# Response to Committee and USGS Internal Review

# Water circulation/residence time paper

## Libe Washburn

* Line 25: Minor comment: Residence time is not known to 3 significant figures. Suggest rounding down
  + Rounded down
* Line 36: What do you mean by "the influence of stokes drift"? Is support for this statement provided in the manuscript?
  + Reply
* Line 37: It’s not clear what “temporally extensive” means. Do you mean temporally varying?
  + Extending over a longer period of time; rewrite

Line 91: I don’t think these methods are used because of difficulties in Eulerian methods. They have their own advantages that motivate their use. Suggest rewriting.

Rewrite

Line 92: Minor point: Here I think you are referring to satellite optical remote sensing approaches. There are other approaches such as active remote sensing, not just from satellites, that work through clouds and have high spatial resolution. Maybe clarify this point.

Reply

Line 95: Suggest deleting this and adding another requirement of modeling since all methods require significant expertise. Also, this sentence about modeling seems out of place since the rest of the paragraph focuses on Eulerian and Lagrangian observational approaches.

Reply

Line 125: Suggest identifying PagoPago Bay in Figure 1.

* + Will add
* Line 140: Minor point: Suggest using “were” since “data” is considered plural. Suggest being consistent throughout paper.
  + Ok
* Line 146: Not clear what is an “insular shelf”, but maybe this is specialized terminology.
  + Curt?
* Line 149: Are these the same as the “Backreef Pools” identified in Figure 1? If so, I suggest clarifying that. The black text is difficult to see against the dark background in Figure 1.
  + Reply
* Line 150: Is this shown in Figure 1? If so I suggest indicating its position. Also it would be helpful to identify Faga'alu Stream in Figure 1.
  + Reply
* Line 154: In Figure 1 you identify “North Reef” and “South Reef”. Are these what you refer to here. If so, I suggest using consistent terms
  + Reply
* Line 170: Not clear what you mean by “resampled”. For example, did you compute a 1-minute running mean and then sub-sample to 1 point per minute?
  + Reply
* Line 181: Suggest adding more details here about the ADCP measurements. This could aid readers who may want to use ADCPs in similar environments. Maybe give bin widths, blanking distance from the transducer head, distance from surface where you cut off velocity data due to surface reverberation, standard deviation of velocity noise, etc. When you say “580 current samples at 2 Hz every 10 min”, does this mean that you computed a current profile every 10 minutes by ensemble-averaging 580 profiles from 580 pings?
  + Reply
* Line 189: I couldn’t see this in Figure 1.
* Line 200: It’s not clear what you mean here. Suggest re-writing. The caption of Figure 3 indicates NDBC station NSTP6 data are shown. Why not also show data from the Davis weather station? It would interesting to compare them.
  + Reply

Line 210: I wasn’t clear why you used the term EOF here and elsewhere. Principal axis currents can be obtained from an EOF approach, but they can also be computed directly without using EOFs.

* Line 211: Suggest discussing why 100 m by 100 m bins were selected. I assume it is because you need areas that encompassed sufficient numbers of drifters.
  + Reply
* Line 214: Minor point: I don’t think it’s necessary to point out that your study demonstrates the usefulness of Lagrangian methods. Their utility is well known as you describe above. Your study also clearly shows their usefulness. Suggest restating why you employed Lagrangian measurements here, which, BTW, was an excellent choice in approach.
  + Reply
* Line 226: I suggest also identifying these time periods (WIND, TIDE, WAVE) more precisely in Figures 3 and 4. Giving just the YD is not quite right since, for example, small and large waves occur on YD 48.
  + Reply
* Line 234: Figure 4d shows the maximum wave height was just under 1.4 m at the beginning of YD 50. It’s lower on YD 50.
  + Reply
* Line 238: I suggest finding another title for this section that summarizes what scientific result or process you are trying to describe here. Maybe something like “Flow variability on the reef flat”. But I’m sure could think of a better title!
  + Reply
* Line 239: As mentioned above, give blanking distance in methods section.
  + Reply
* Line 239: This paragraph seems more appropriate for the methods section.
  + Reply
* Line 252: By eye there may be correlation, but the relationship between winds & waves and currents at AS2 could be explored more quantitatively with your data.
  + Reply
* Line 262: I also suggest changing this section title, maybe to something like “Spatial structure of flow trajectories”. But I’m sure you can improve on this. In this section you could group and describe all the results from the drifter component of your experiment.
  + Reply
* Line 270: Was the tide beginning to ebb when these higher current speeds were observed?
  + Reply
* Line 275: I don’t think the discussion of progressive vectors adds much to the paper. Given the many factors including complex bathymetry and coastline variability, it’s not surprising that the progressive vectors don’t match well the drifter trajectories or occasionally extend past the shoreline. I suggest finding another title for this section or combining it with the previous section.
  + Reply
* Line 276: Figures 4 b,e clearly show this consistency of flow so it’s not surprising the progressive vectors look like the do.
  + Reply
* Line 306 tradwinds: Separate and capitalize?
  + Reply
* Line 308: I suggest consistently using the names of the three categories of end-member forcing that you identify above.
  + Reply

Line 310: See previous comment.

