



FIGURE 13.9 Modes 26–28 for the same nonuniform stratification as in the previous two figures. Again, the left panel shows the vertical structure of the modes, whereas the right panel compares their ω^2 values to the N^2 values. These modes, for which the frequencies approach the inertial frequency f , are almost entirely confined on one side or the other of the pycnocline. In other words, a pycnocline acts as a vertical barrier to near-inertial waves.