

# 1 Discussion

Cosas a explicar (discutir que hubiese pasado si esto es diferente).

*Para mí el capítulo fundamental. Los resultados son analizados en detalle, pudiendo incorporar análisis adicionales que no estaban inicialmente en la metodología, como para entender, entre otras cosas, la sensibilidad de los resultados ante parámetros por ejemplo. O la comparación con resultados de otros estudios, o conocimiento existente. En este capítulo se debe entender si lo que se hizo es útil o no.*

## 1.1 Estuarine structure and morphology

During the winter of 2012 Pescadero estuary received less freshwater inflow compared to other months throughout the year, leading the inlet to disconnect from the ocean. Pescadero during its closed state function as a stratified coastal lagoon with river runoff forming a surface layer of fresh water and occasionally having tidal inflows of saline water. The orientation of the bay and the shallowness result in the exposure of all the water column to the wind stress events. In this regard, Pescadero shares many physical traits with other bar-built estuaries where the local wind forcing is the dominant driver.

Apart from the stratification, there is an along-estuary density gradient between the outlet of the creek and the mouth, due to the constant discharge of freshwater. Near the mouth the upper layer is thinner than in the creek's outlet, probably because the salinity is higher in the mouth due to the waves that are overtopping the sandbar along with upstream continuous freshwater input.

The present study analysis reported that the major driver of mixing is wind stress and the major driver of water level variability is freshwater inflow, even in periods when is very low. In the next sections we are going to discuss the role of other factors that affect Pescadero and its importance in stratification and water level.

## 1.2 Analysis methods

Wind and estuarine velocities were axis-rotated in the direction of maximum variance of water currents (See Fig. ??, Section ??). This puts the main focus in the estuary currents instead of the wind velocity, but in this particular case, both, wind and water velocities, have a similar principal direction, so it wouldn't be a big difference between each option.

We adjusted the first cell of the ADCP data by a visual inspection, using the blank space given by the ADCP, that was 0.71 m, and overlapping it with the CTD data on the same location DC. This comparison gave us the value of 0.91 m for the first cell location, which is a merely estimation, so it could have been a different value, bigger or smaller depending in how we had place the overlapping. This does not affect velocity values, but we have to consider it for the positions of the layers or for the profiles, but it does not make an important change in the analysis.

The closed state definition was set in a range of depth's change in time values with a 10 hour frame. The frame was selected by trial and error based on the timescale we were working on and it could change depending on the period in which the data was collected and in the data collection frequency. Also we have to consider that the opening and closures do not happen on an instant, but in a process that could last from minutes to hours, so it could be considered any instant during that process.

In this study we did not consider temperature and evaporation factors. We considered that the effect of temperature was not important due to the haline stratification that dominated the estuary, but it could be studied in greater depth in future analyzes carried out in Pescadero. Also, we didn't consider evaporation as a factor in depth changes because we are studying an estuary with small area and as it was winter time the air temperature was not too high to cause major impacts.

To calculate wind stress we used a drag coefficient defined by ??, but according to ?? the drag coefficient  $C_D$  can be difficult to estimate in shallow water, so we have to consider the obtained  $C_D$  as an approximation in wind stress and everything calculated with that coefficient. In future studies there could be used other drag coefficients to observe if there is a big difference in wind stress and other indices obtained with  $C_D$ .

The Wedderburn number was obtained with the equation for a rectangular basin defined by ??, so it is showing us an approximated value. Despite this, it is still a good indicator to estimate the behavior of the stratification to the wind stress. We could try in future research more adapted Wedderburn numbers to Pescadero basin and compare the results with the obtained in this study.

The frequency spectral analysis only show a general view of the most important frequencies in the dataset, but does not show the specific time when this happens. This makes it a special tool to detect frequency peaks and contrasts different datasets.

### 1.3 Changes in Pescadero over time

#### 1.4 Wind stress mixing

Sporadic abrupt changes in density along the water column in different locations were apparent during the periods of closed state. These sudden changes indicate that they were not caused by gradual processes, but rather resulted from sporadic events that are attributed to the effects of wind stress present at the same time as the density changes. After these events, density did not return to its original values from before the event so mixing was present in the three studied locations.

Fig. ?? is showing density profiles in the studied locations before (in red) and after (in cyan) a big wind event, showing a difference in the density values specially in the bottom where there is a decrease in density. Buoyancy frequency showed a decrease after the wind event meaning a change in stratification, same as potential energy anomaly in Fig. ?. Also Fig. ??  $\Delta\rho/\Delta z$  is showing a decrease in stratification between before and after big wind events, only observing this abrupt change twice, one time during each closed state period.

