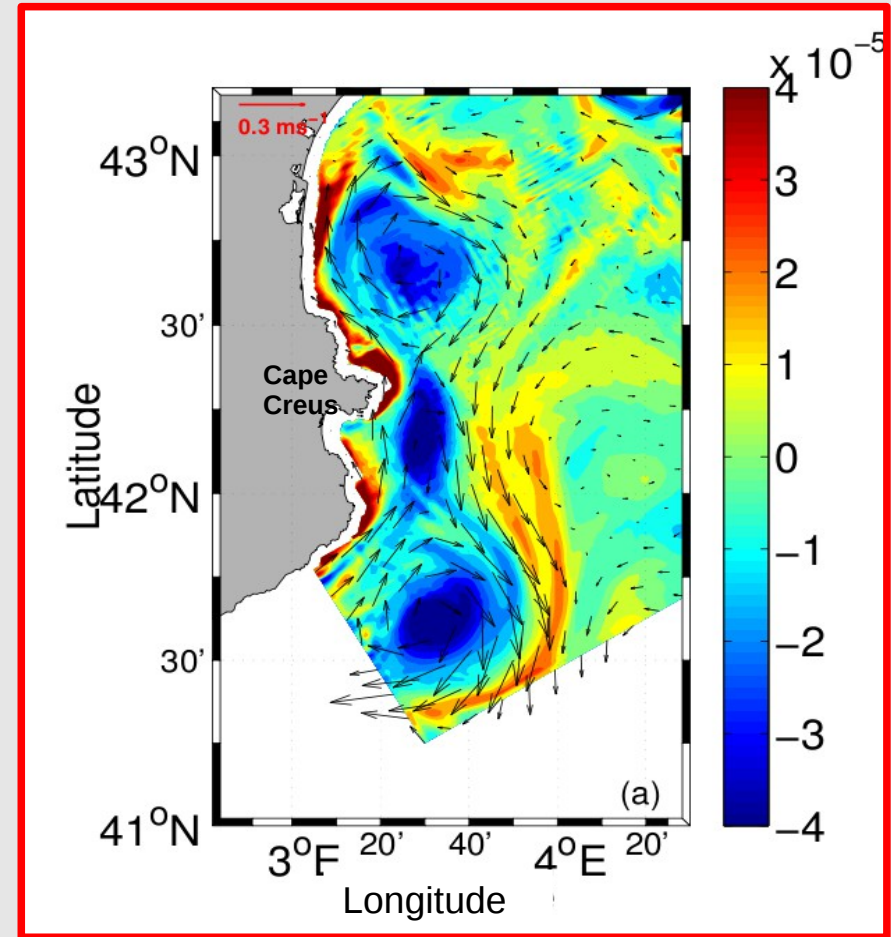


## Post Generation dynamics

Latex09 feeds the Catalan eddy



SST (°C) September 12  
+Buoys from August 26– September 12



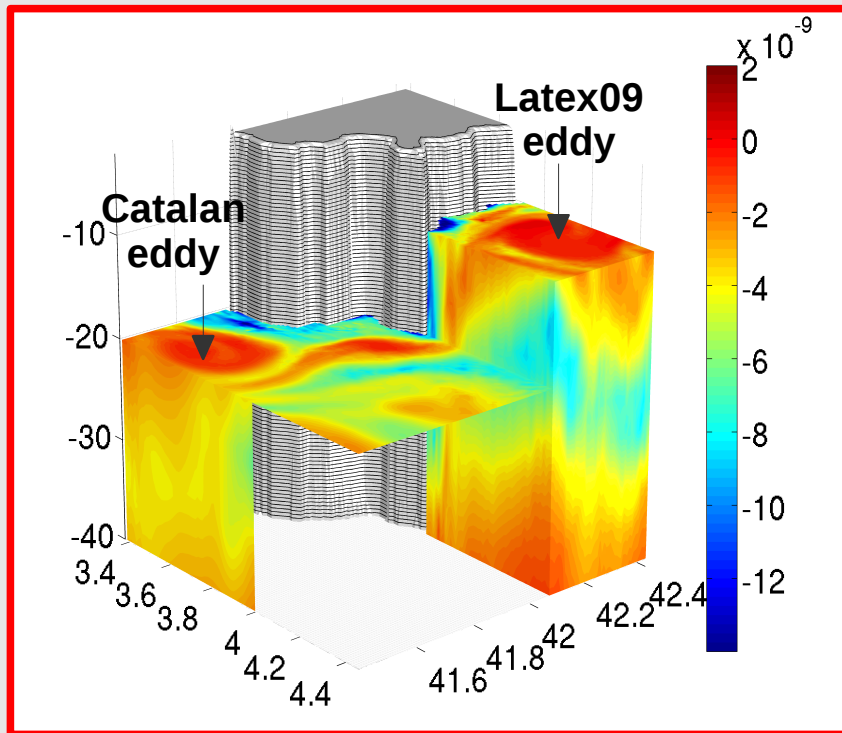
Relative vorticity [ $s^{-1}$ ]  
20m depth September 3

**➔ Drifter trajectories explained by the generation of a submesoscale transient structure**

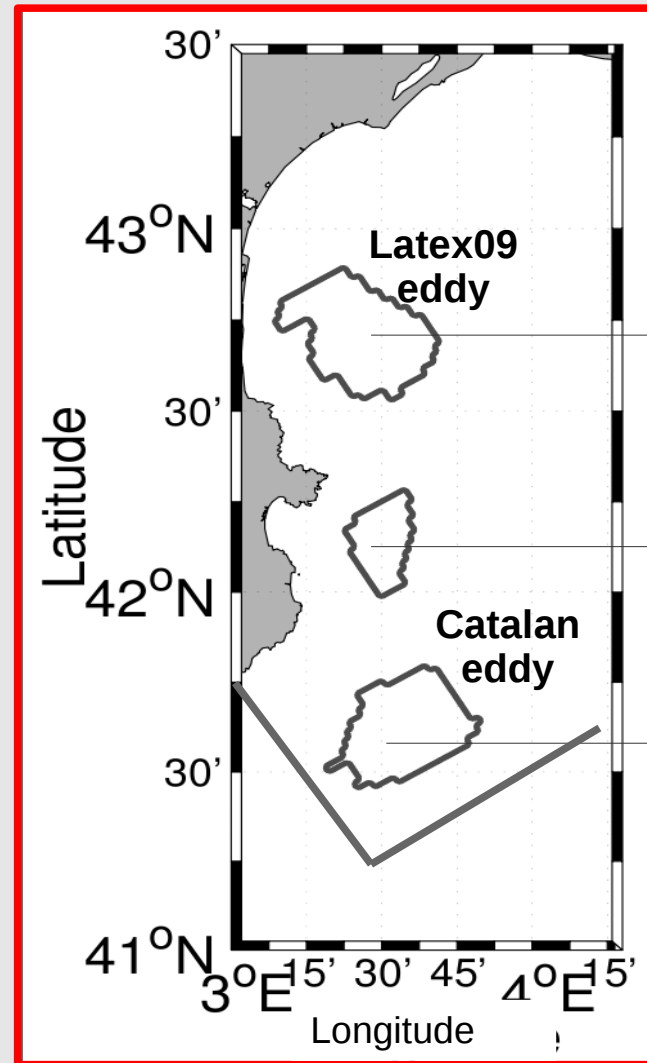


## Latex09 – Loss of mass

Potential vorticity [ $\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-4}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ]  
in 3D on September 3



Eddies detected by wavelet analysis



Loss of mass 41%  
33% of the Latex09 eddy's mass  
Gain of mass?

➔ Interactions between the two eddies lead to a transfer of mass and vorticity from the GoL to the Catalan shelf

- **Cumulative** effects of external forcings
- Importance of **wind** forcing **resolution**

**Synergy of model results and *in situ* data**

- New **generation process** of eddies  
in the western part of the Gulf of lion
- **Observation** of transient **submesoscale** structure
  - **Exchanges** between coastal areas

# Plan

## Part I – Tools for study mesoscale features

Numerical codes  
In situ experiments } Strategies

## Part II – Characteristics of mesoscale eddies

Eddy center detection  
Horizontal characteristics  
Vertical characteristics

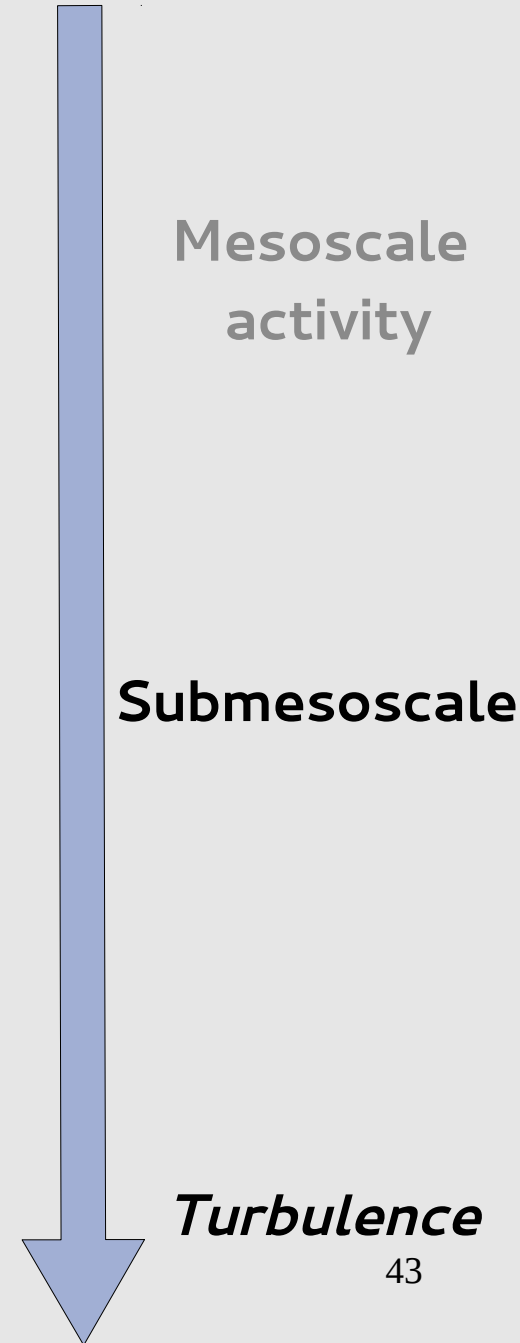
## Part III – Forcings and generation

Forcing sensitivity – Wind sensitivity  
Process of generation  
Generation of submesoscale structures  
Impact on coast-offshore exchanges

## Part IV – Study of turbulent mixing

In situ experiment  
Calculation of diffusion coefficients  
Lagrangian experiment

## Conclusion & perspectives



## In situ experiment – Field campaign Latex10

- Western part of the GoL
- September 1-24, 2010
- No anticyclonic eddy in the area

