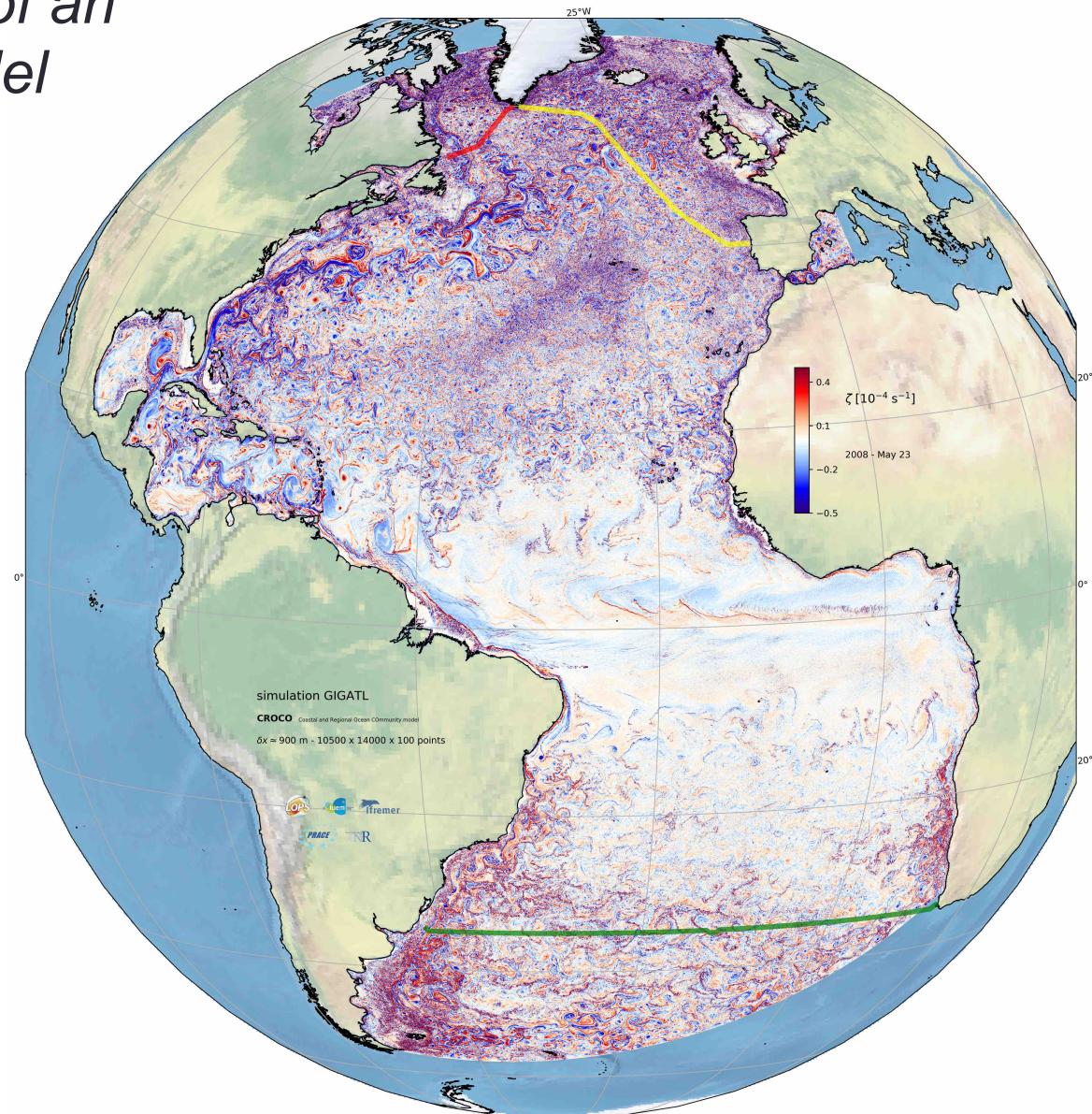


# Numerical Modelling

Jonathan GULA  
gula@univ-brest.fr

*the anatomy of an  
ocean model*



- **Lesson 1 :**
  - Introduction
  - Equations of motions
  - *Activity 1 [run an ocean model]*
- **Lesson 2 : [B 012]**
  - Horizontal Discretization
  - *Activity 2 [Dynamics of an ocean gyre]*
- **Lesson 3 : [D109]**
  - Numerical schemes
  - *Activity 3 [Impacts of numerics]*
- **Lesson 4 : [D109]**
  - Vertical coordinates
  - Model parameterizations
  - *Activity 4 [Impact of topography]*
- **Lesson 5 : [D109]**
  - Boundary Forcings
  - Presentation of the model CROCO
  - *Activity 4 [Design a realistic simulation]*
- **Lesson 6 : [D109]**
  - Diagnostics and validation
  - *Activity 5 [Analyze a realistic simulation]*
- **Lesson 7 : [D109]**
  - *Work on your projet*

Presentations and material  
will be available at :

**jgula.fr/ModNum/**

# Numerical Modelling

Jonathan GULA  
gula@univ-brest.fr

## Evaluation

- The evaluation is based on a project, which consists in setting up a realistic configuration of the region of your choice, run the experiment and perform some analysis.
- Written Report **due for Feb. 04**

# Useful references

## Extensive courses:

- MIT: <https://ocw.mit.edu/courses/earth-atmospheric-and-planetary-sciences/12-950-atmospheric-and-oceanic-modeling-spring-2004/lecture-notes/>
- Princeton: [https://stephengriffies.github.io/assets/pdfs/GFM\\_lectures.pdf](https://stephengriffies.github.io/assets/pdfs/GFM_lectures.pdf)

## Overview on ocean modelling and current challenges:

- Griffies et al., 2000, Developments in ocean climate modelling, Ocean Modelling. <http://jgula.fr/ModNum/Griffiesetal00.pdf>
- Griffies, 2006, "Some Ocean Model Fundamentals", In "Ocean Weather Forecasting: An Integrated View of Oceanography", 2006, Springer Netherlands. [http://jgula.fr/ModNum/Griffies\\_Chapter.pdf](http://jgula.fr/ModNum/Griffies_Chapter.pdf)
- Fox-Kemper et al, 19, "Challenges and Prospects in Ocean Circulation Models" <http://jgula.fr/ModNum/FoxKemperetal19.pdf>

## ROMS/CROCO:

- <https://www.croc-ocean.org/documentation/>
- Shchepetkin, A., and J. McWilliams, 2005: The Regional Oceanic Modeling System (ROMS): A split-explicit, free-surface, topography-following- coordinate ocean model. Ocean Modell. <http://jgula.fr/ModNum/ShchepetkinMcWilliams05.pdf>

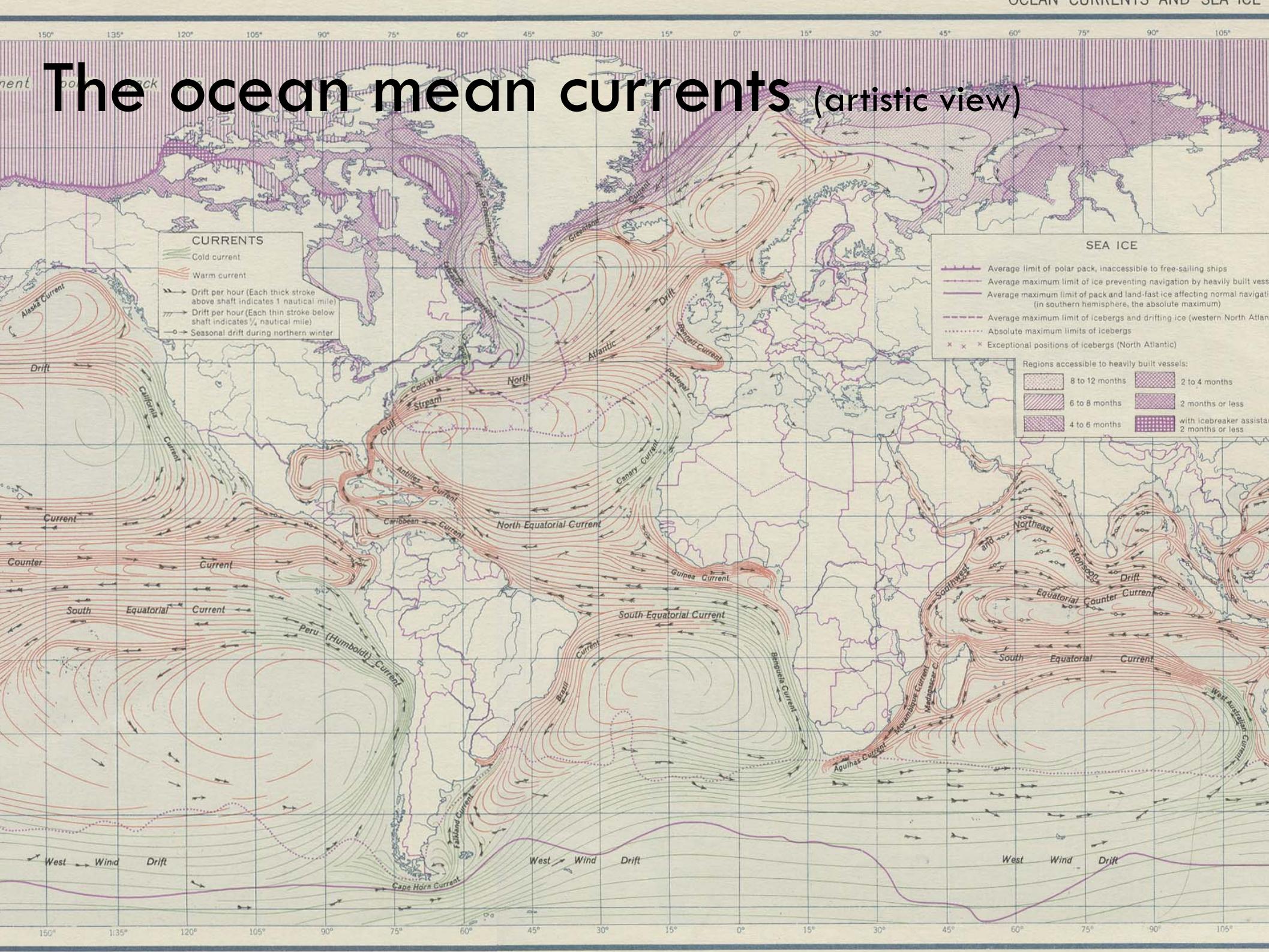
# Introduction

---

Master's degree 2<sup>nd</sup> year Marine Physics

Jonathan GULA  
[gula@univ-brest.fr](mailto:gula@univ-brest.fr)