We chose to obtain a range of values for the Wedderburn number as we did not know the exact placement of the pycnocline. Due to the constant freshwater inflow, the stratification of the estuary is changing over time, which means the surface layer is also changing its thickness. The range limits of  $W$  were obtained as a function that depends directly on the water level. We assumed the density interface theoretically reaches the upwind surface at  $W = 1$ , so if the full range of  $W$  goes lower than that value we will consider it a full upwelling. During a full upwelling, if we consider a linear tilt, the range lower limit reaches the surface, different for the partial upwelling, where just the upper limit reaches the surface. The main difference between both events of upwelling is that the full one is changing the density structure and the other one isn't. We can observe this in Fig. ?? where the potential energy anomaly after the partial upwelling events is not changing. During the

upwelling events there is the presence of baroclinic pressure gradients which increase with a lower  $W$ , so during the partial upwelling events, the gradients are not enough to mix the water column and change the stratification structure.

On the other hand, we observed surface fluctuations during the wind events, which are noticeable in the wavelet analysis in Fig. ???. Also, there is a small relation between wind and depth density frequencies (Fig. ??) around a period of 200 min.

The complex current and isotherm patterns observed during relaxation are consistent with theory

## 1.5 Wind-driven circulation

During and after wind events there were observe circulation processes that are indicating how the layers of the estuary behave. We already noticed that the main driver of changes in velocity in the estuary is wind stress. In Fig. 1 we observed with more detail the circulation occurring around the first wind event of the second period. We observed that the estuary had some circulation occurring when there is no wind stress due to the constant freshwater inflow that is present in Pescadero The velocity when there is no wind stress is posi

- El rango del ADCP no muestra la capa superior

- Cuando sopla el viento la capa superior se desplaza hacia el fondo del estuario y no es detectado por los sensores.

\* Imagen de rango ADCP (articulo congreso) \* Velocidad en un wind events \* Dinamica del estuario en el tiempo (Apendice?)

El ADCP no detecta la velocidad de la superficie porque los sensores se encuentran al principio del estuario, lo que genera que la capa superior sea mucho mas delgada que al fondo del estuario. Esto se puede mostrar con el esquema en katopodes ch11.