Satellite observations



2 Research Vessels  
ADCP  
Thermosalinometer

CTD



SF6



Lagrangian floats

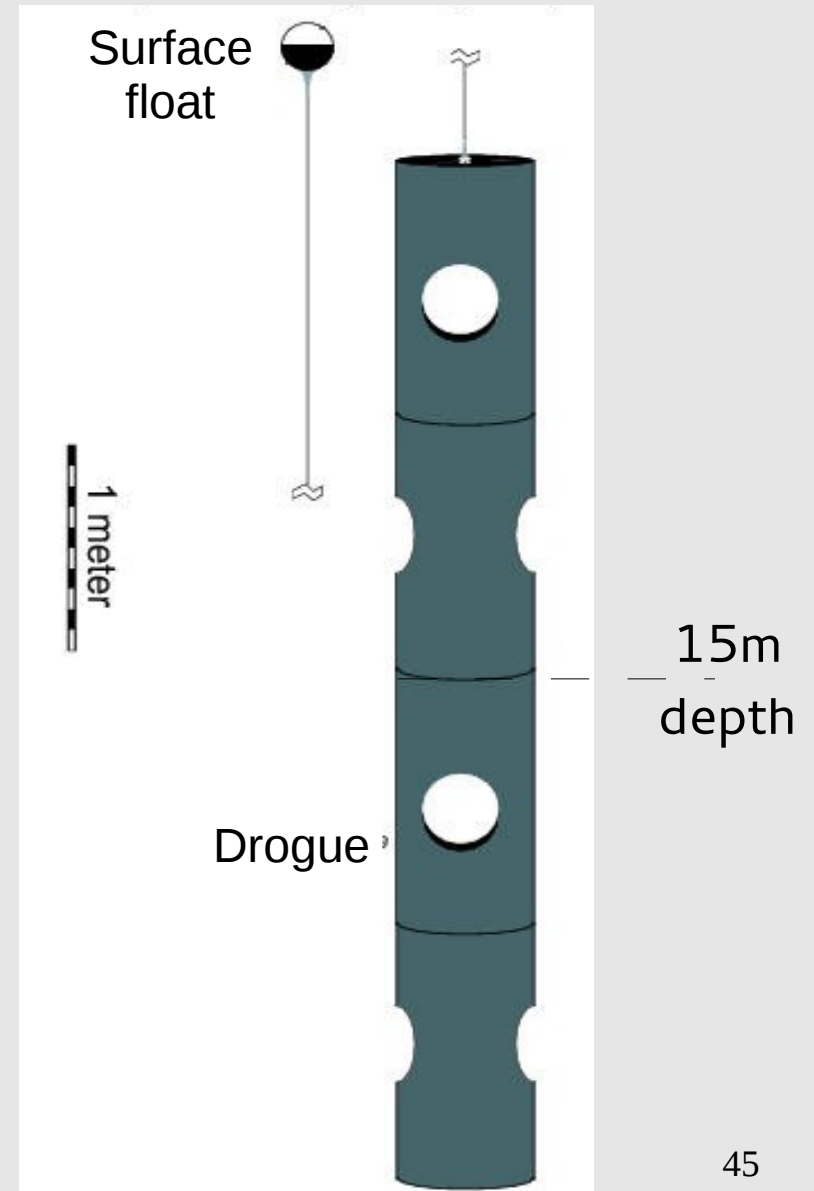
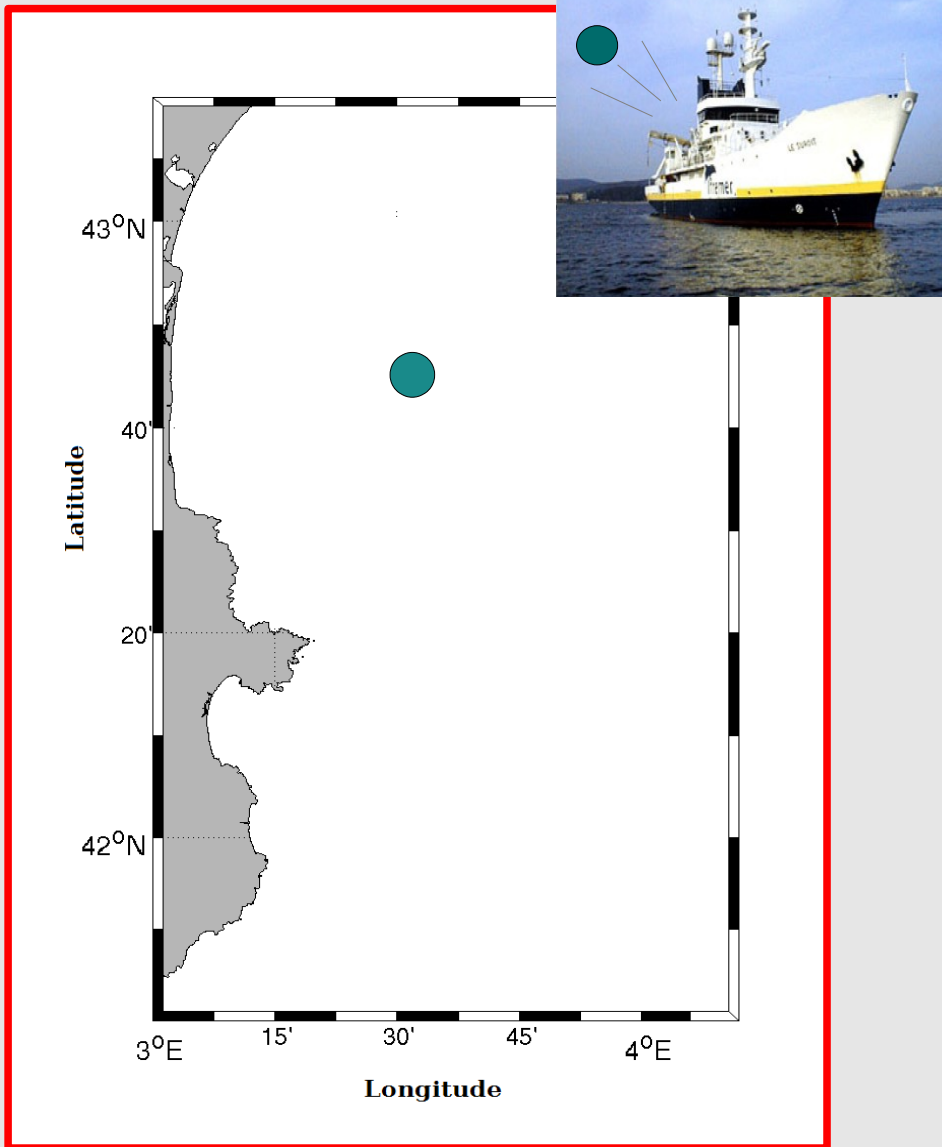
Further characterization of the  
**turbulent mixing** in a coastal environment



# Part IV – Study of turbulent mixing



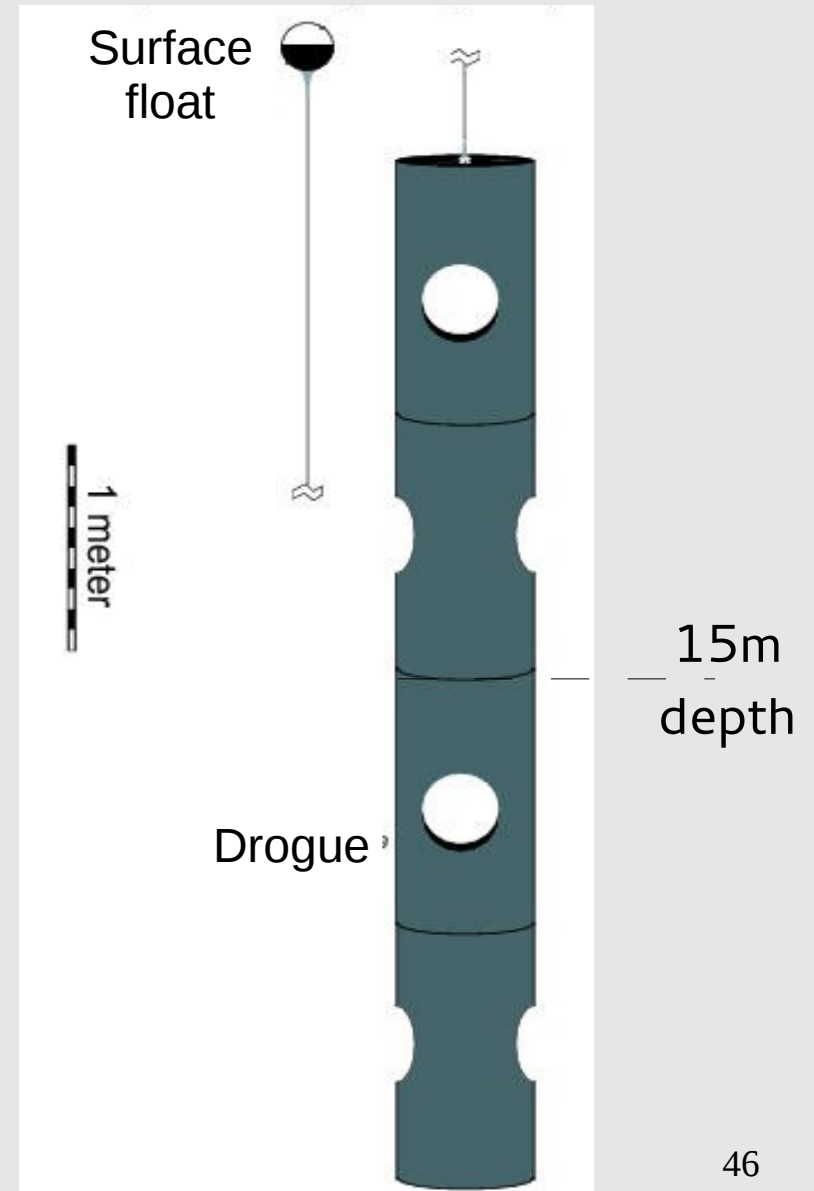
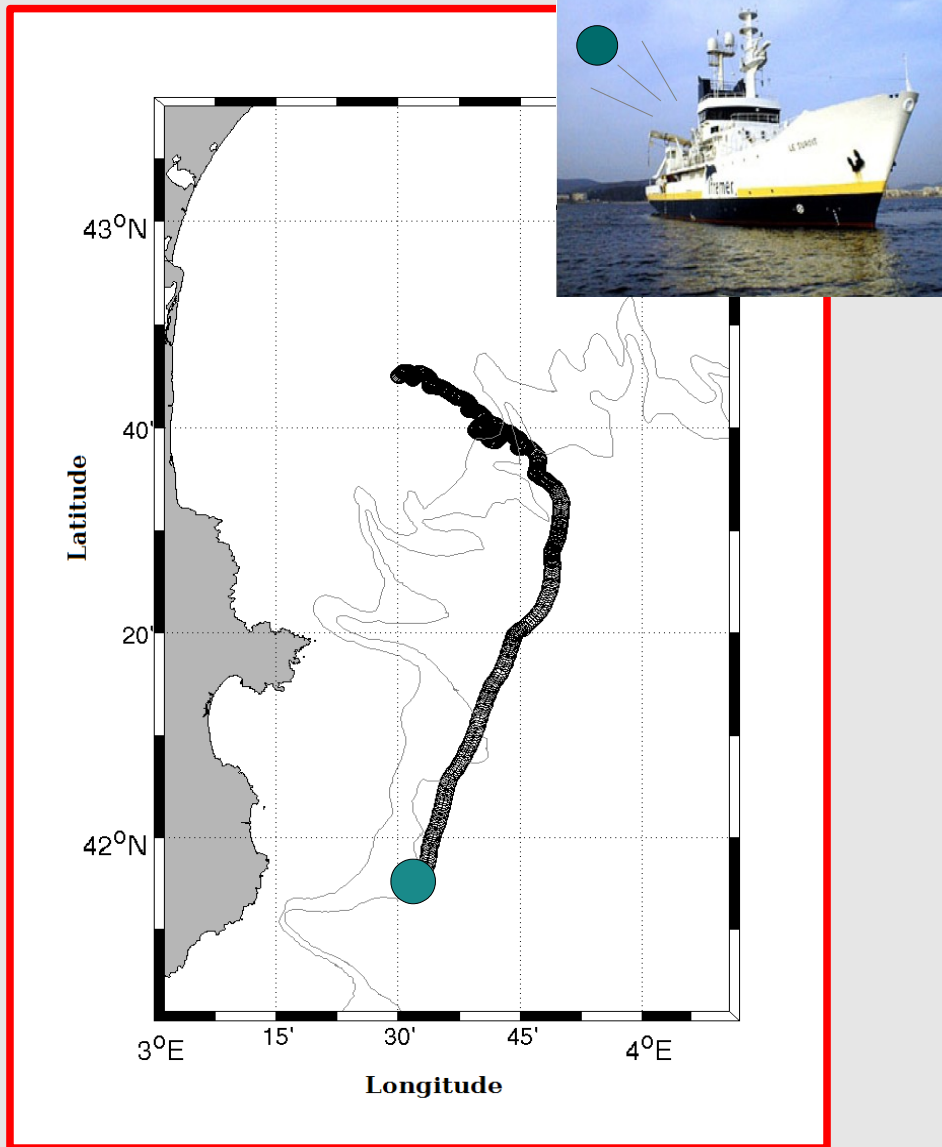
## In situ experiment – Field campaign Latex10 Lagrangian float