# The ocean mean currents (artistic view)



# Can be understood using theory and simplified models

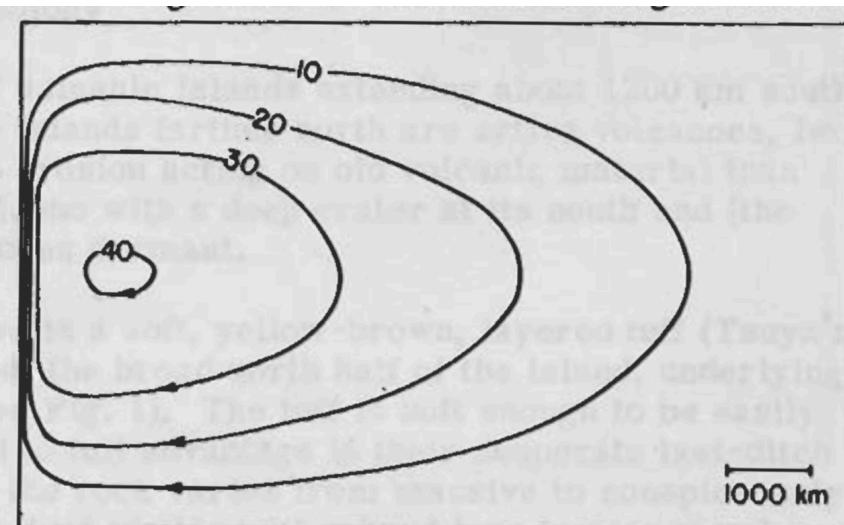
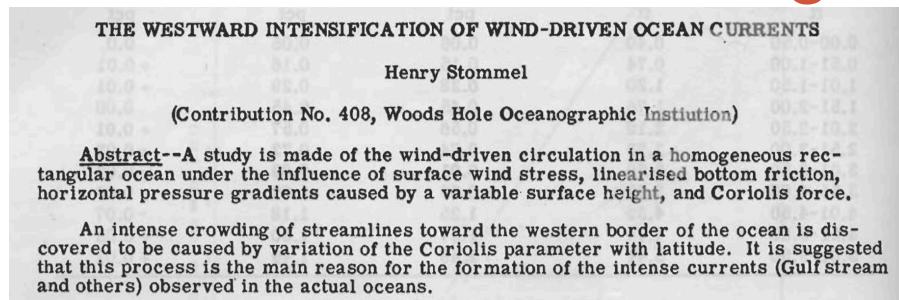


Fig. 5--Streamlines for the case where the Coriolis force is a linear function of latitude

JOURNAL OF METEOROLOGY

## ON THE WIND-DRIVEN OCEAN CIRCULATION

By Walter H. Munk

Institute of Geophysics and Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California<sup>1</sup>  
(Manuscript received 24 September 1949)

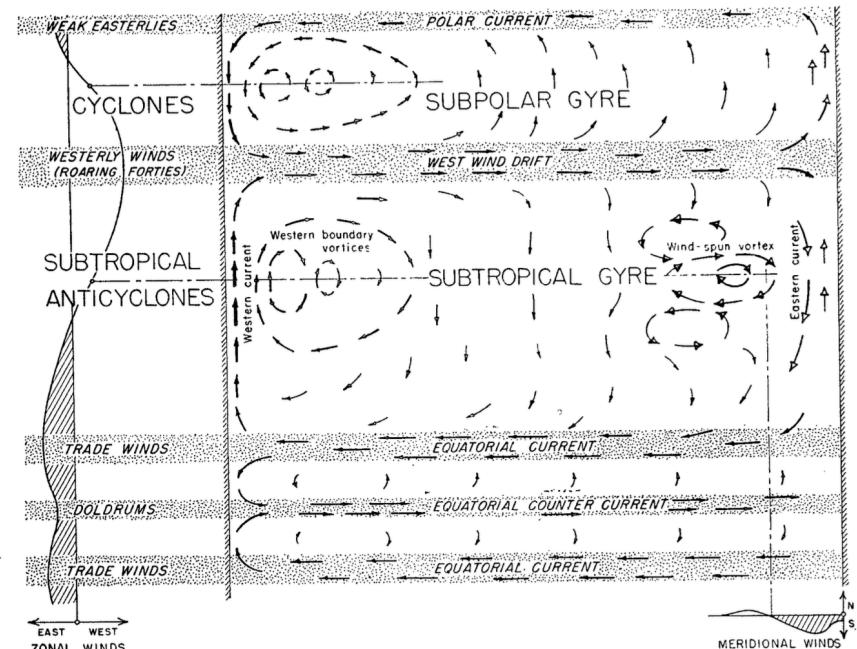
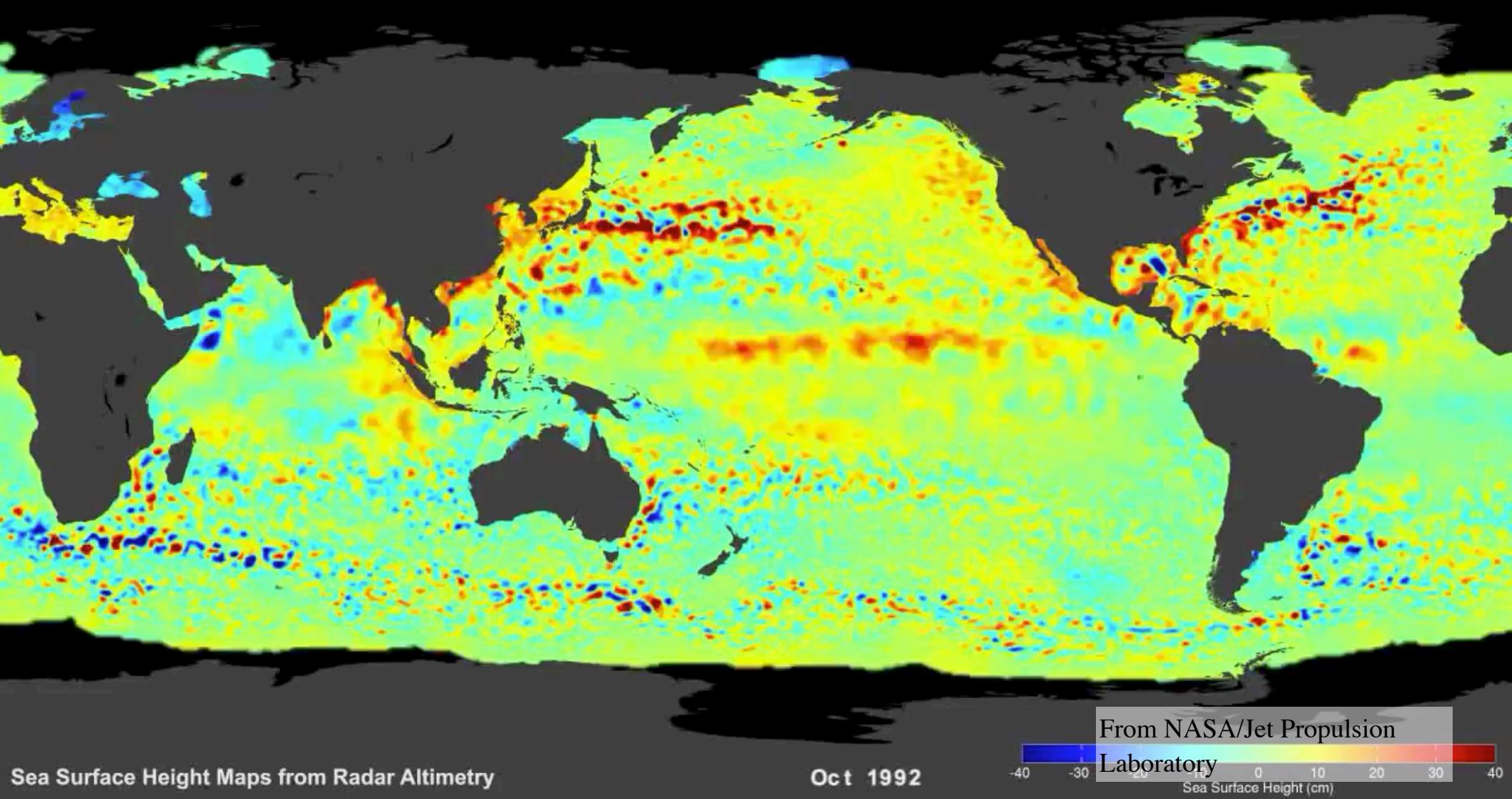
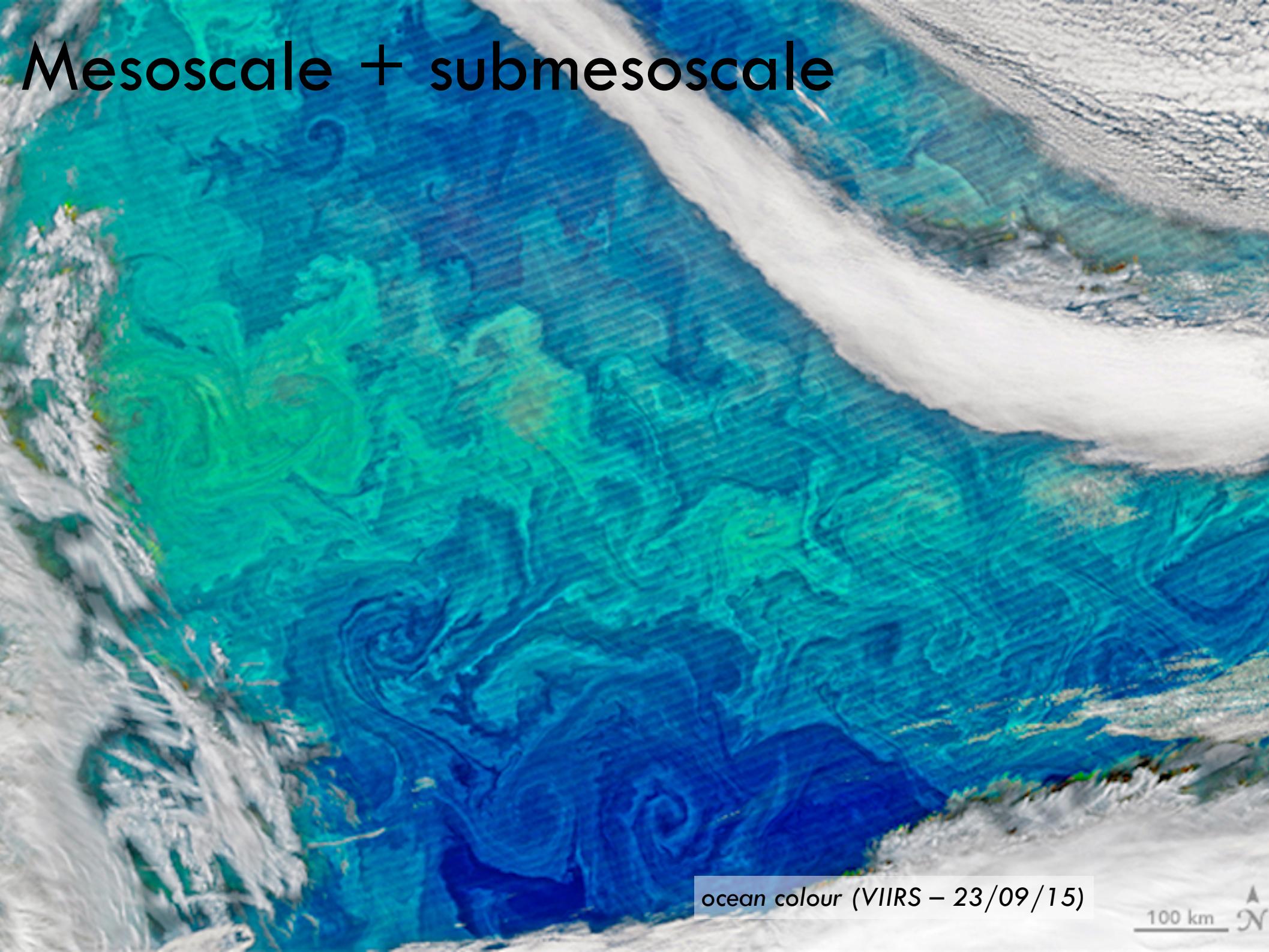


FIG. 8. Schematic presentation of circulation in a rectangular ocean resulting from zonal winds (filled arrowheads), meridional winds (open arrowheads), or both (half-filled arrowheads). The width of the arrows is an indication of the strength of the currents. The nomenclature applies to either hemisphere, but in the Southern Hemisphere the subpolar gyre is replaced largely by the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (west wind drift) flowing around the world. Geographic names of the currents in various oceans are summarized in table 3.