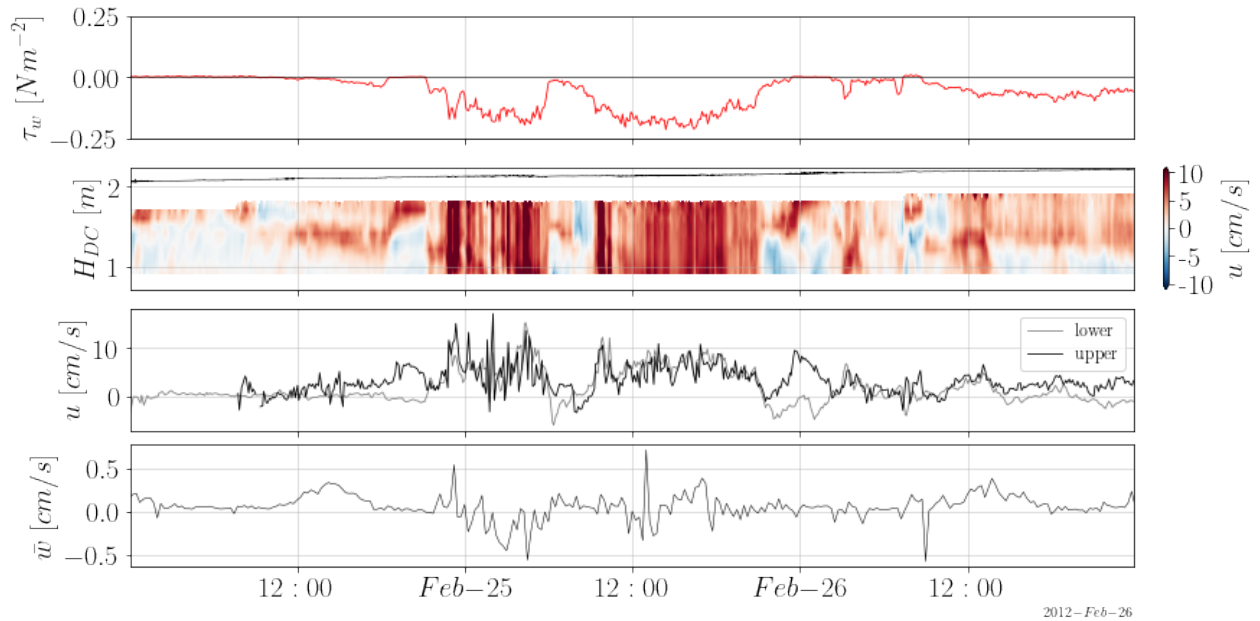


Figure 1: Along-estuary velocity

## 1.6 Freshwater input

- Se observa un density decrease en el tiempo
- Se puede ver en  $\rho$  y en  $d\rho/dz$
- Tal vez se muestra en  $\phi$  y  $W$  por sus cambios en el tiempo (cada vez el viento afecta menos al estuario)
- Su efecto podría estar trabajando en conjunto con el viento para desestratificar el estuario o solo podría estar afectando el viento o solo el caudal
- La teoría que solo el caudal afecta se podría descartar por el primer evento de viento del segundo periodo donde sin aumento de caudal hay un cambio en la estratificación.
- La teoría que solo el viento afecta se descarta con la disminución constante de la densidad en el estuario.
- Por otro lado, cuando hay aumento de caudal podría haber mezcla en el estuario debido a que el agua entra con mayor velocidad al estuario.
- Es observado que provoca cambios solo en la superficie y no tanto en la densidad ( $H_{hat}$ ,  $dh/dt$ ,  $DH_{hat}/Dx$ ,  $Q$ )
- Es posible que estos cambios abruptos en la cantidad de caudal entrante generen mezcla, aunque no hay evidencia suficiente para decir que esto está ocurriendo.
- Al mismo tiempo que hay aumento de caudal hay Wave overtopping, por lo que no se puede atribuir los cambios en  $H_{hat}$ ,  $dh/dt$ ,  $DH_{hat}/Dx$  al efecto del aumento del caudal enteramente, pero es probable que si sea porque no se ve algo parecido en los demás eventos de wave overtopping.

\* Grafico de  $\tau$ ,  $H_{hat}$ , Wavelet,  $\rho$ ,  $D\rho/Dz$ ,  $Q$  entre el 13-Feb y 17-Feb

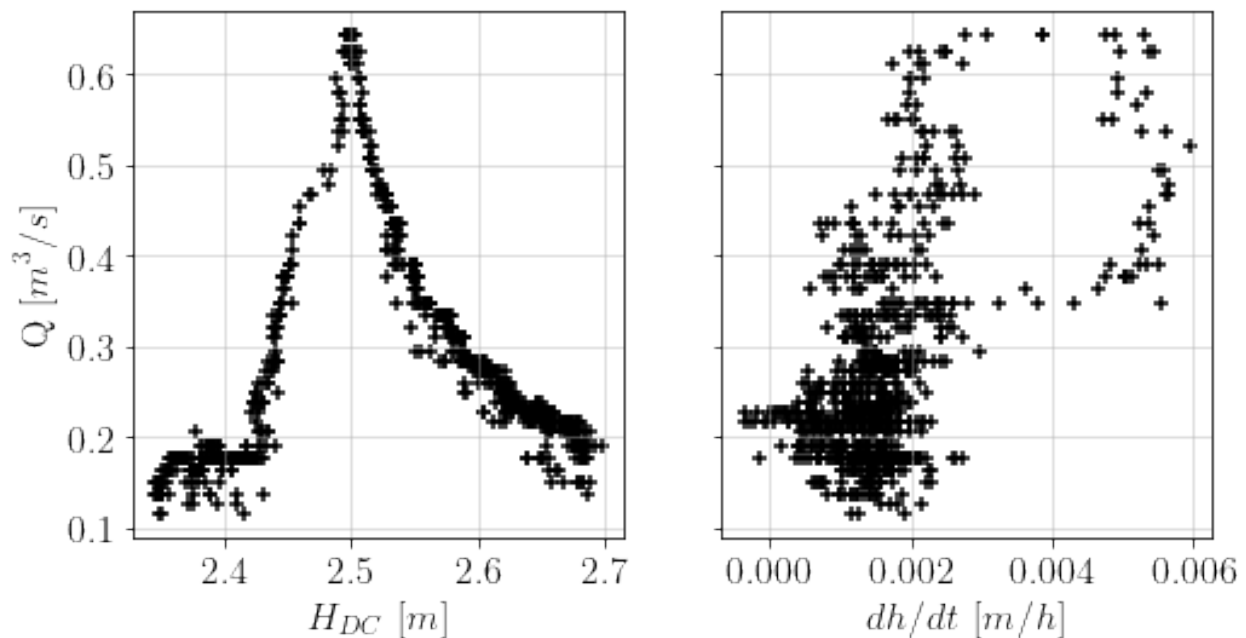


Figure 2: Discharge versus estuary height

## 1.7 Wave overtopping

- There could be presence of density increase due to wave overtopping
- In results section we observed some small changes in density after wave overtopping
- Menos en  $D_c$  que vimos cambios en el tiempo en el primer periodo.