# Part IV – Study of turbulent mixing



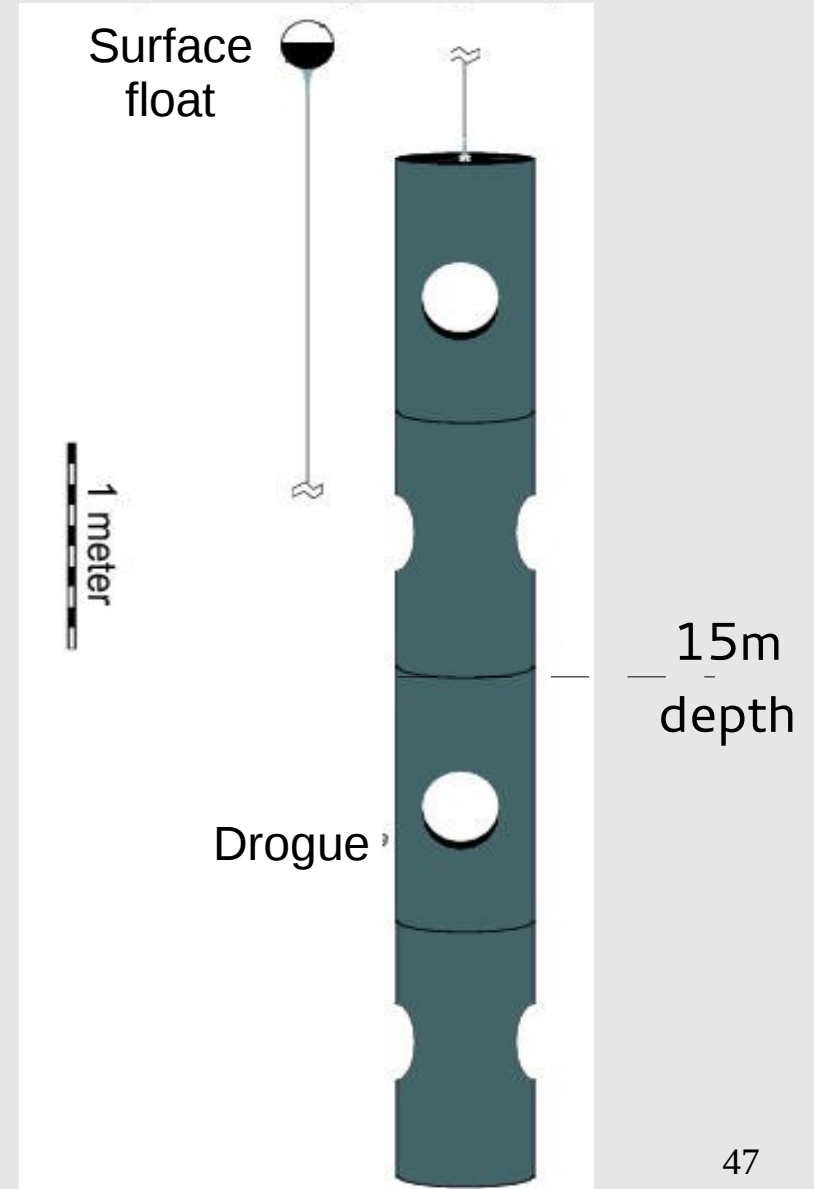
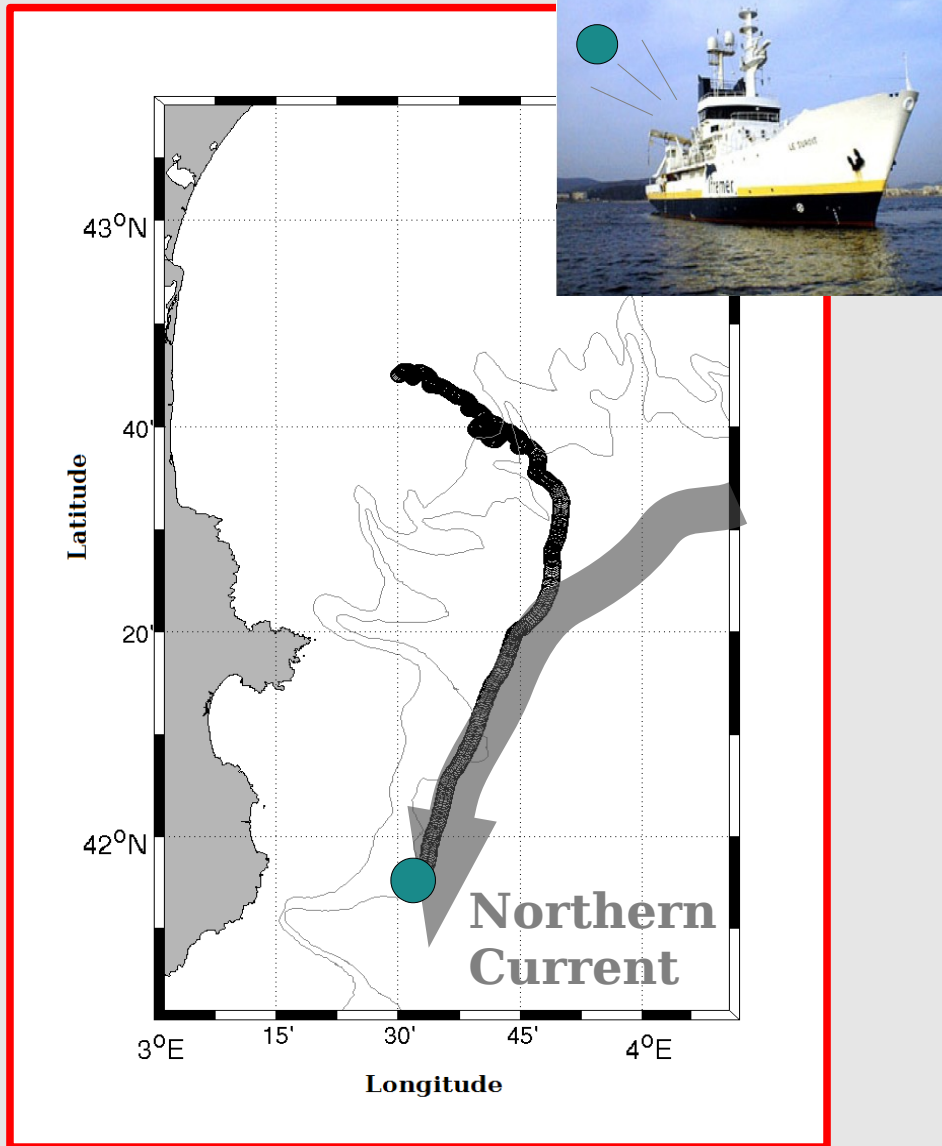
## In situ experiment – Field campaign Latex10 Lagrangian float



# Part IV – Study of turbulent mixing



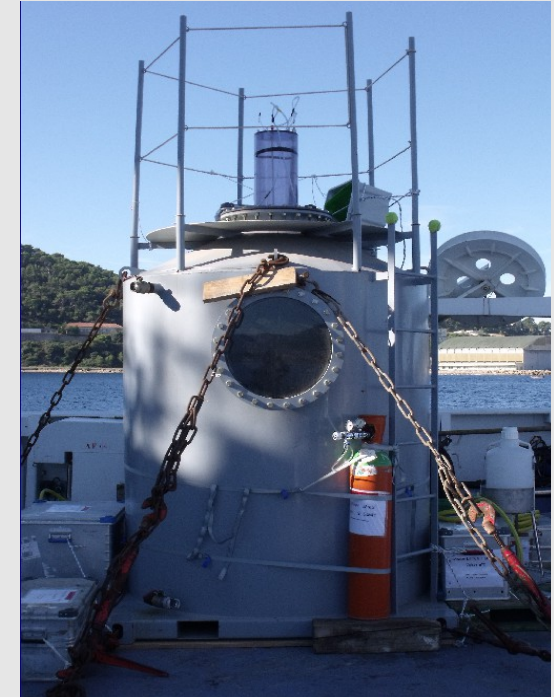
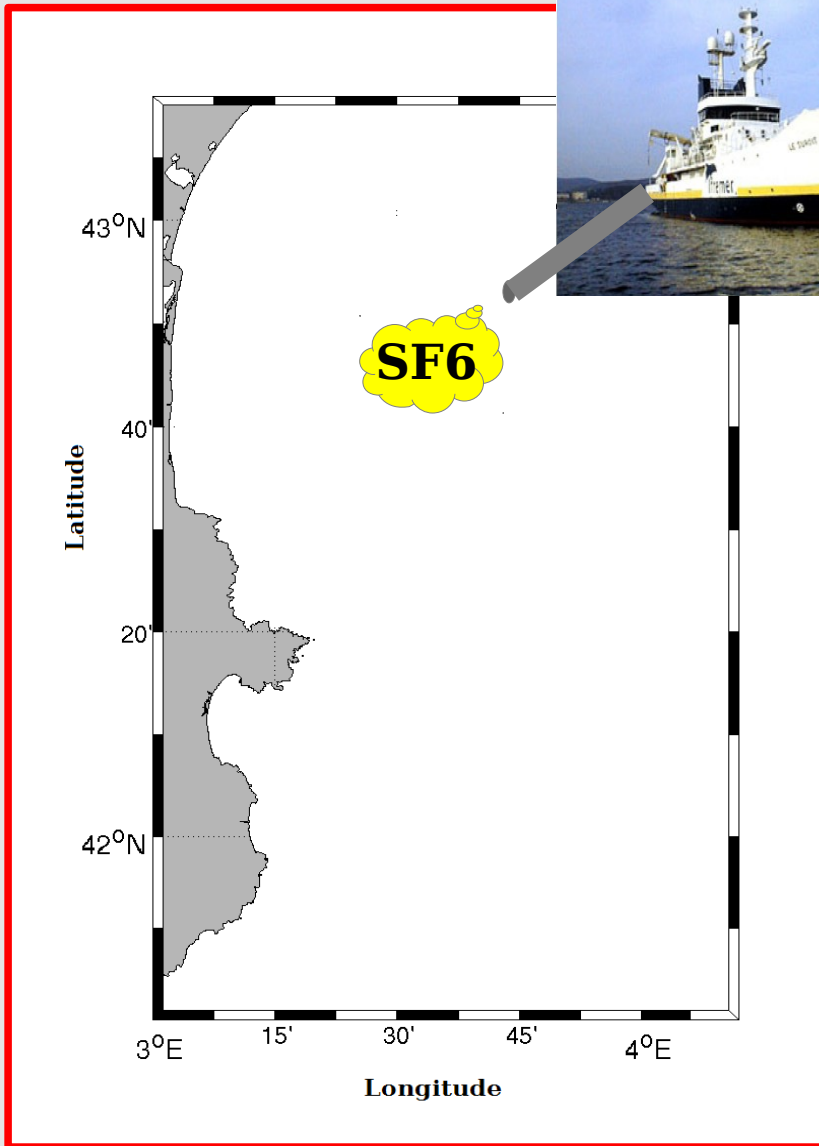
## In situ experiment – Field campaign Latex10 Lagrangian float