But reality is much more turbulent:



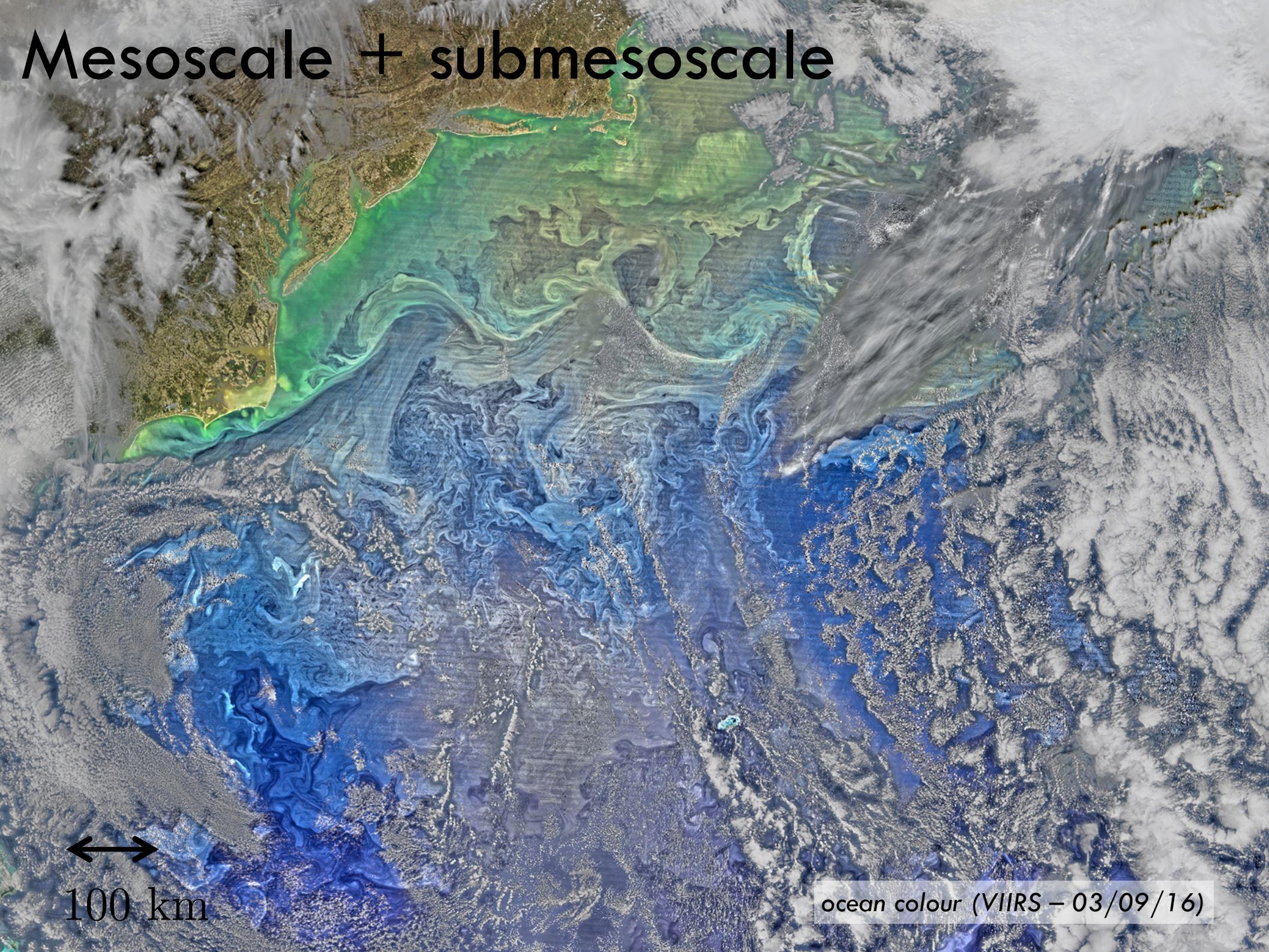
# Mesoscale + submesoscale



*ocean colour (VIIRS – 23/09/15)*

100 km 

# Mesoscale + submesoscale



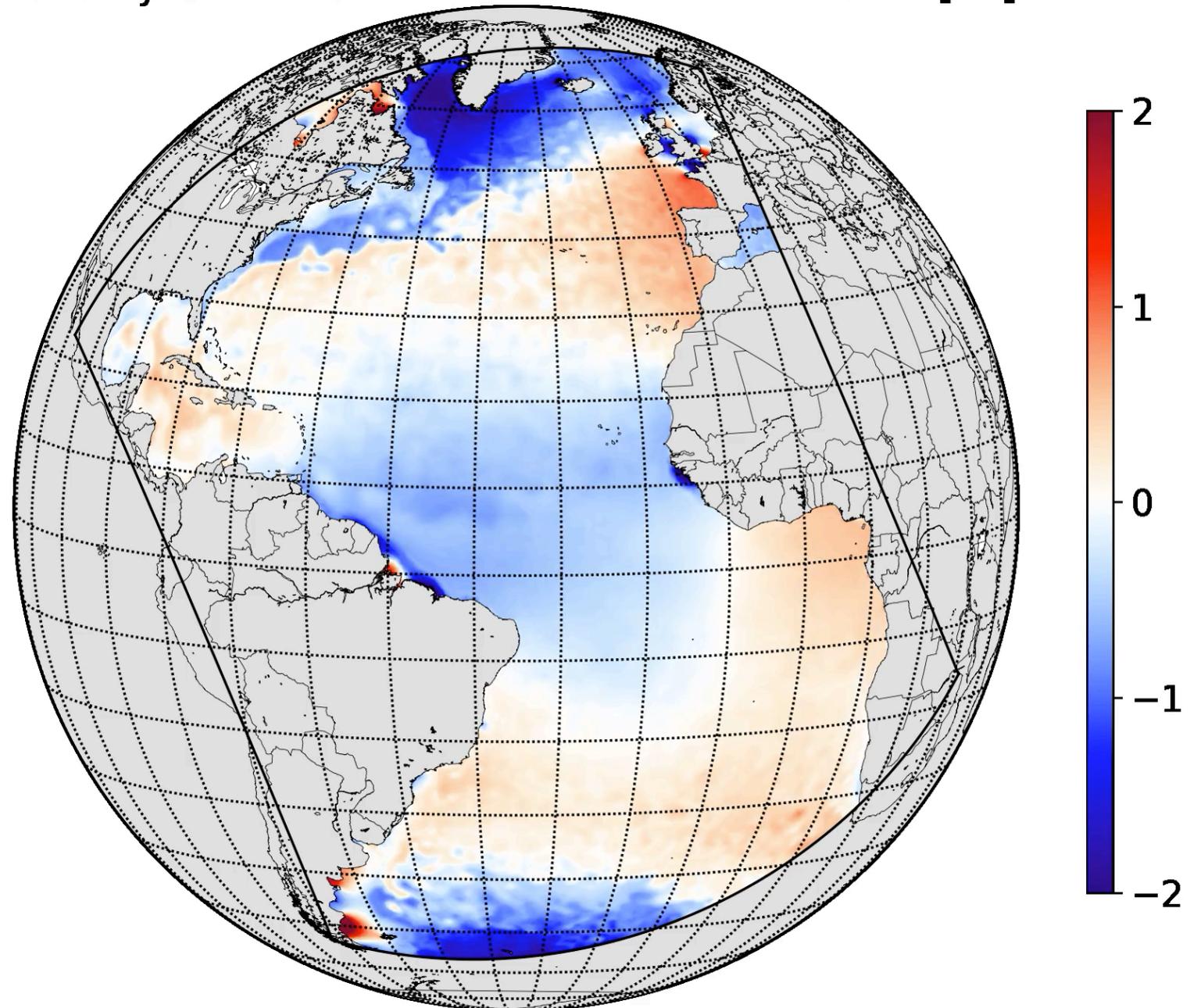
100 km

*ocean colour (VIIRS – 03/09/16)*

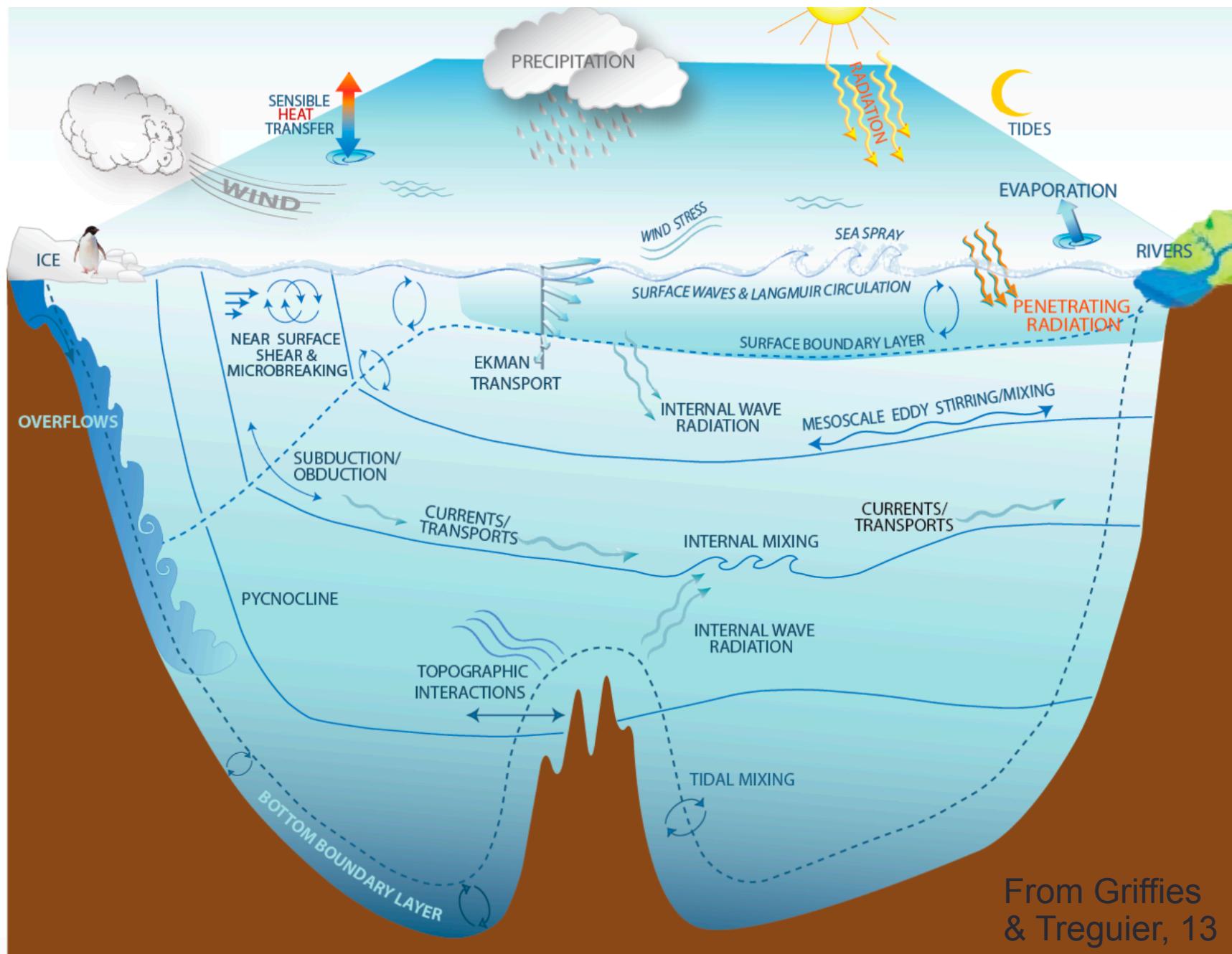
# And HF motions like tides:

2005 - Jan 15 - 03:00

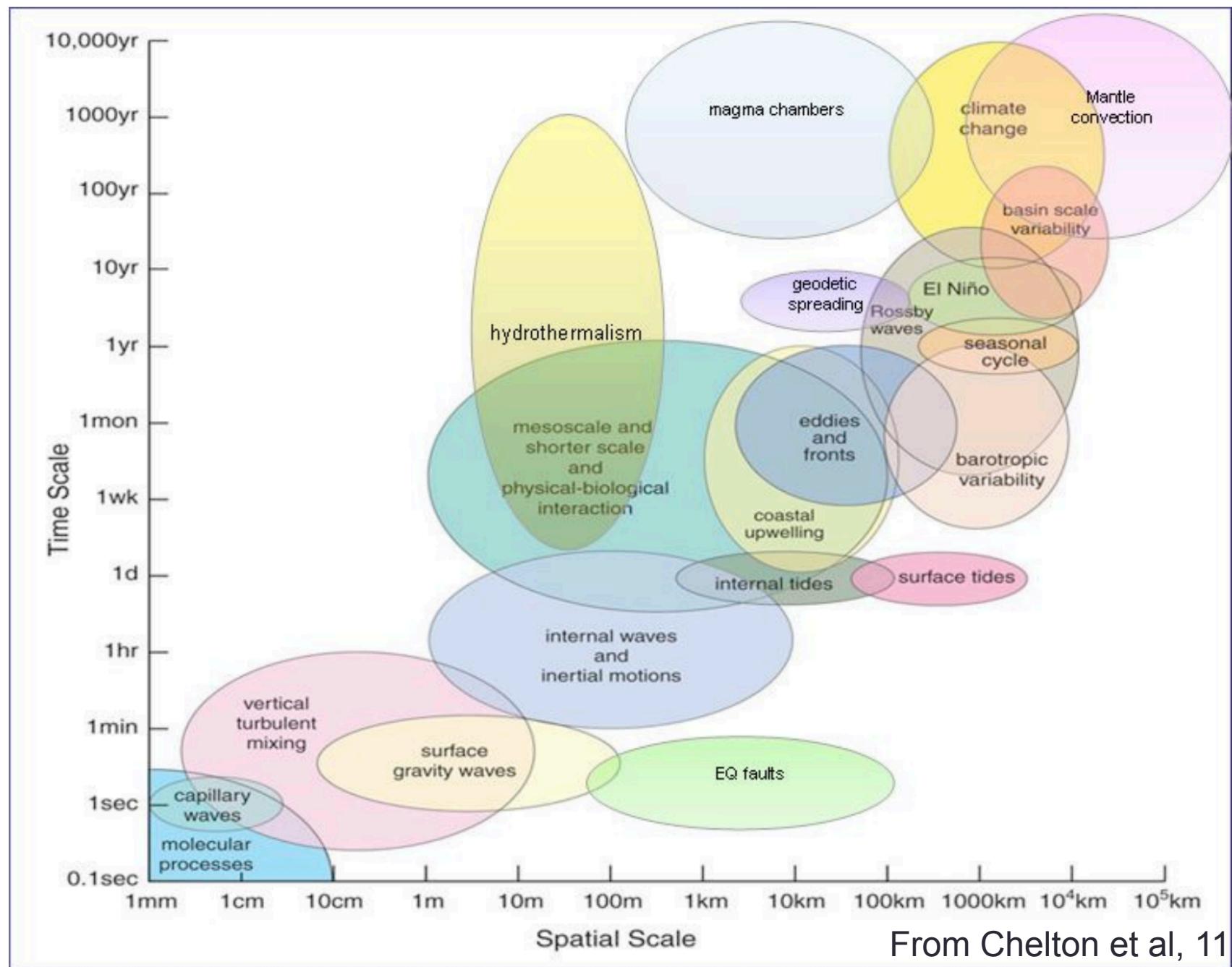
SSH [m]



# A zoo of processes and scales



# Temporal and spatial scales in the ocean



# We know the equations:

Navier-Stokes  
[Momentum equations]

$$\frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \vec{u} + 2\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{u} + g\vec{k} = -\frac{\vec{\nabla} P}{\rho} + \vec{\mathcal{F}}$$

Conservation of mass

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \rho \vec{u} = 0$$

Conservation of heat

$$\frac{DT}{Dt} = \mathcal{S}_T$$

Conservation of salinity

$$\frac{DS}{Dt} = \mathcal{S}_S$$

Equation of state

$$\rho = \rho(T, S, p)$$

# We know the equations:

Navier-Stokes  
[Momentum equations]

$$\frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \vec{u} + 2\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{u} + g\vec{k} = -\frac{\vec{\nabla} P}{\rho} + \vec{\mathcal{F}}$$

Conservation of mass

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \rho \vec{u} = 0$$

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$$\frac{DT}{Dt} = \mathcal{S}_T$$

Conservation of salinity

$$\frac{DS}{Dt} = \mathcal{S}_S$$

Equation of state

$$\rho = \rho(T, S, p)$$

## But we don't know the solutions...

# We know the equations:

## Millennium Prize problems

### Navier–Stokes existence and smoothness

The Clay Mathematics Institute in May 2000 made this problem one of its seven [Millennium Prize problems](#) in mathematics. It offered a [US \\$1,000,000](#) prize to the first person providing a solution for a specific statement of the problem:<sup>[1]</sup>

*Prove or give a counter-example of the following statement:*

In three space dimensions and time, given an initial velocity field, there exists a vector velocity and a scalar pressure field, which are both smooth and globally defined, that solve the Navier–Stokes equations.

# We know the equations:

Navier-Stokes  
[Momentum equations]

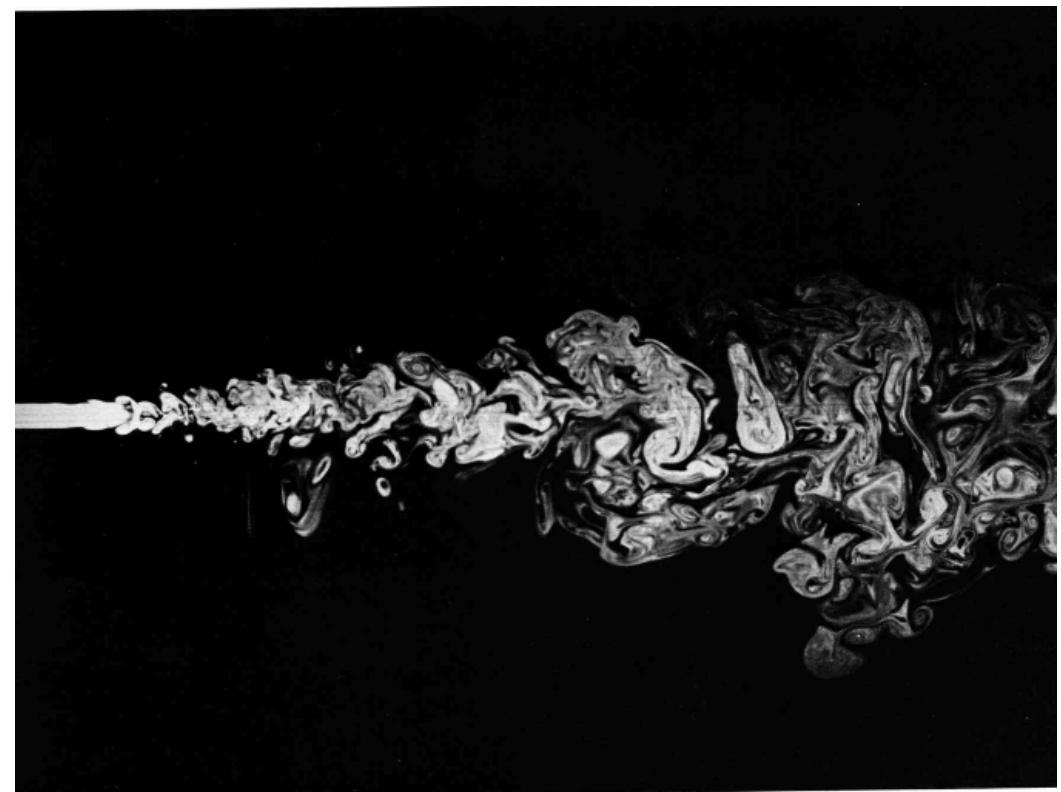
$$\frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \vec{u} + 2\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{u} + g\vec{k} = -\frac{\vec{\nabla} P}{\rho} + \vec{\mathcal{F}}$$

Non-linear terms = Turbulence



turbolenza by da Vinci [1507]

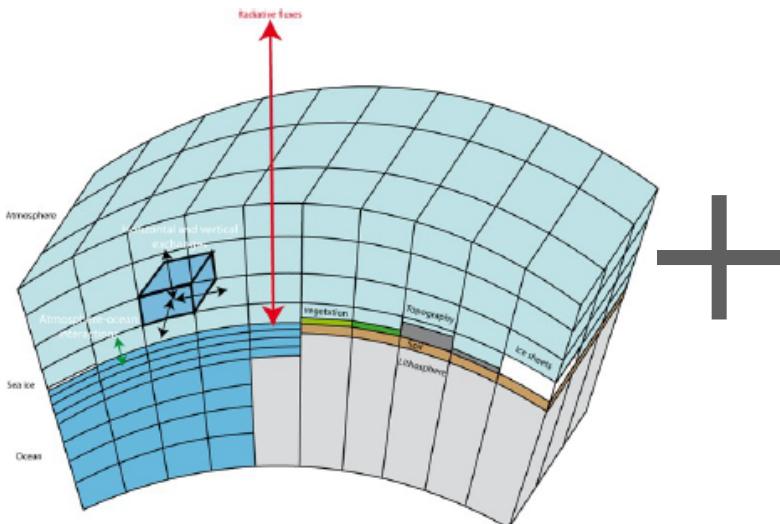
*Big whorls have little whorls,  
which feed on their velocity;  
And little whorls have lesser whorls,  
And so on to viscosity.*  
L.F. Richardson [1922]



Turbulent water jet ( $Re = 2300$ ) [Van Dyke, 82]

$$\frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \vec{u} + 2\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{u} + g\vec{k} = -\frac{\vec{\nabla} P}{\rho} + \vec{\mathcal{F}}$$

Navier Stokes equations



Grid Discretization



Supercomputer (Curie – CEA)