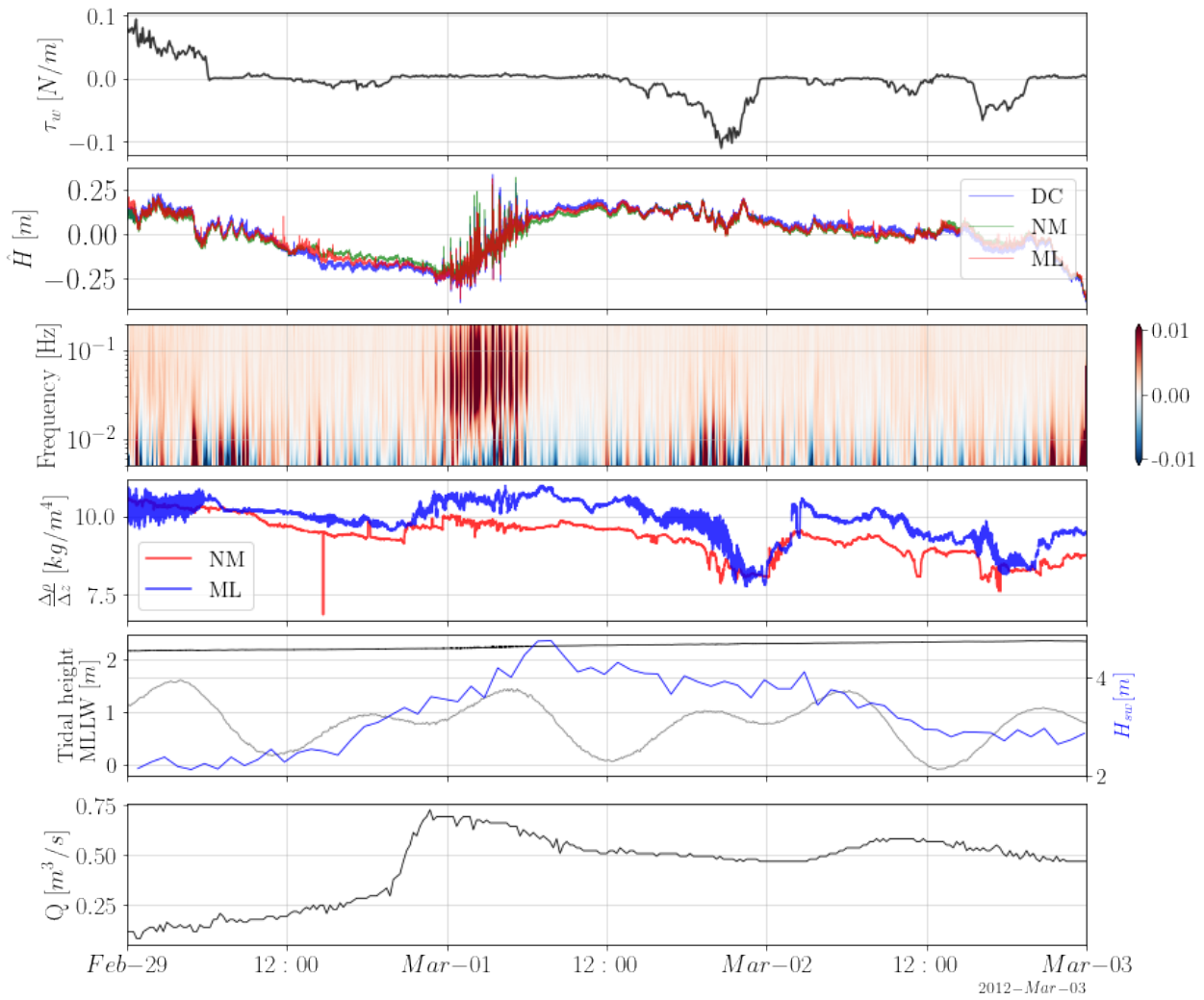


Figure 3: ddfdsfsdf

\* Graficos de tau, rho DC fondo, wavelet, d rho/dt 10-hour-frame, Tide/Pdo/Hsw

Why during wave overtopping the bottom of NM increase and then go to normal explain the continuous increase in DC at the bottom

The wavelet analysis shows high-frequency waves when that occurs (Figure 3-D and 3-H), but it could be hiding some insignificant wave overtop events.