# Part IV – Study of turbulent mixing



## In situ experiment – Field campaign Latex10 SF6 – Sulfur Hexafluoride



**Artificial patch :**  
Release of seawater saturated with SF6  
Inert tracer

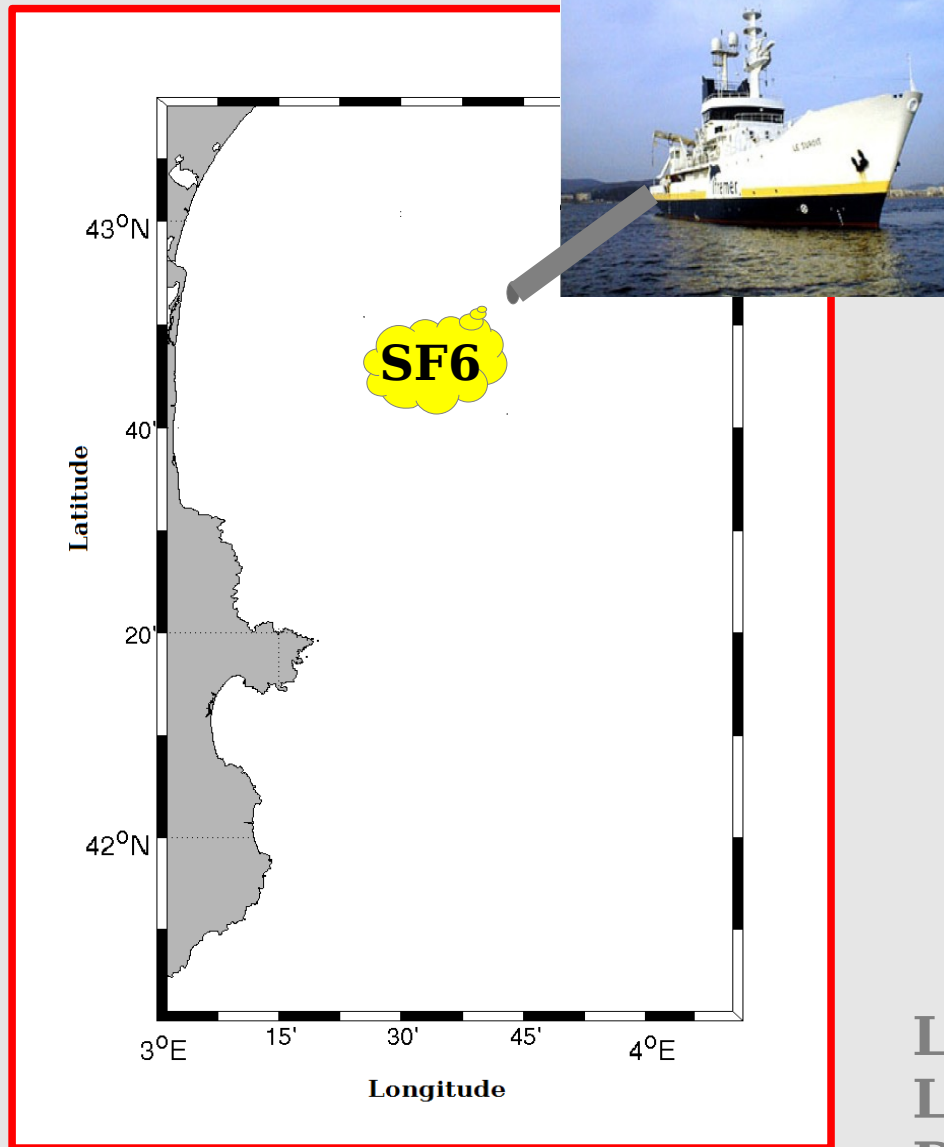
7500 L steel tank of seawater  
+ Injection of pure SF6 gaz  
= Saturated SF6 solution



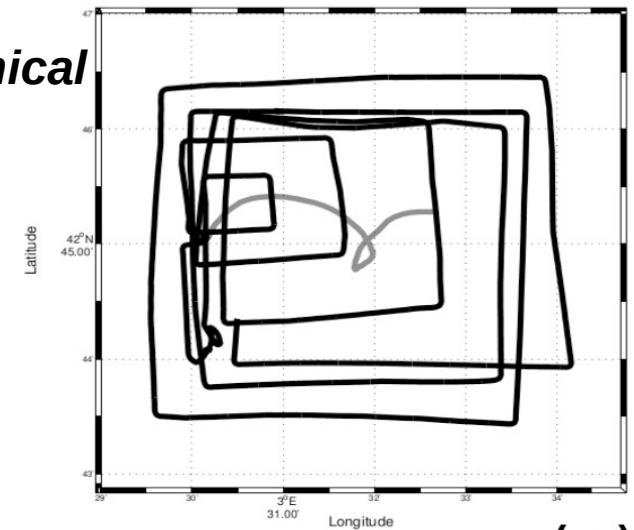
# Part IV – Study of turbulent mixing



## In situ experiment – Field campaign Latex10 SF6 – Sulfur Hexafluoride

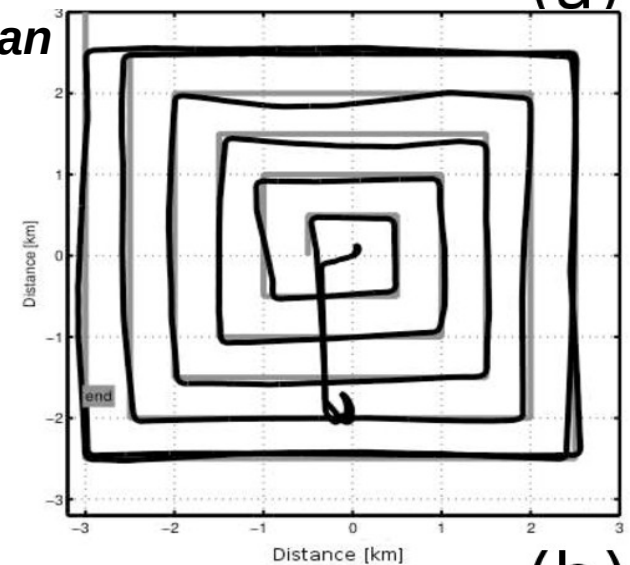


*Geographical  
Ref.*



(a)

*Lagrangian  
Ref.*



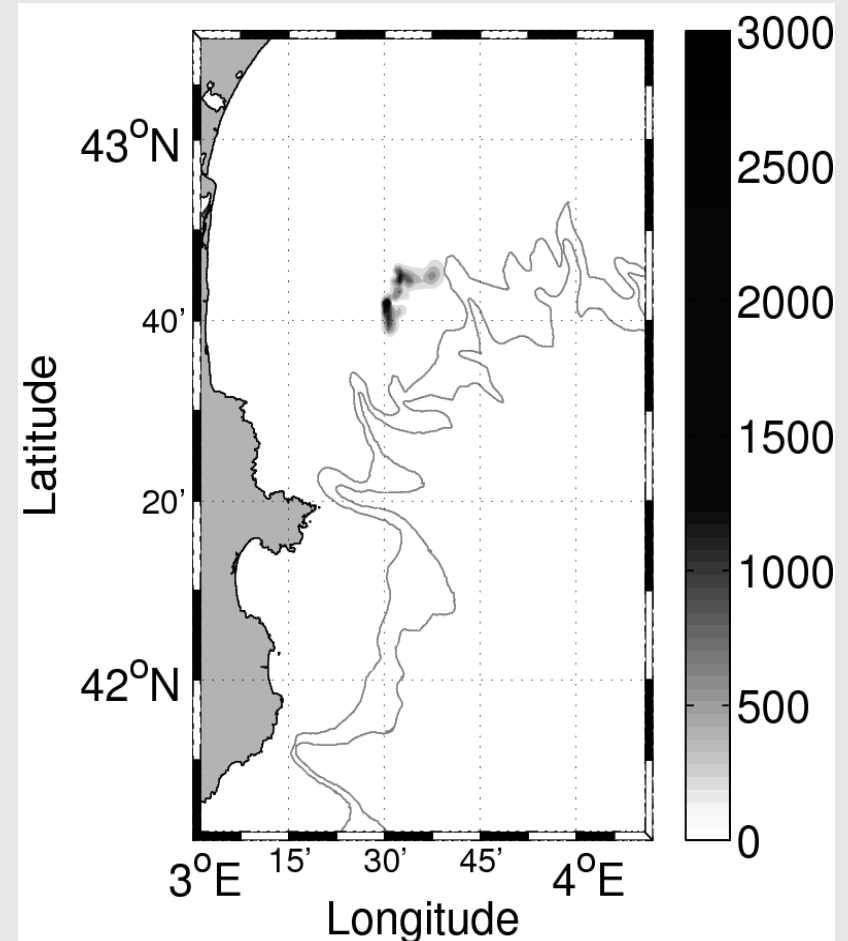
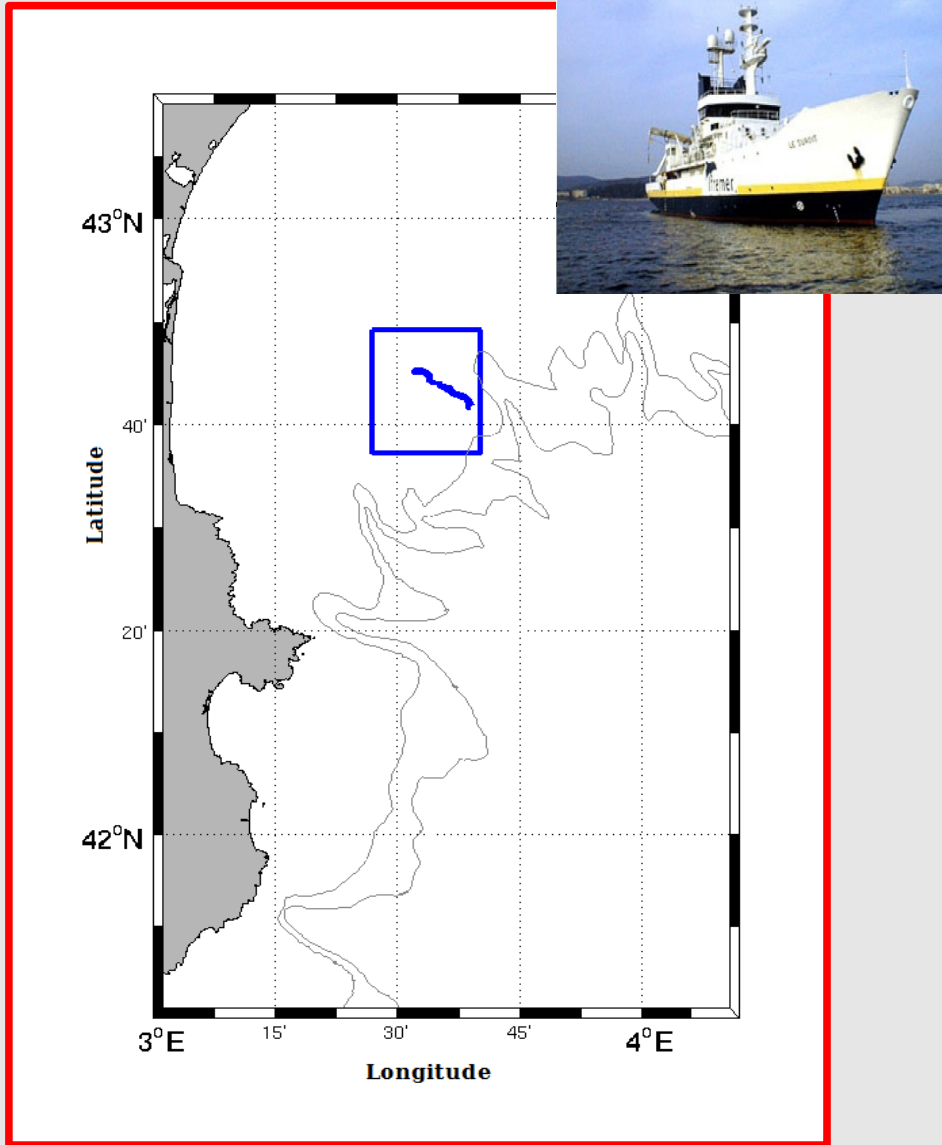
(b)

Lagrangian release  
Latex tools package  
Doglioli et al. [2013]