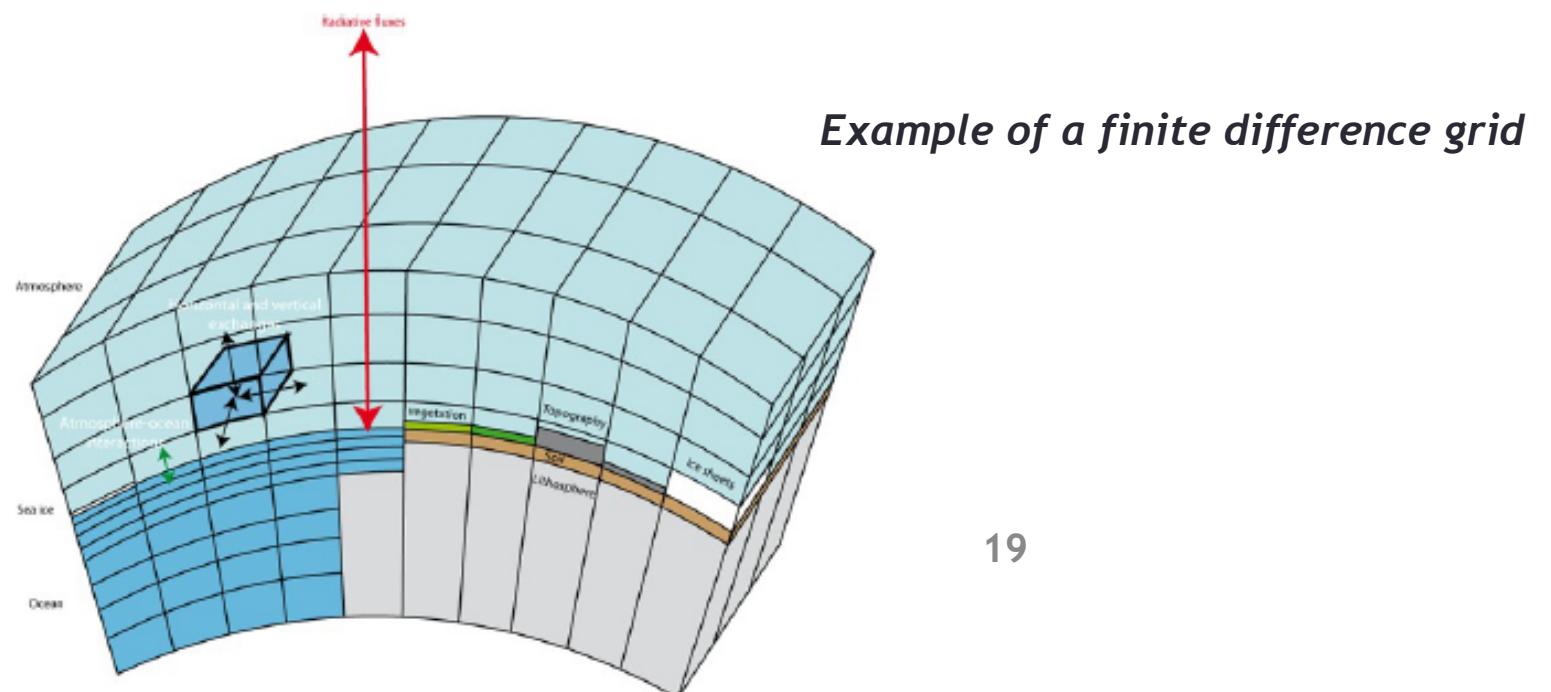
One way to solve them (approximately): Numerical modelling

# Ocean modeling principle

An ocean model is simplified representation of physical processes that take place in the ocean.

The ocean is divided into boxes : **discretization**

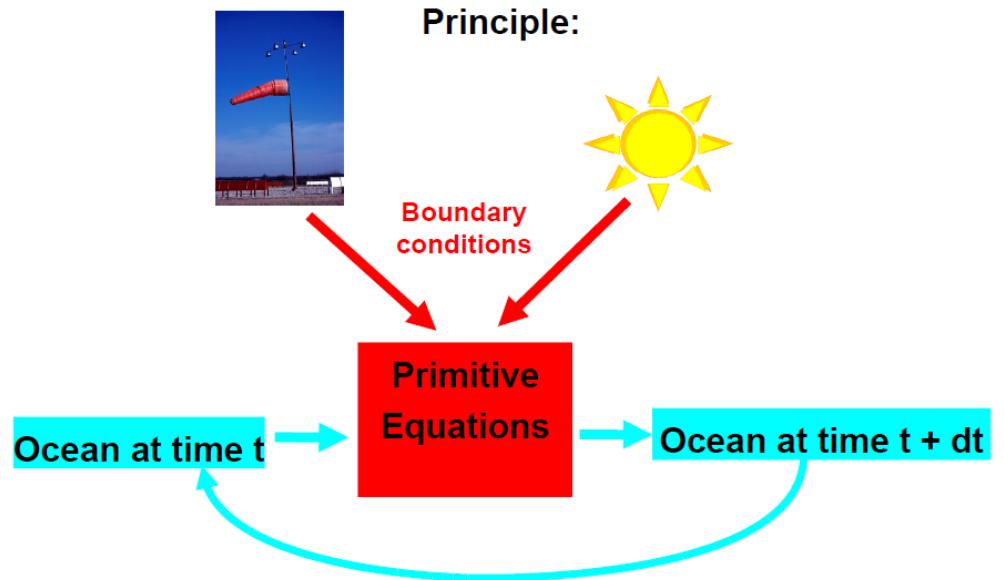
The NS equations can be solved on the grid using numerical methods



# Ocean modeling principle

If we know:

- The ocean state at time  $t$  :  
 $u, v, w, T, S, \dots$
- Boundary conditions :  
surface, bottom, lateral sides



→ We can compute the ocean state at time  $t+dt$  using numerical approximations of fluid dynamics equations

# Ocean modeling principle

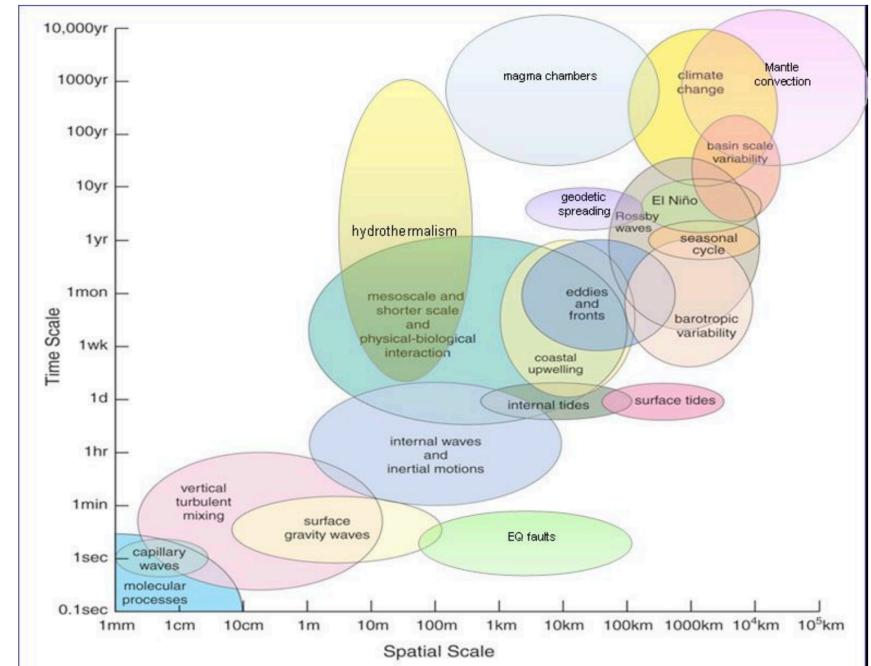
One major Problem:

Setting the model's grid scale to the Kolmogorov length (to resolve diffusive processes)  
 $\Delta = 10^{-3}\text{m}$  over a global ocean domain of volume  $1.3 \times 10^{18} \text{ m}^3$  requires  $1.3 \times 10^{27}$  discrete grid cells.

And Direct Numerical Simulation (DNS) of the global ocean climate requires  $3 \times 10^{10}$  time steps of one second (1000 years).

So we will be dust long before DNS of global ocean climate is possible:

In the meantime, we must use **subgrid scale parameterizations** to simulate the ocean.



# Ocean Circulation Models

- ROMS → CROCO <https://www.croc-ocean.org/>
- NEMO <http://www.nemo-ocean.eu/>
- MITgcm <http://mitgcm.org/>
- HYCOM <http://hycom.org/>
- POP <http://www.cesm.ucar.edu/models/cesm1.0/pop2/>
- OFES <http://www.jamstec.go.jp/esc/ofes/eng/>
- MOM <http://www.gfdl.noaa.gov/ocean-model>
- POM <http://www.ccpo.odu.edu/POMWEB/>
- etc