* + Reply
* Line 315: Good, clear result
  + Thanks
* Line 319: I suggest finding another title that summarizes what scientific results you are describing in this section. As above, I suggest not using the term EOF to describe this analysis which uses variance ellipses and principal axis currents.
  + Reply
* Line 322: Some variance ellipses are hard to see, especially for those from the current meters. The blue ellipses on the black background are also hard to see. Can you use some color other than black in Figure 7? Maybe use an all white background with the reef features and channel indicated by lines.
  + Reply
* Line 330: Here and else where, suggest using “eccentric” or “has higher eccentricity” since eccentricity this is a parameter for ellipses that can be quantified.
  + Reply
* Line 335: Suggest incorporating these into Table 1. If you keep the text as is, I would use the names of your end-member forcing regimes.
  + Reply
* Line 339: Suggest incorporating these into Table 1. If you keep the text as is, I would use the names of your end-member forcing regimes.

Line 346: Do you mean they had higher eccentricity?

* + Reply
* Line 350: Here and elsewhere do you mean the WIND end-member regime? I suggest being consistent throughout in doing this.
  + Reply
* Line 361: Awkward sentence
  + Reply
* Line 370: Maybe retitle to something like “Spatial structure of residence times”.
* Line 372: This seems like too many significant figures for a residence time estimate. Furthermore, you resampled the drifter data to 1 minute intervals = 1/60 hr. Here you are specifying residence time to 1/100 hr which is smaller than your drifter time interval.
* Line 376: Computing residence time from single current meters seems somewhat arbitrary since it depends strongly on what you assume for the control volume or control area in this case. For drifters residence time is better defined since you can measure the time the drifters are in a particular area.
* Line 376-380: Did you used the same 100 m x 100 m bins that you used for the drifters? You might show whatever area you used in Figures 7a,c,e.
* Line 389: Define here on first use.
* Line 389: Do you really mean “difference” here? It’s not clear how to attribute errors between the drifters and ADCPs.
* Line 402: Is this true? Do you mean these are the most drifters released during a Lagrangian study in a coral reef system? You certainly conducted a lot of drifter deployments!
* Line 413: This is a good point. Can you elaborate on how the far the sediment might be carried given the flow speeds you observed with the drifters in the pools, North Reef, and channel? It seems relevant to somehow connect flow paths, likely sediment settling velocities, to distances from the stream mouth where settling is likely to occur. Elsewhere you state the importance of sediment deposition to this system. Therefore it would strengthen the paper if you could more clearly link your results to sediment patterns or other aspects of sediment deposition.
* Line 415: Do you mean water-borne sediment concentration in this context?

Line 420: Again, the inability of current meters to predict current trajectories far from their measurement locations in a complex coral reef system is not surprising.

* Line 428: Good point. The consistent difference in flow direction between AS1 and AS2 is surprising and interesting.

Line 445: Suggest rewriting to explicitly state the inadequacy of using a single current meter for estimating residence time.

* Line 456: There is also the limitation of ADCPs in measuring currents near the sea surface due to reverberation. In this case the depth where ADCP data is unavailable due to reverberation may nearly coincide with the depth range over which the drifters extend.
* Line 475: Suggest rewriting this sentence for clarity. For example, is “surfing” the same as “wave induced deflection”?
* Line 516: This is sentence is vague and the overall point is unclear. I suggest deleting or rewriting it. Drifters seem to be an excellent approach for estimating RTs over space. To do this with current meters would be very difficult as you point out above.
* Line 532: I can see that your study may be relevant to sediment dynamics on this reef system. Is there a way you can more strongly tie the results of your study to observed patterns of sediment distribution over the reef areas in this system?