# Part IV – Study of turbulent mixing



## In situ experiment – Field campaign Latex10 SF6 – Sulfur Hexafluoride

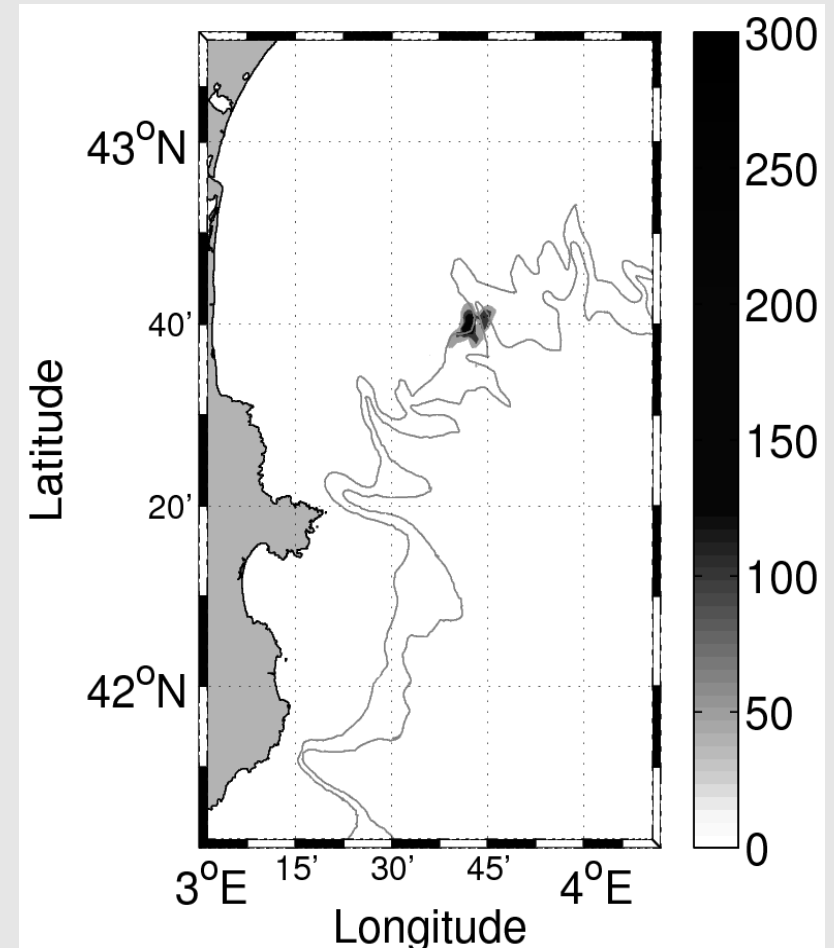
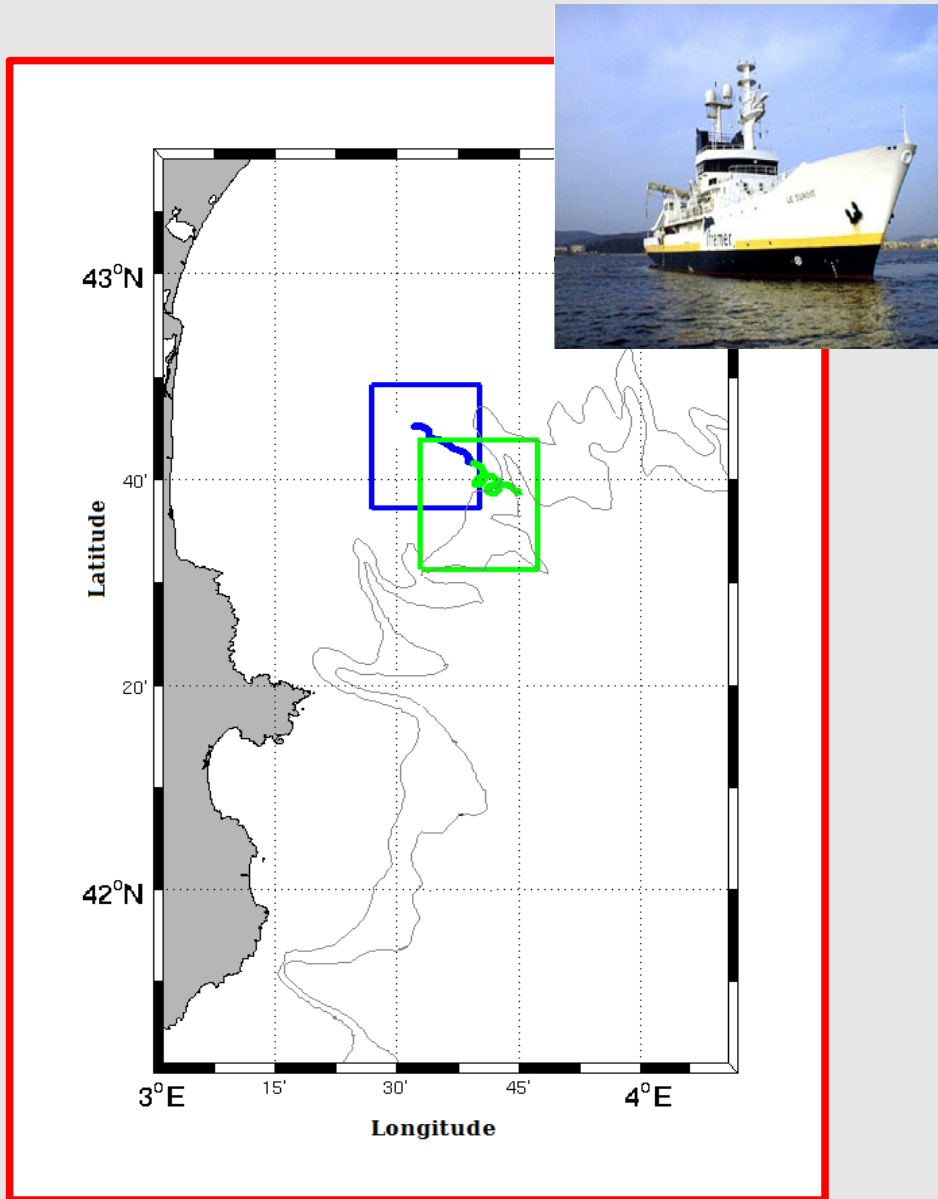


**Mapping 1**  
Concentration of SF6 [fmol l<sup>-1</sup>] 50  
1 day after the release

# Part IV – Study of turbulent mixing



## In situ experiment – Field campaign Latex10 SF6 – Sulfur Hexafluoride



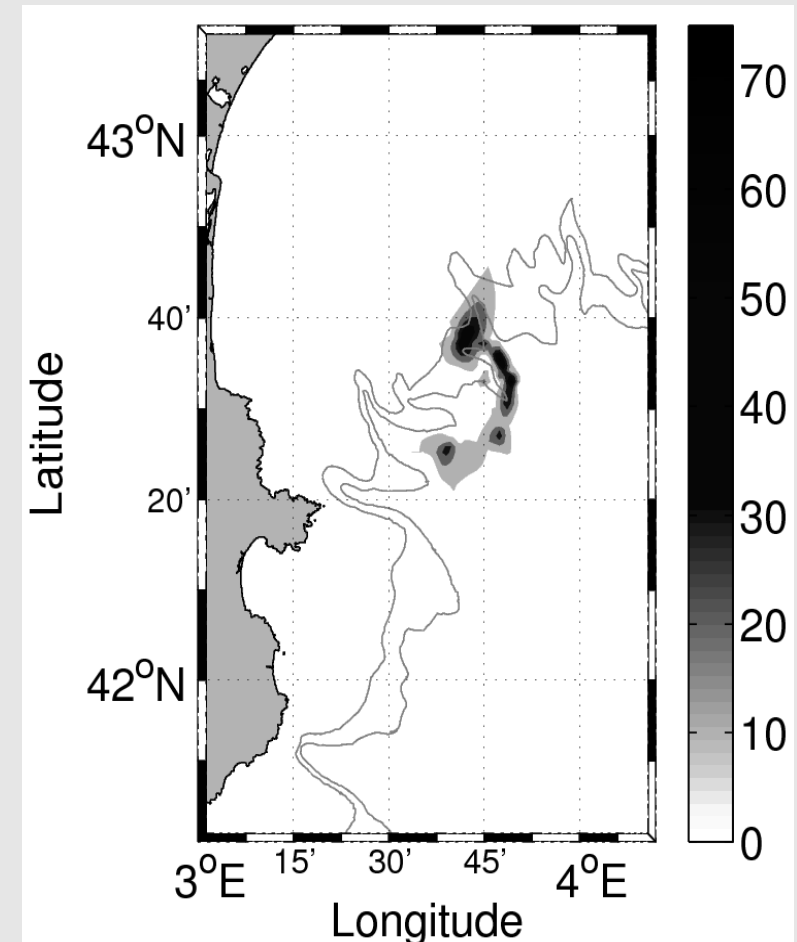
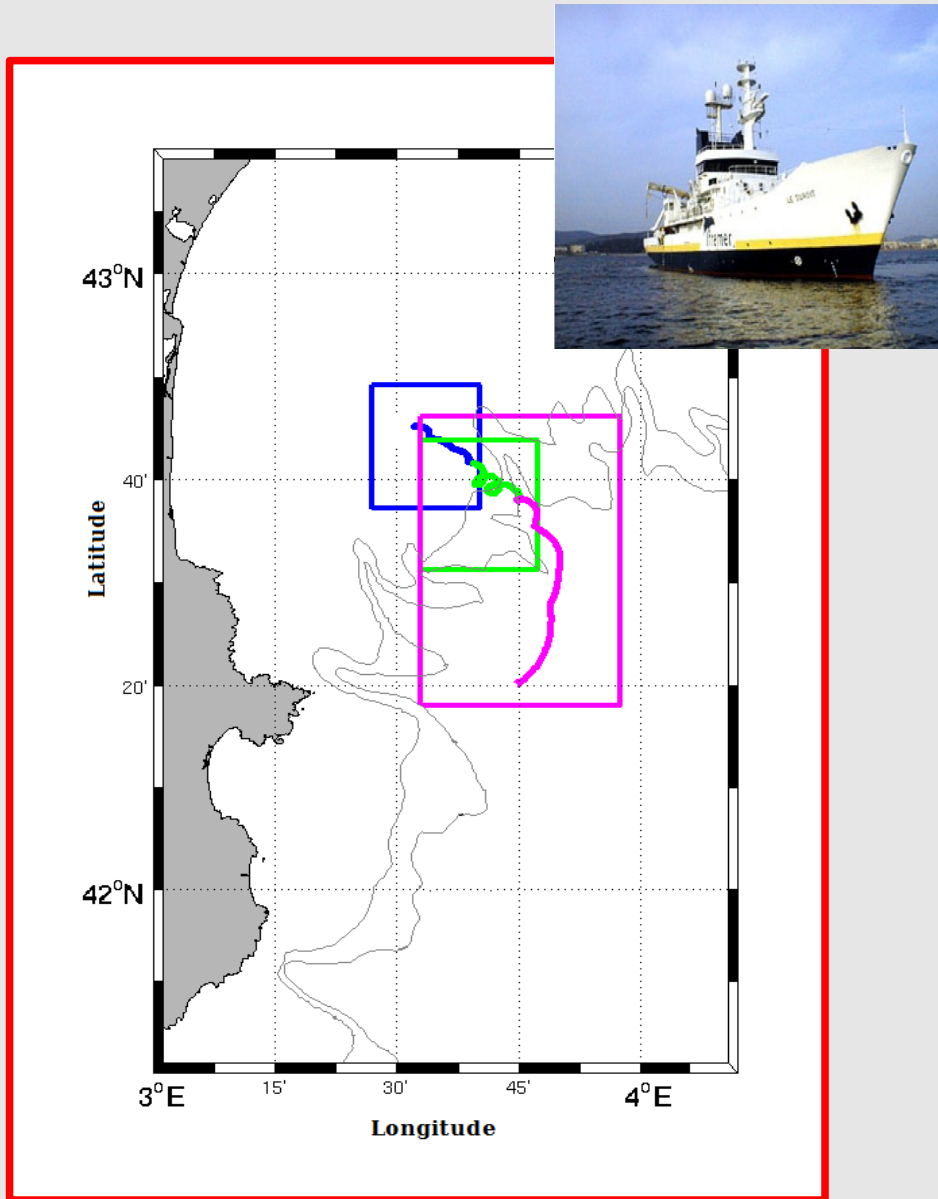
**Mapping 2**  
Concentration of SF6 [ $\text{fmol l}^{-1}$ ] <sup>51</sup>  
2 days after the release