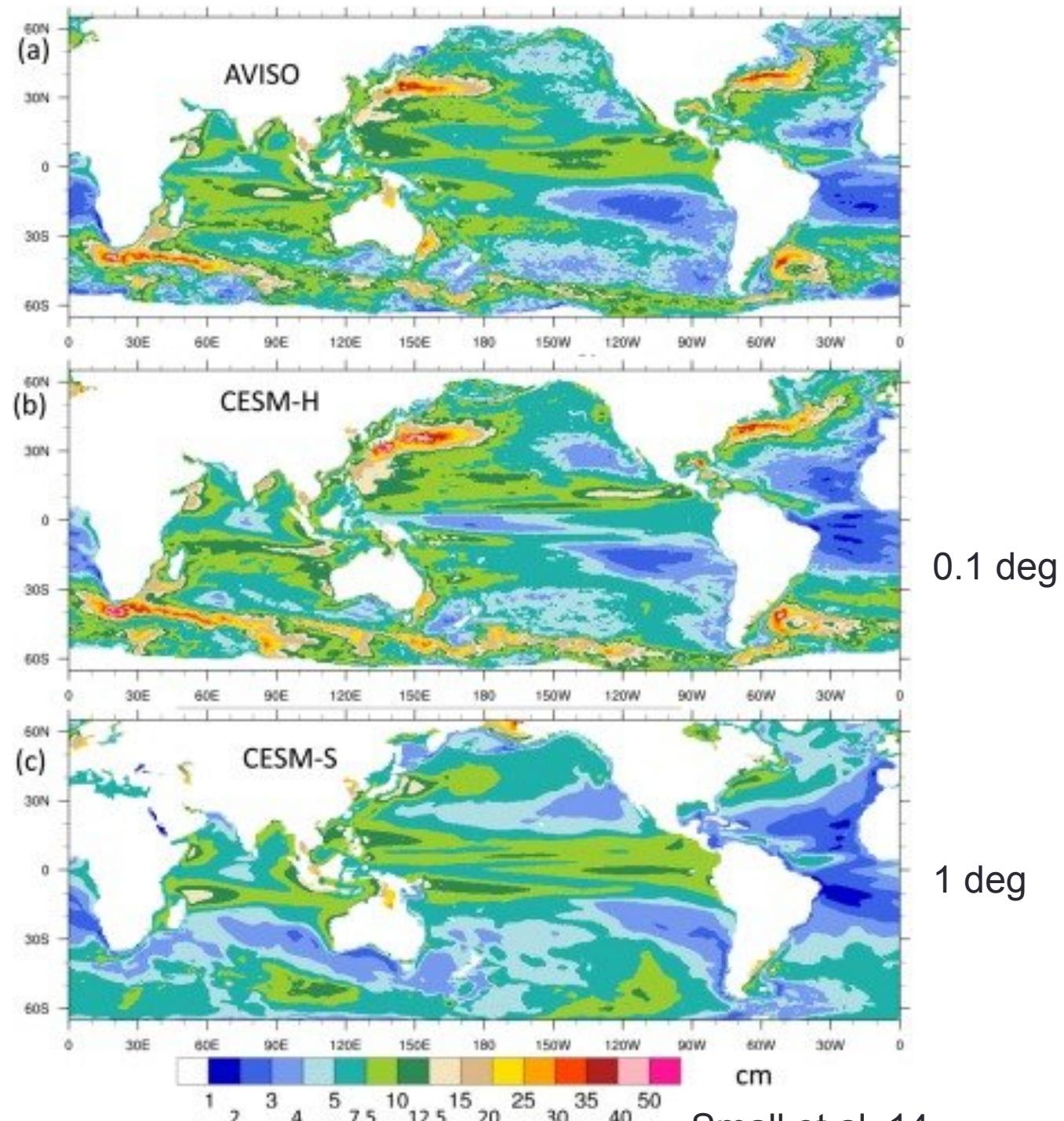
# Ocean Circulation Models

- Mechanistic studies of ocean and climate processes:
  - Process studies using fine resolution ( $\leq 1$  km) simulations (**MITgcm**, **SUNTANS**, **CROCO-NH**)
  - Mechanisms for coastal and shelf processes ( $\leq 10$  km) (**ROMS/CROCO**, **MARS3D**, **HYCOM**)
  - Mechanisms for climate variability (basin to global) (**MOM6**, **NEMO**)
- Operational predictions and state estimation
  - Coastal forecasting India **INCOIS**
  - Coastal forecasting USA **NCEP**
  - Ocean state estimation **ECCO**
- Projections for future climate change
  - IPCC-class simulations with anthropogenic forcing (**CMIP**)
  -

# Ocean Modelling example:

*IPCC global run*

**Typical length =  
100 - 1000 years**



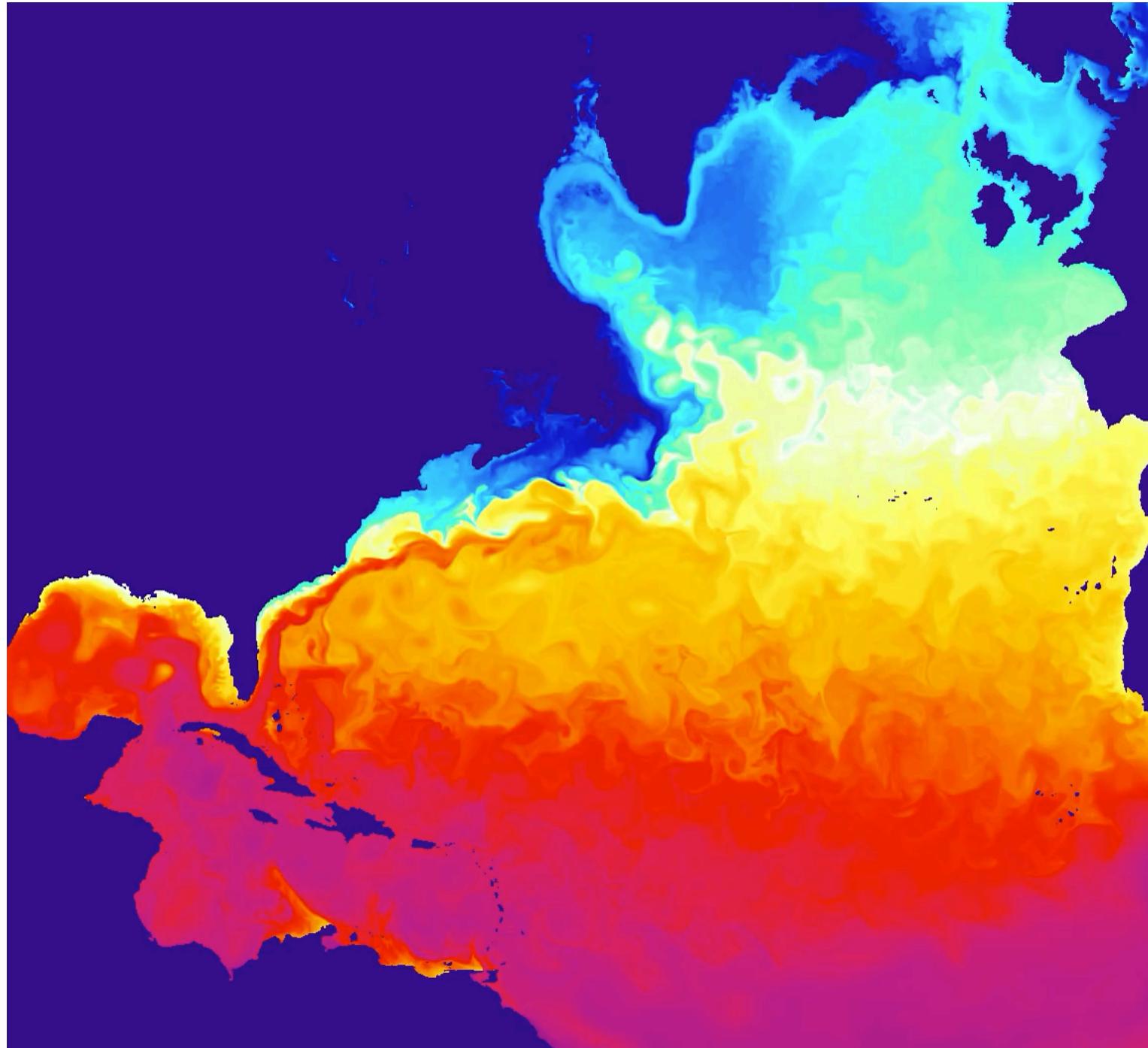
# Ocean Modelling example:

*Mesoscale-  
resolving basin-  
scale simulation*

*Typical length =  
10 - 100 years*

North-Atlantic  
coupled simulations:

- oceanic model (6 km)
- atmospheric model (18 km)



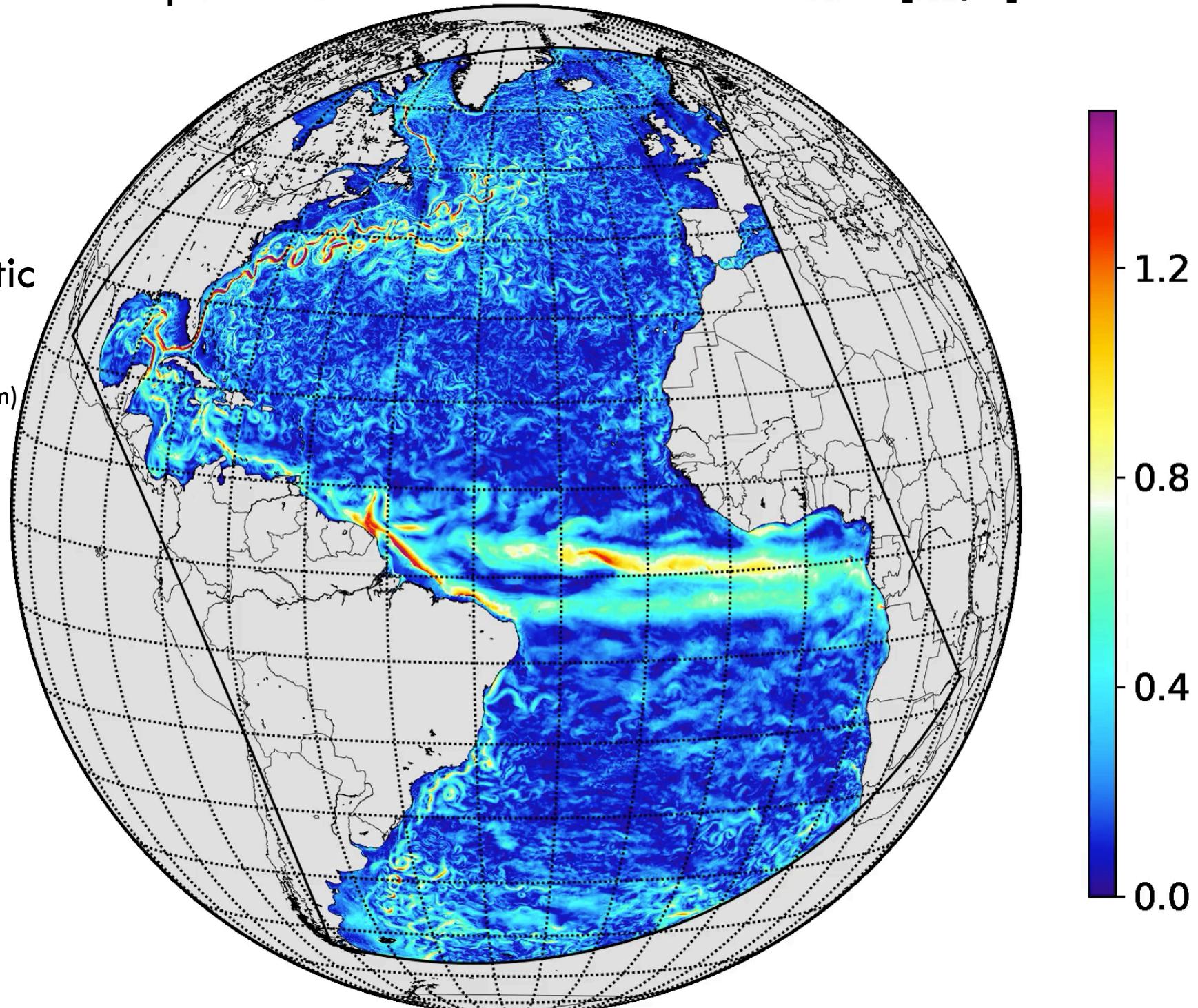
Realistic  
Modelling:

2004 - Apr 07 - 08:00

currents [m/s]

Forced Atlantic  
simulations:

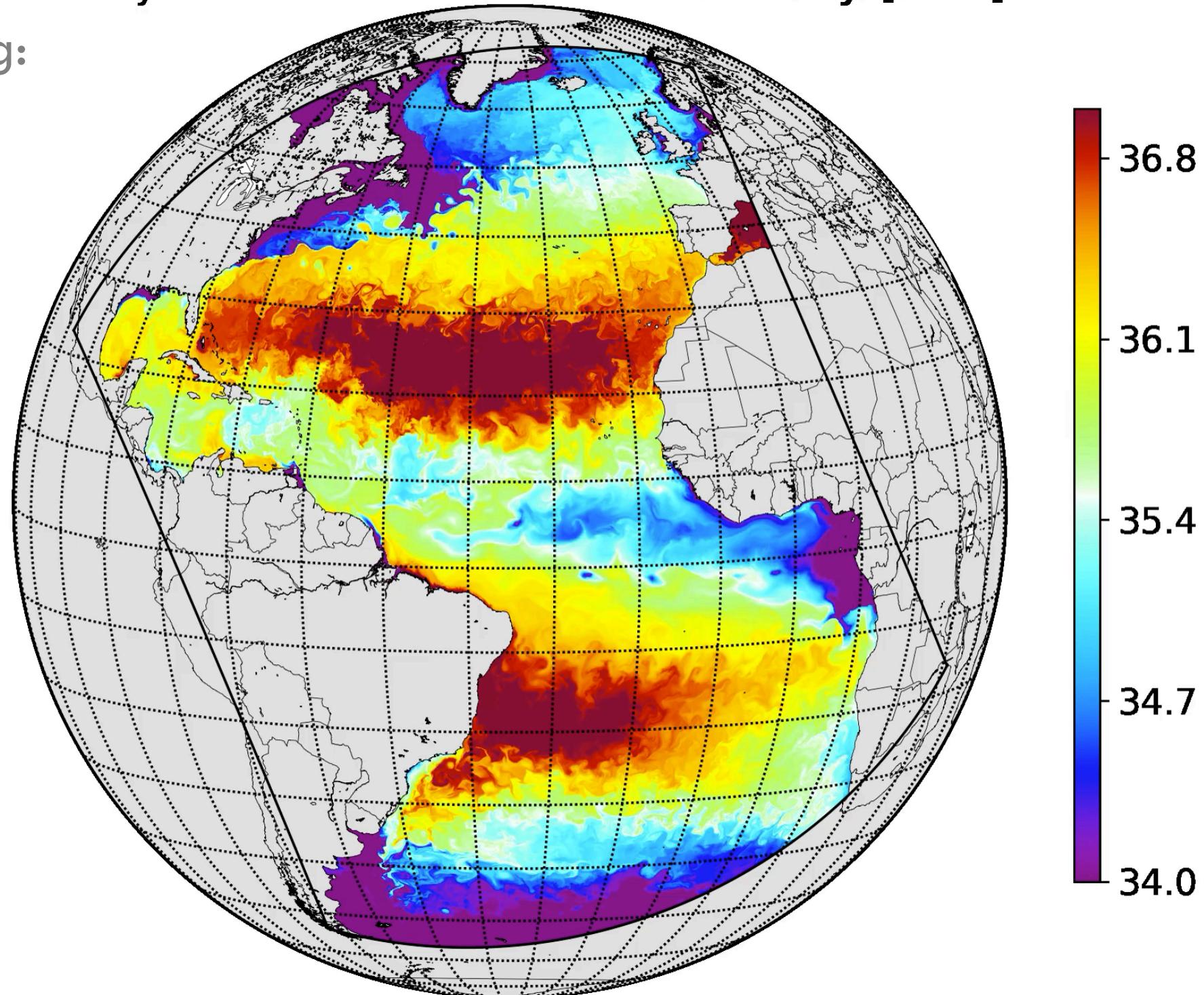
- oceanic model (3 km)



Realistic 2005 - Jan 09 - 11:00

salinity [PSU]

Modelling:



Realistic

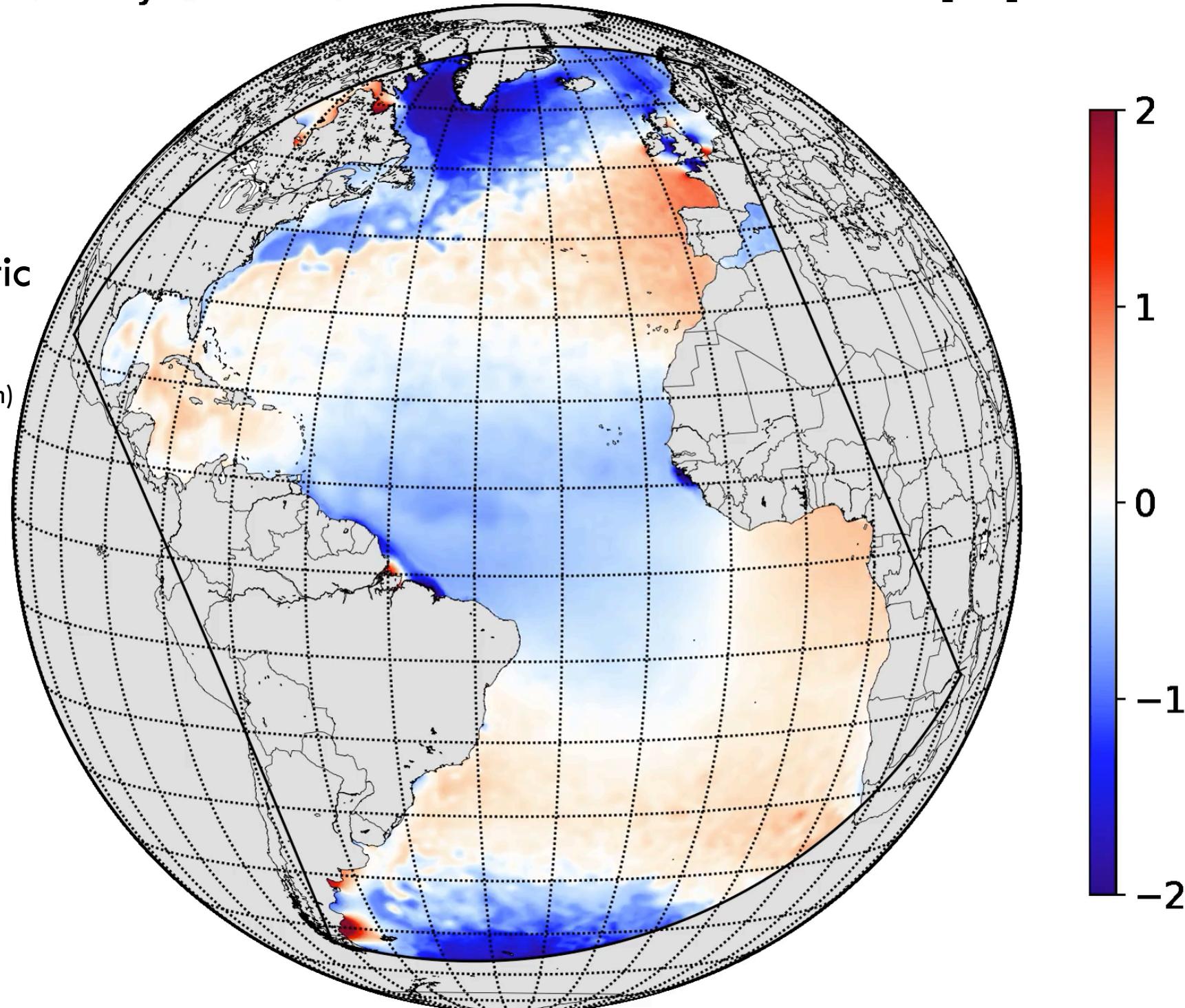
2005 - Jan 15 - 03:00

SSH [m]

Modelling:

Forced Atlantic  
simulations:

- oceanic model (3 km)



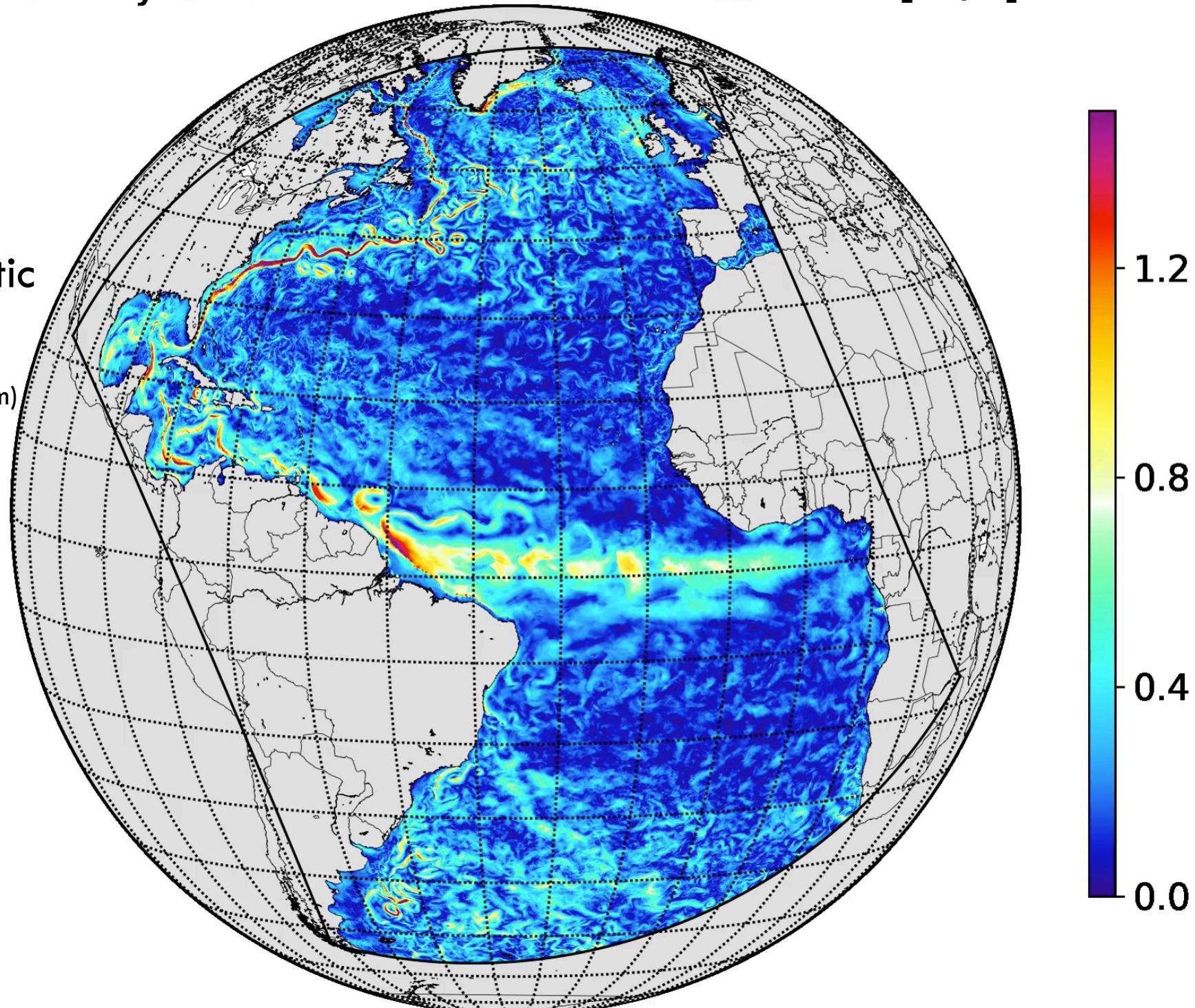
Realistic 2005 - Jan 14 - 00:00

currents [m/s]

Modelling:

Forced Atlantic  
simulations:

- oceanic model (3 km)