- Por otro lado, podría haber mezcla en el estuario debido a la entrada turbulenta de las olas sobre la barra de arena.

- Esto se podría atribuir a que cuando hay wave overtopping se observan fluctuaciones en la superficie ( $\hat{H}$ ,  $dh/dt$ ,  $DH \hat{H}/Dx$ ,  $Q$ ), además de los pequeños cambios observados en la densidad

- igual que para el Caso del caudal las surface fluctuations Pueden Ser indicadores de que hay mezcla

- no hay evidencia que lo respalde.

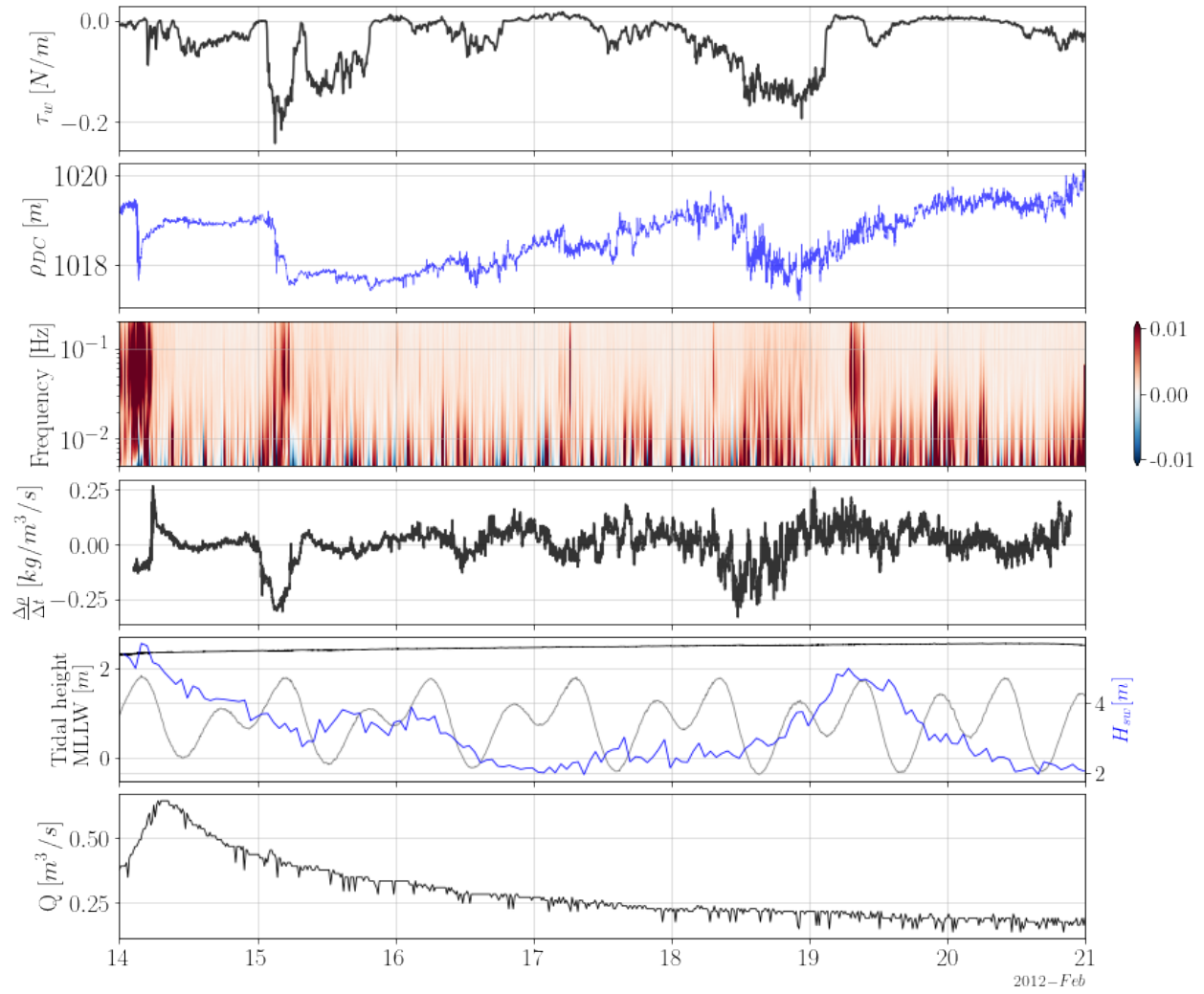


Figure 4: ddfdsfdf