# Part IV – Study of turbulent mixing



## In situ experiment – Field campaign Latex10 SF6 – Sulfur Hexafluoride



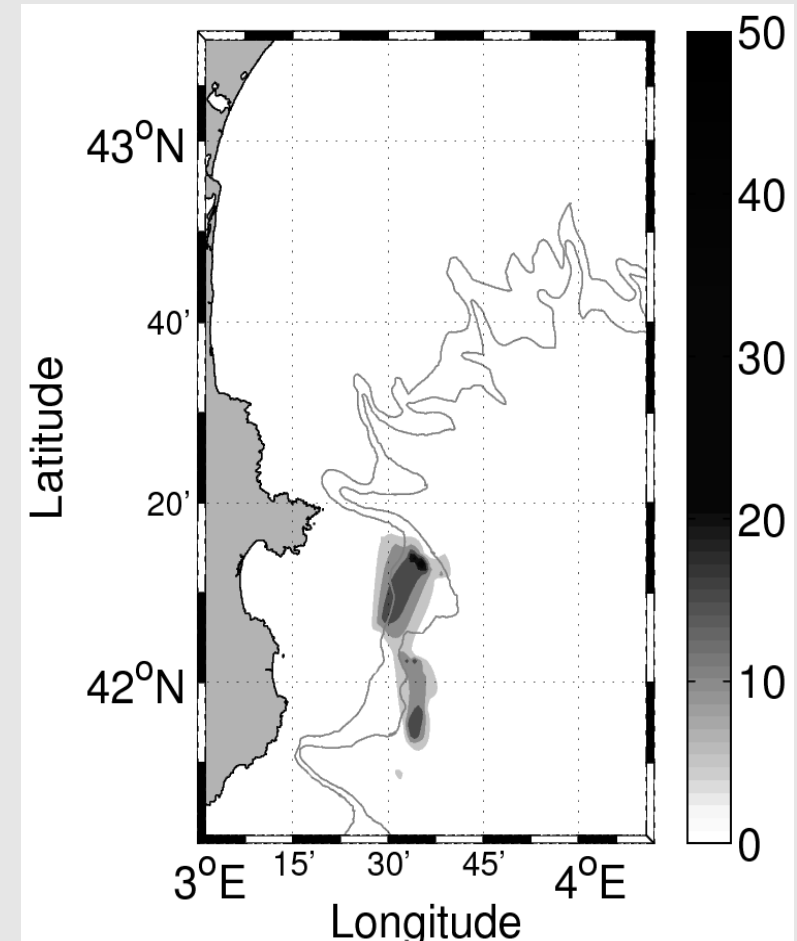
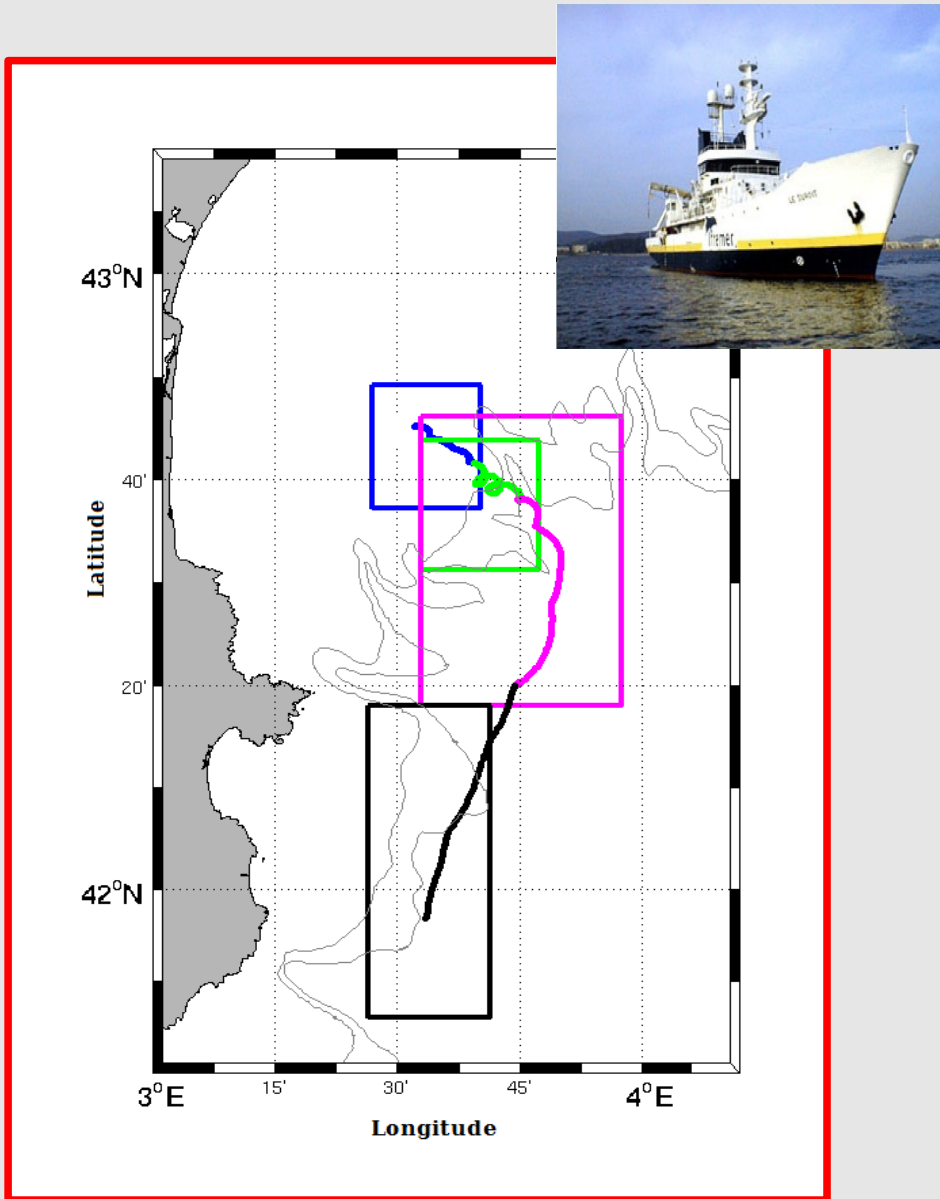
### Mapping 3

Concentration of SF6 [fmol l<sup>-1</sup>] 52  
5 days after the release

# Part IV – Study of turbulent mixing



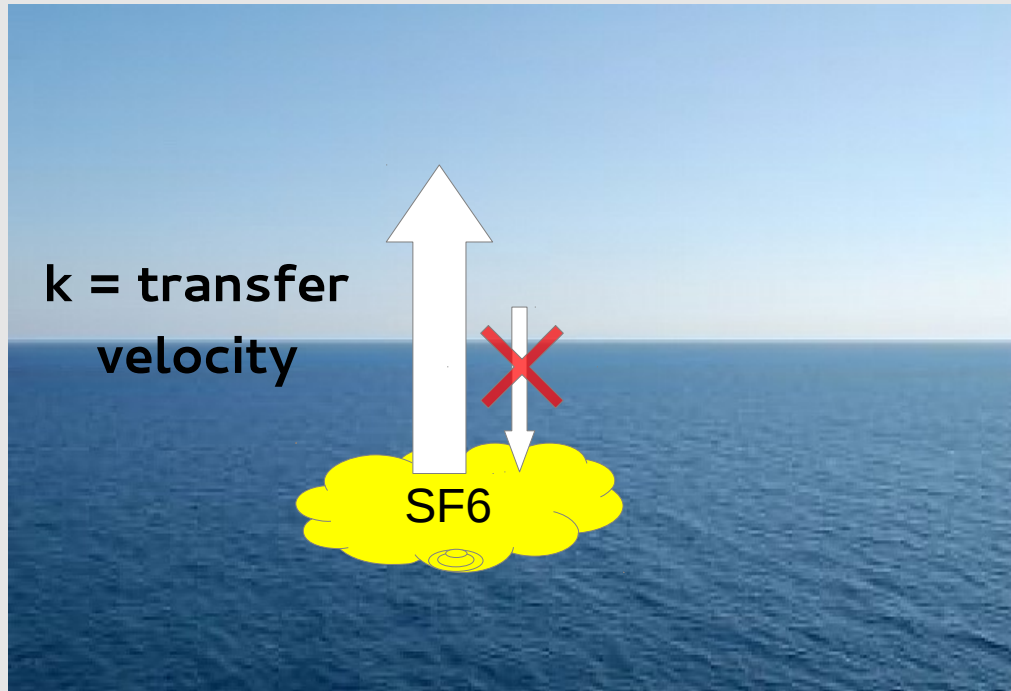
## In situ experiment – Field campaign Latex10 SF6 – Sulfur Hexafluoride



### Mapping 4

Concentration of SF6 [fmol l<sup>-1</sup>] <sup>53</sup>  
7 days after the release

## Atmospheric loss



- No external source  
Patch is supersaturated with respect to the atmosphere
- Loss of SF6 at the surface of the water column due to atmospheric loss

- Variation of SF6 with time due to atmospheric loss modeled as a negative exponential function :

$$C(t) = C_0 e^{\frac{-k}{z_{mix}} t}$$

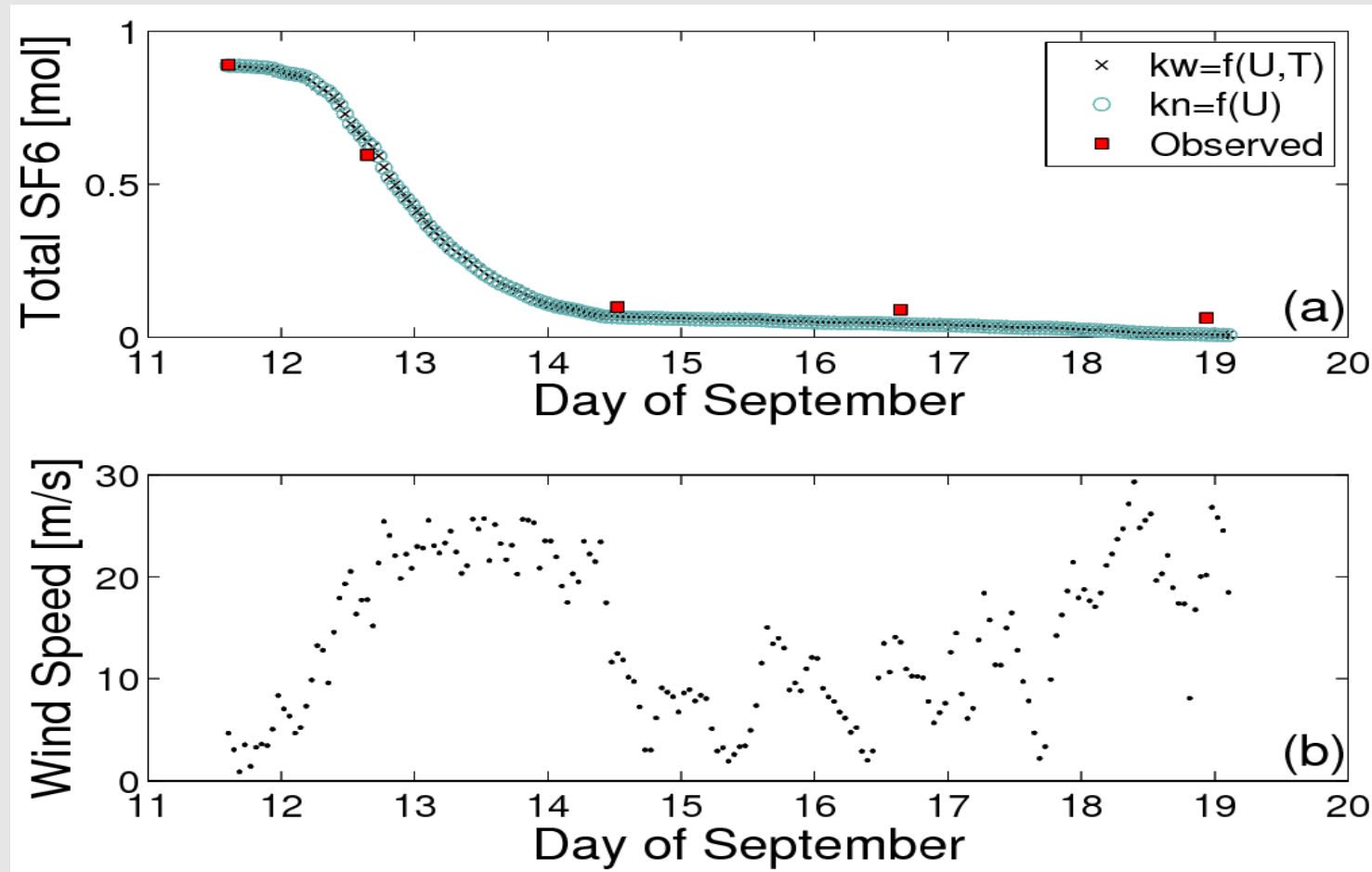
$C_0$  : released concentration SF6  
 $z_{mix}$  : Depth mixed layer  
 $k$  : 2 parameterizations for the transfer velocity

Hypothesis : SF6 homogeneous in the mixed layer





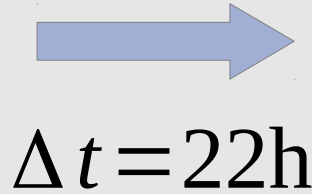
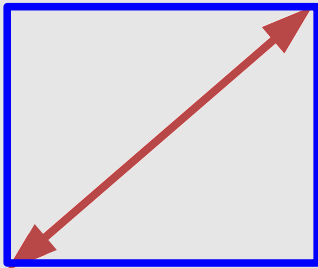
## Atmospheric loss