## Live Herdman USGS

* My main two comments are that **if the eulerian/ lagrangian discrepancies are from Stokes Drift then it could be good to be more quantitative about** it. In my experience the  wave-driven flow has become a mostly eulerian flux once it passes the wave breaking zone so I would be surprised if that is contributing much. It could be drift from the tidal wave  or wind generated waves, which I don't know as much about, but just providing some quantitative estimate using the stokes drift formula and the relevant wave conditions would help support  this point.
  + reply
* Also, it looks like your drifters sit really low in the water and don't protrude much, so wind slip probably isn't much of an issue, but, given that you are specifically looking at high wind conditions I think it **could be good to provide some demonstration of the drifters accuracy despite wind slip**. Either recalculate some of the drifter tracks with an adjustment for wind slip ( some estimates are out there in the literature and I talk about them in the thesis appendix I sent you a while back) and show that they aren't that different. Or discuss the expected changes in velocity. I think some estimate of this would be good to show that the differences in current being attributed to wind are actually from the current and not drifter error.
  + Reply
* Line 49: A great reference for residence time and temperature is also Herdman et al 2013 ;-)
  + Couldn’t find a ref for 2013. Dissertation?
* Line 62: remove the word actual, implies there is some interest in "fake patterns"
  + Removed
* Line 155: Does density vary spatially wihtin the southern reef ie more dense near the reef crest? Or are there mini- channels created by the reef growth? If it is a fairly even and random distribution of corals in the Acropora thickets then this descprition is adequate. But, channels and these types of features would be important to describe in terms of drifter flow paths and would be a big part of the cause of the spatial heterogeneity you are investigating
  + Reply
* Line 163: How big is the housing?
  + Reply
* Line 165: How much of the housing stuck up out of the top of the water.
  + Depends
* Line 170: resampled to 1 min intervals to increase signal-to-noise ratios;
  + by resampled do you mean averaged or smoothed some how? Resampling sounds like you have removed a lot of data, which doesn't usually reduce signal to noise ratio.
  + Reply

Line 174: Did they never get stuck? How did you handle this?

* + Reply
* Line 186: I would like a little more description of this end-member business, but maybe the rest of your audience is more familiar with this approach
  + Reply

Line 192: Why not show it?

Reply

Line 234: It might be helpful for the reader if you point out that although large waves also occured earlier in the record they came from a direction that did not hit the reef, this briefly caused me some confusion.

Reply

Line 289: I am confused, if there are 6 drifter releases during the wind case shouldn't there be six different progressive vectors from each ADCP location to compare to the releases?

Reply

Line 294: Does this correspond to TIDE ie panel b? Reference figure panesl for these descriptions and stick to the TIDE, WIND , WAVE nomenclature you have already established. ( I think it is the mentioneing waves that confused me and made it seem not tot follow the topic sentece of being about the tidal conditions)

Reply

Line 296: Some indication of direction on the figure would be helpful to follow these statements, either start and end points indicated or arrows like on the other figure

Reply

Line 377: How do you calculate this residence time from a point measurement? Please explain

Line 482: be more quantitative abou this discussion. How big would Stokes drift be based on teh wave conditions? Also, what about wind slip?

Figure 3 caption, line 692: Are these peak or average periods, wave heights or directions?

Figure 4 caption, line 699: It would be helpful if there were colored bars or something indicating the three different forcings on this figure

Figure 5 caption, line 701: It might be helpful to have specific symbols to mark the start and end of drifter tracks, to help with following the arrows... or maybe that would be too cluttered

Figure 5 caption, line 701: Are these the full drifter tracks or are they cut to 1 hr

## Trent

* Line 1: Ocean circulation is an important control on nutrient and sediment dynamics in coral reefs, but determination of circulations patterns often requires expensive data collection and modeling. Or water circulation? Circulation could mean of the atmosphere.
  + Not sure
* Line 19: embayment fringed with coral reef in American Samoa
  + Rearrange to be be shorter? Too many modifiers in front of ‘embayment”
* Line 29: Is the channel incised or relic? Not necessarily important
  + Not sure
* Line 120: The research questions are:
  + Research questions
* Line 153: reword
  + Reword
* Line 182: Depth of deployment was xx m (AS1), xx m (AS2),…
  + Reply
* Line 202: for the analysis..
  + Reply
* Line 248: Why “AS”, why not ADCP1 or A1?
  + Reply
* Line 248: It would be helpful to indicate AS1-5 on the maps in Figure 4 since it’s hard to visually align them using Fig 1.
  + Reply
* Line 252: I don’t clearly see the correlation between speed at AS2 and wind speed/wave height. IS there a statistically significant correlation between them?
  + Reply
* Line 257: This seems like an important conclusion? Or old news to oceanographers?
  + Reply
* Line 263: I think this goes in methods.
  + Reply
* Line 276: And directions?
  + Reply
* Line 294: Better than AS2? Does this need to be quantified?
  + Reply
* Line 336: Are they statistically significantly different? ANOVA.
  + Reply
* Line 338: Why is there a range—can’t you calculate mean flow speeds over the whole domain?
  + Rpely
* Line 339: The mean gridded velocity was xx, xx and xx cm s-1 under wave, wind, and tidal forcing..
  + Reply
* Line 366: Need?
  + Reply