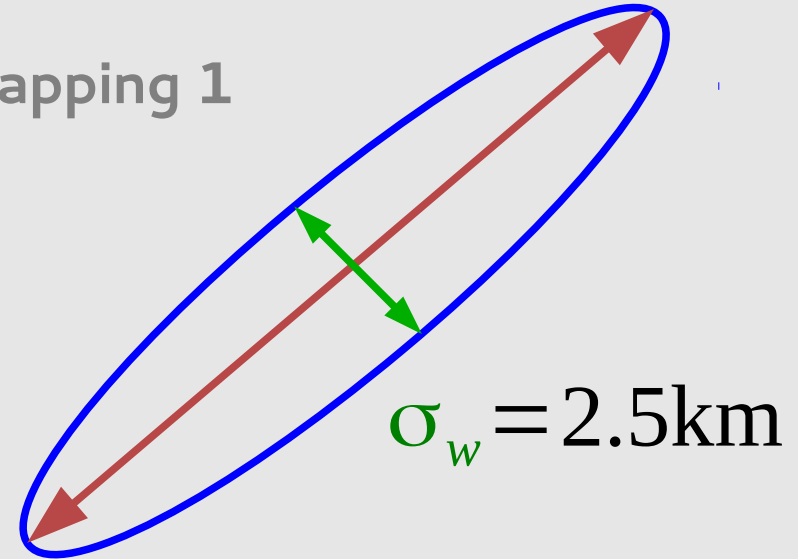
- 2 modeled curves superimposed => Importance of the turbulent diffusivity related to the wind speed
- Good agreement of the observed quantities of SF6

## Calculation of the horizontal diffusion coefficient

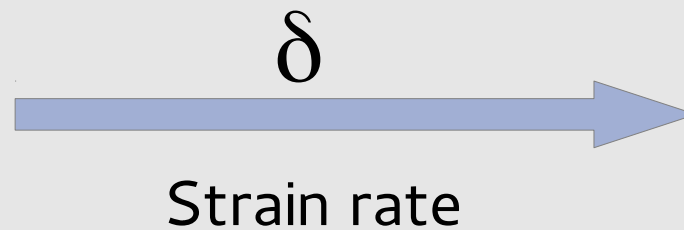
Release



Mapping 1



$$\sigma_l(t) = 7.5 \text{ km}$$



$$\sigma_l(t + \Delta t) = 11.4 \text{ km}$$

$$\delta = \frac{\ln \frac{\sigma_l(t)}{\sigma_l(t + \Delta t)}}{\Delta t}$$

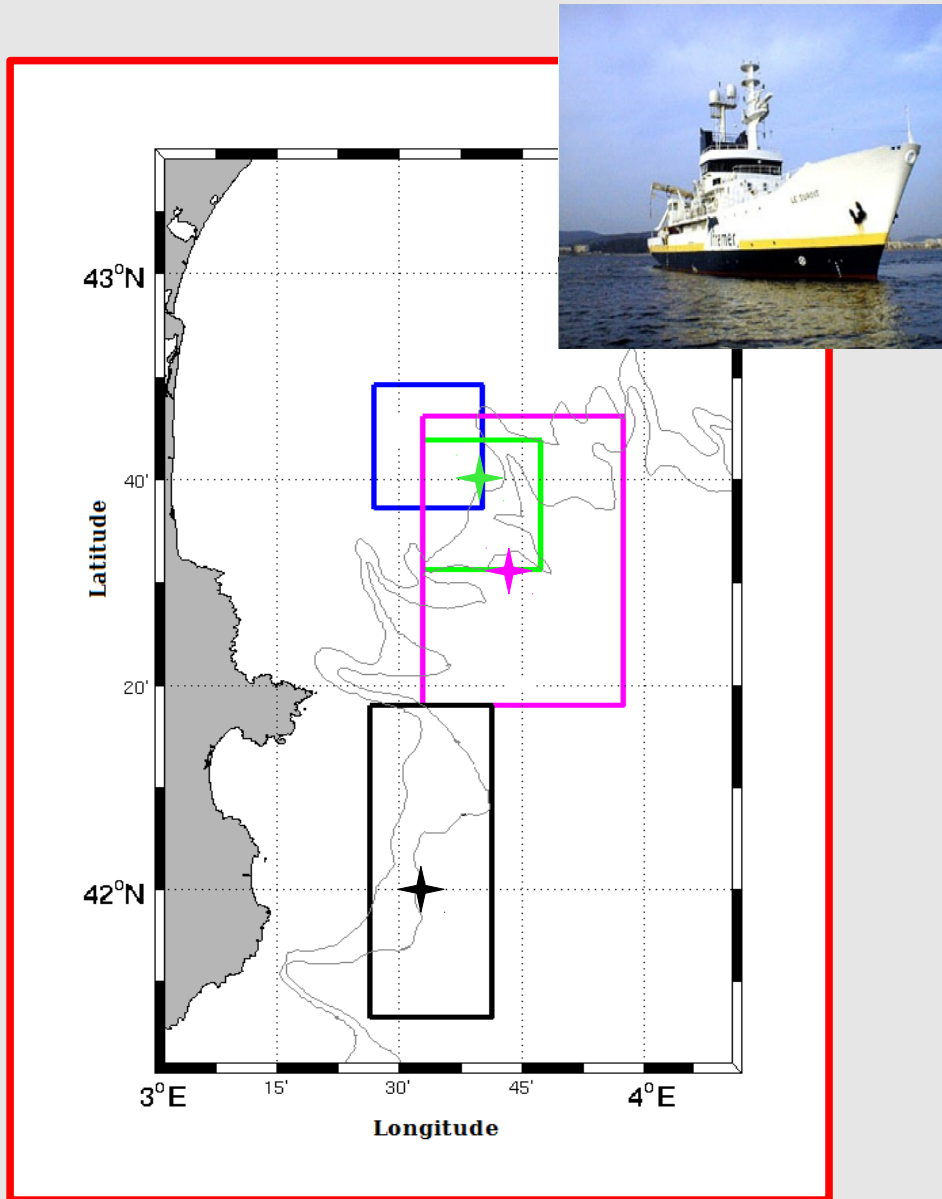
$$K_h = \sigma_w^2 \delta = 7.6 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

Determination for horizontal scale < 2.5 km  
for temporal scale < 2 days <sup>56</sup>

# Part IV – Study of turbulent mixing



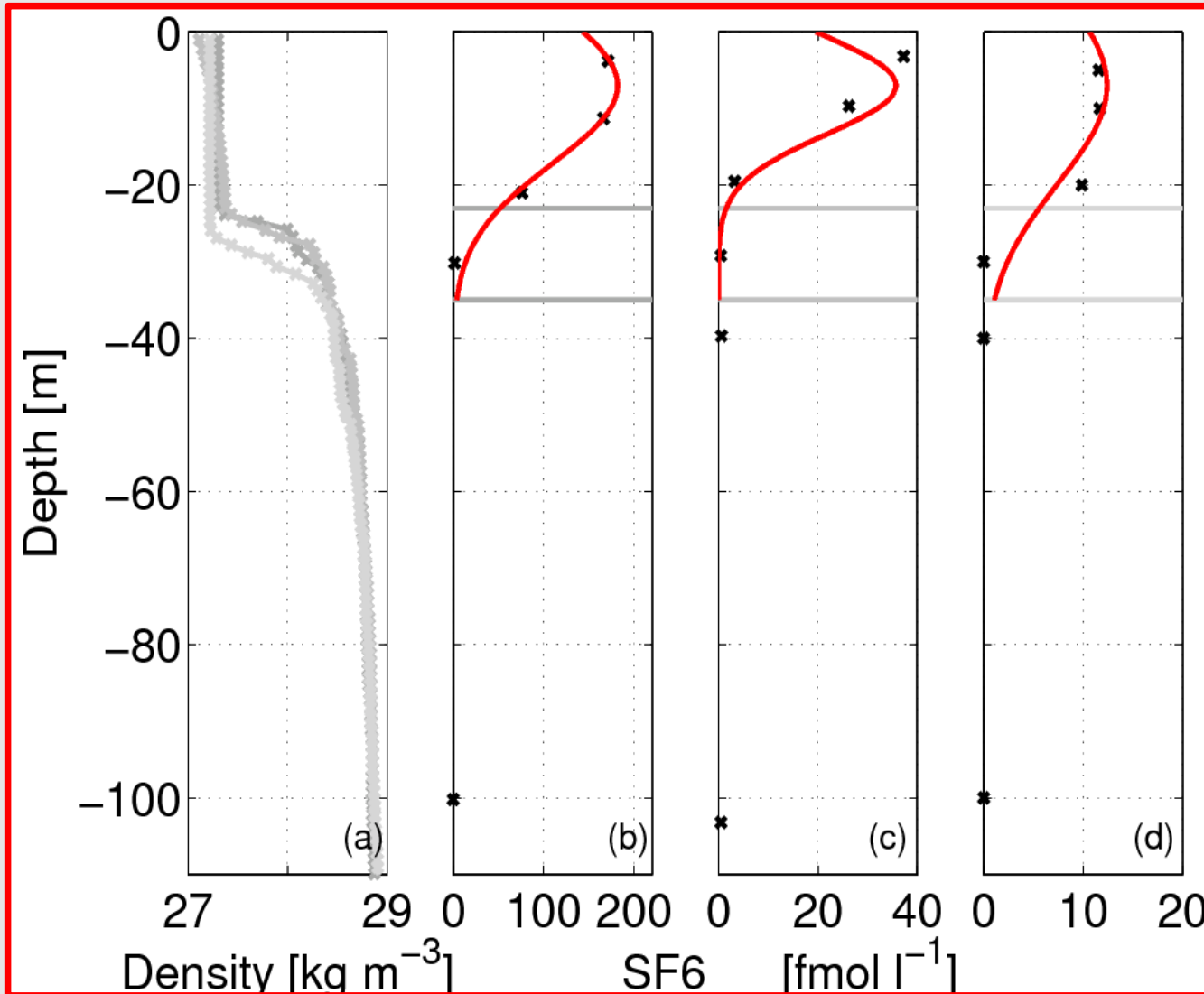
## Calculation of the vertical diffusion coefficient CTD – Niskin bottles used to sampled SF6







## Calculation of the vertical diffusion coefficient

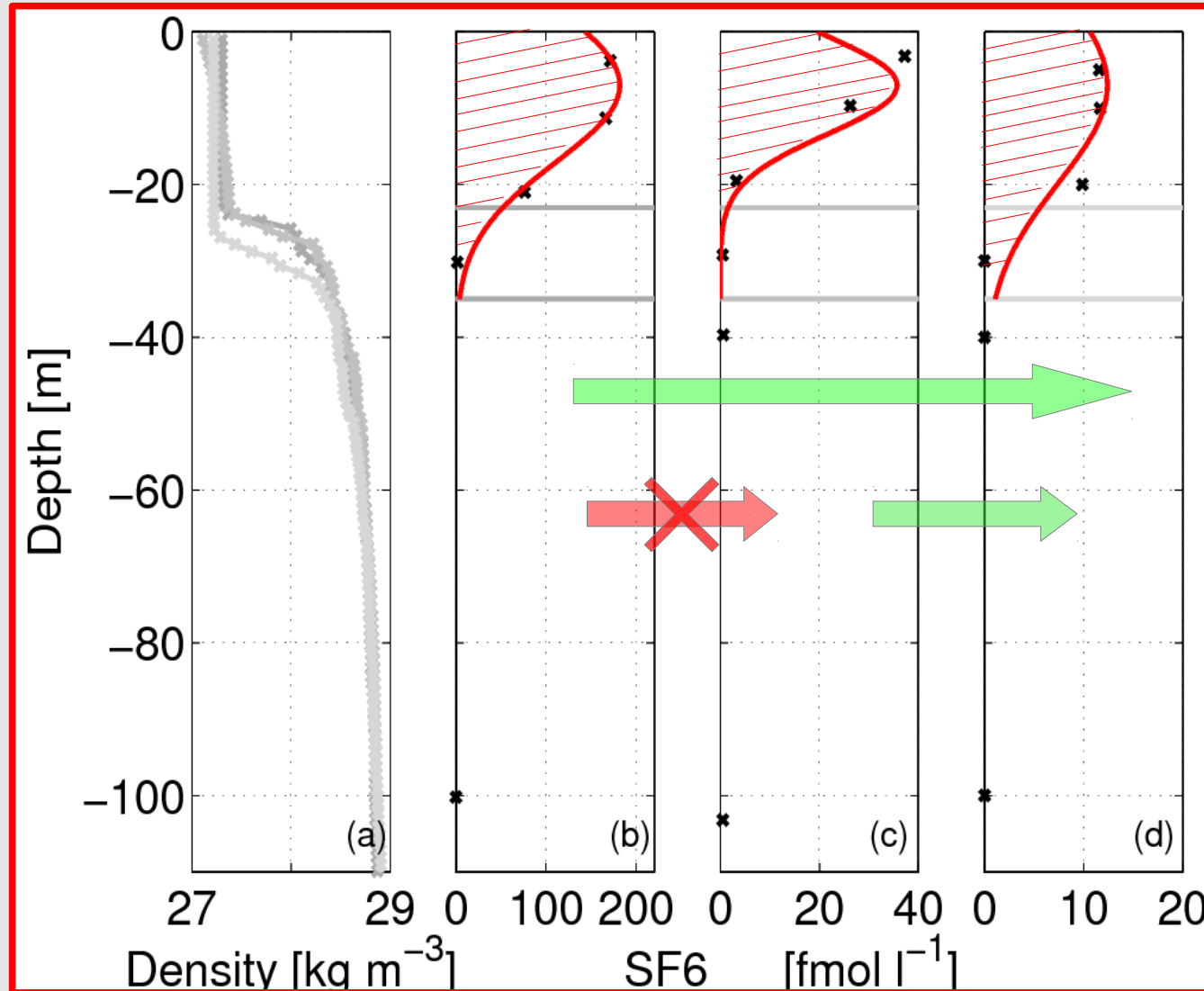


- Gaussian shape for the tracer distribution with depth
- Evolution of the variance of the Gaussian

$$K_z = \frac{\sigma^2}{2 \Delta t}$$

$$K_z = 1.4 \pm 0.6 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

## Calculation of the vertical diffusion coefficient

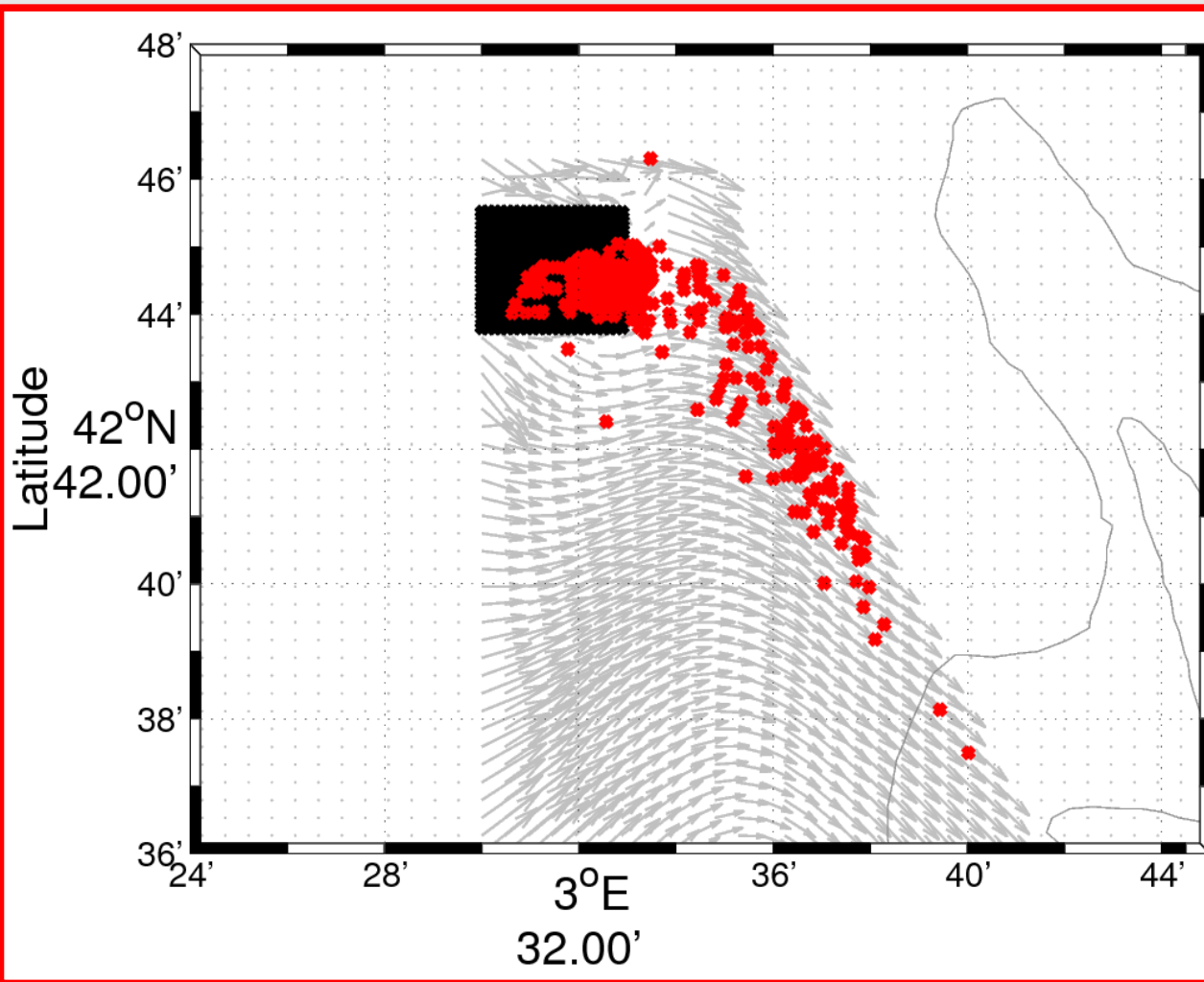


- Gaussian shape for the tracer distribution with depth
- Increase of the second moment  $M_2$  of the SF6 profiles with time

$$M_2 = \frac{\int C (z - z_0)^2 \partial z}{\int C \partial z}$$

$$K_z = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial M_2}{\partial t} = 1.2 \pm 0.7 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

## Lagrangian experiment



- Tracer release experiments simulated using a numerical model
- Test estimates of horizontal diffusivities
- Motion of 10 000 particles
- Classic random walk model
- Input velocity field : interpolated ADCP velocities

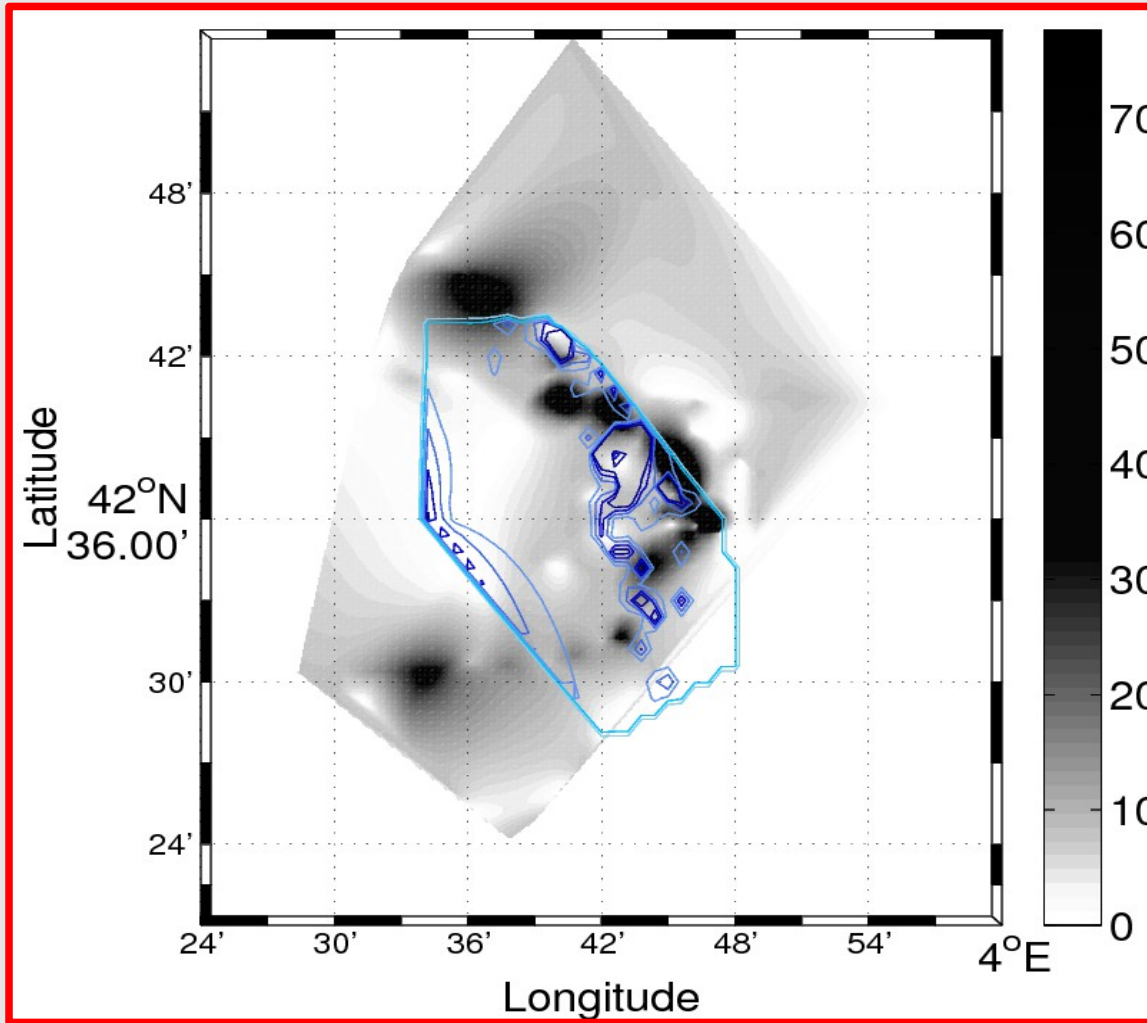
■ Initial position of the particles (end of the release)

• Final position of the particles (end of mapping 1)

→ Input velocity field



## Lagrangian experiment



- Good agreement between the positions of in situ and numerical patches
- Comparison of the total patch areas  
Numeric:  $273 \text{ km}^2$   
In situ:  $381 \text{ km}^2$

Gray scales [SF6]<sub>in situ</sub> – Contour [SF6]<sub>num.</sub> Mapping 3

- Investigation of the **turbulent mixing** in a **coastal** environment  
in the western part of the Gulf of Lion
- **Quantification & validation** of the **gas exchange**  
from the ocean to the atmosphere
- **Estimation** of **turbulent mixing** coefficients
- **Test** of the **horizontal** diffusivity coefficient  
in **Lagrangian experiments**

# MAIN CONCLUSIONS

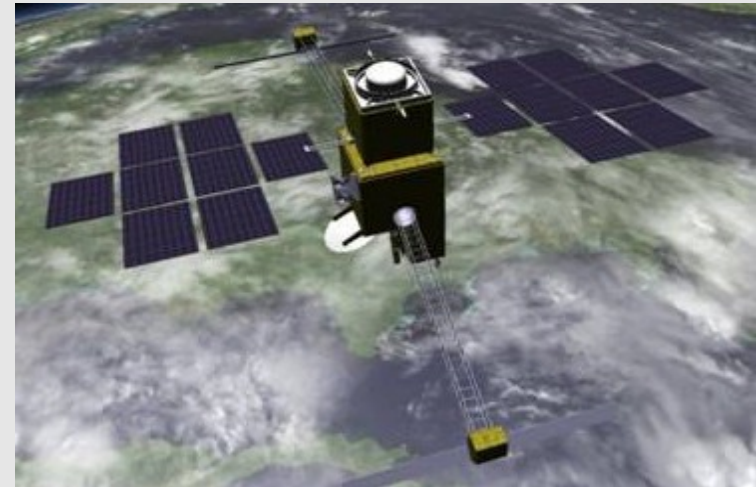
- **Comprehension of mesoscale dynamics** on two areas
- **Cumulative** effects of external forcings - Importance of **wind resolution**
- Local **characterization** & analysis of **generation processes** of **mesoscale** features
- **Exchanges** between coastal areas : **Observation** of transient **submesoscale** structure
- **Synergy** of **model** results and *in situ* data
- **Estimation of turbulent mixing** coefficients in a **coastal** environment

## Short term perspectives

- Tracers distribution & connectivity between regions
- Quantification of coast offshore exchanges with Lagrangian tools
- New regional altimetry products => Precision on coastal areas

## Long term perspectives

- Use of numerical field output Symphonie test and validate the SWOT data (GoLSWOT)
- Latex campaign strategies applied in already scheduled campaigns : GoLSWOT and P2B2M
- Local & regional impact on ecosystems





# THANKS