# Basin-scale configuration **GIGATL**

***Submesoscale-permitting  
basin-scale simulation***

***Typical length = 1 year***

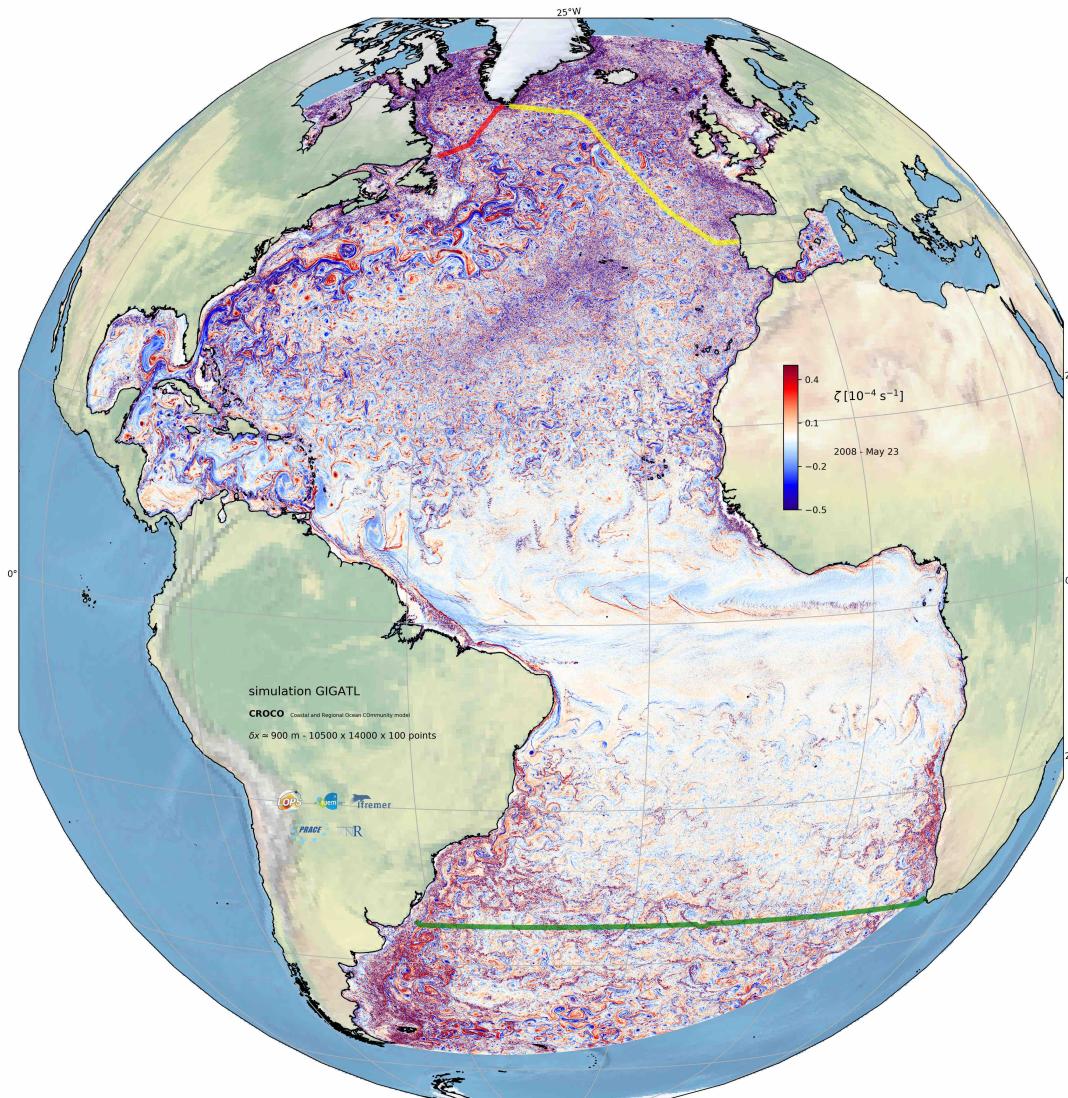
Horizontal resolutions up to **0.75**

- **1 km** with 100 topography following levels (refined at the bottom)

=  $10500 \times 14000 \times 100$  points

including **hourly surface forcings and tides**.

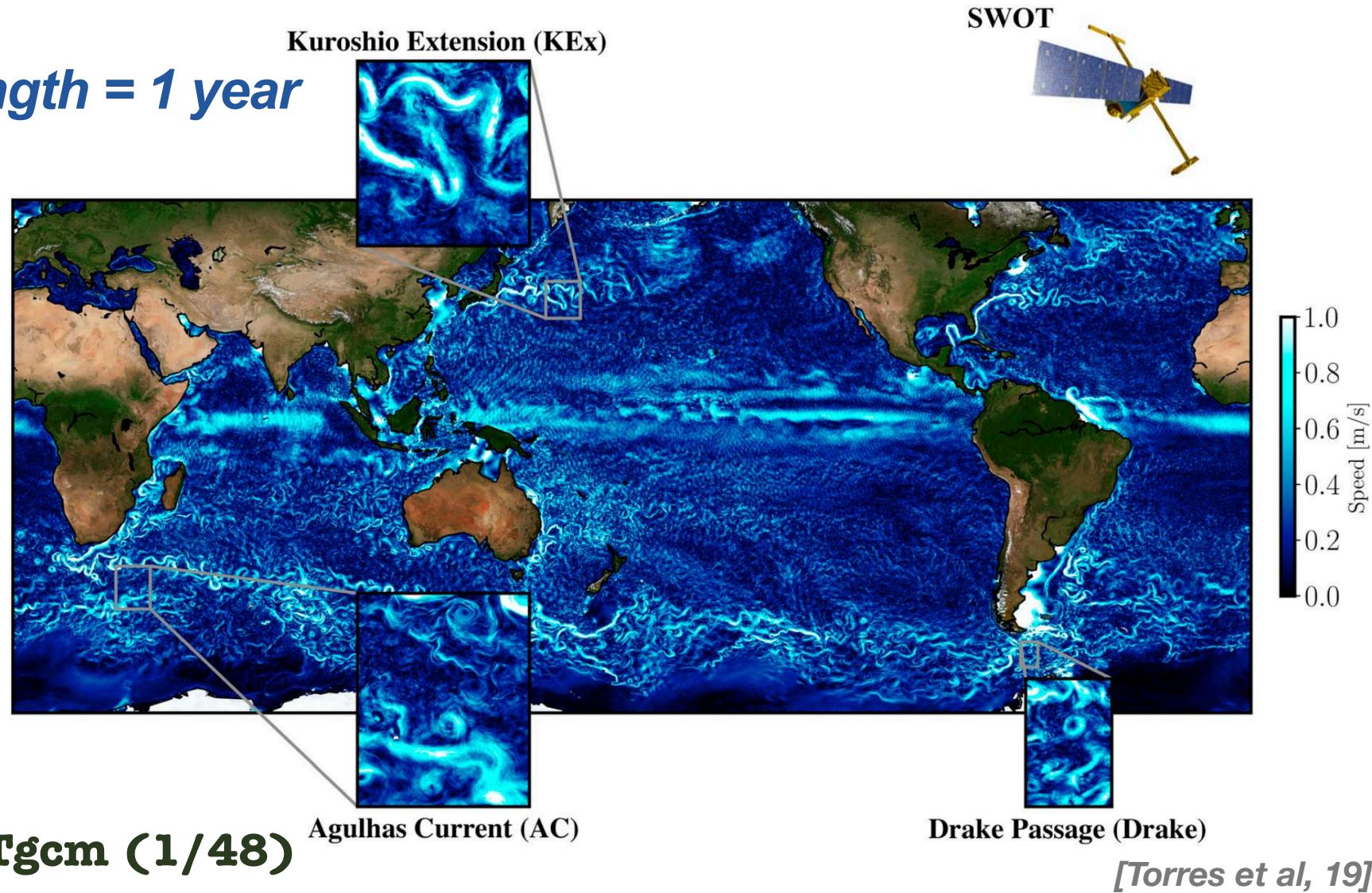
Run on 10000 processors - 40M cpu-hours -  
About 4PB of data



# Global configuration LLC4320

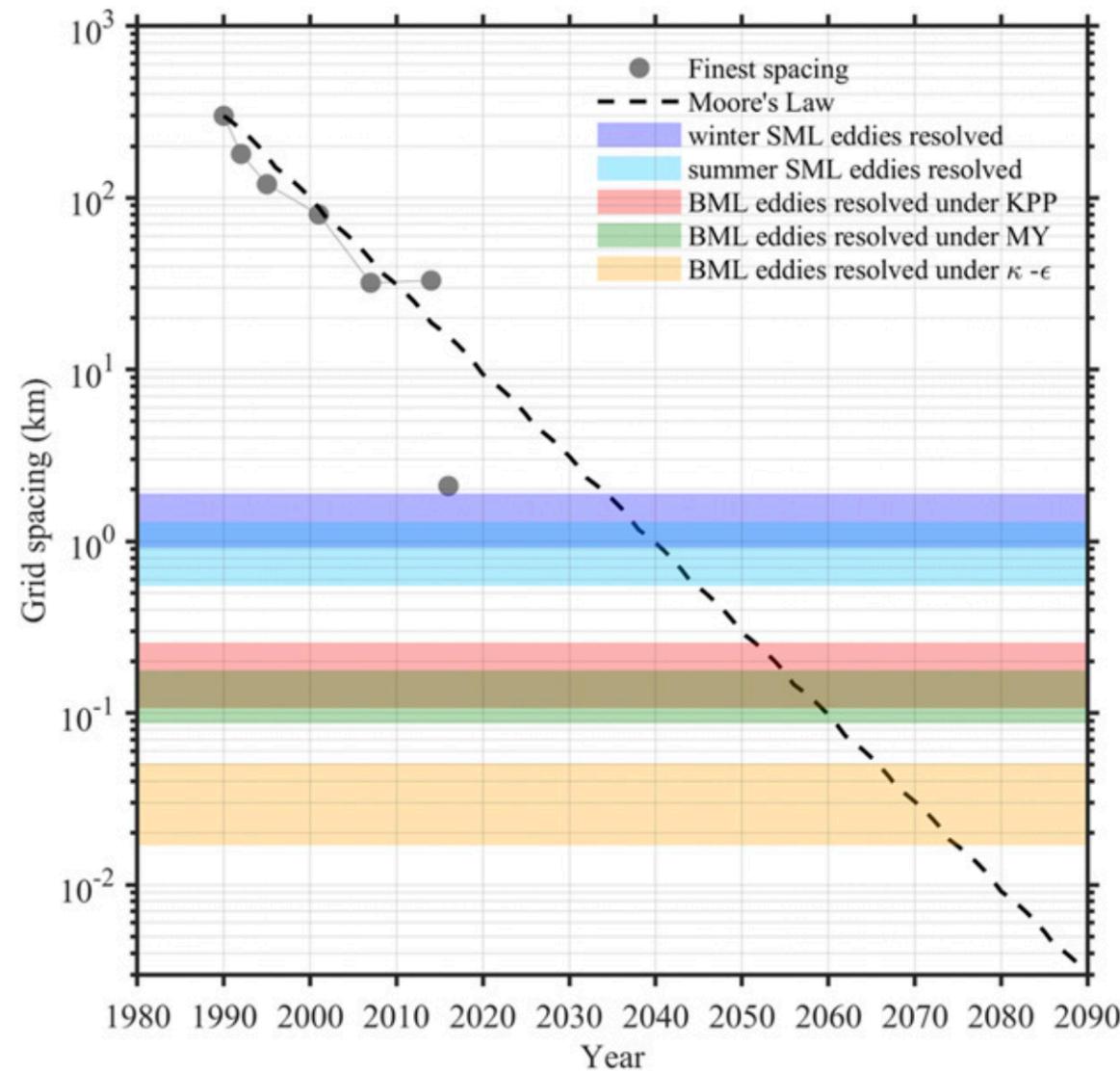
***Submesoscale-permitting global simulation***

**Typical length = 1 year**



# Estimate of horizontal grid spacings of the IPCC ocean models

- The gray dots denote the finest grid spacings reported by the IPCC reports by year of publication, except the latest one from the ECCO MITgcm LLC4320 simulation.
- The black line denotes the estimate predicted by Moore's Law, while the shaded regions denote the grid spacing intervals resolving 50% and 90% of surface mixed-layer eddies globally based on the observations and bottom mixed-layer eddies based on simulations.

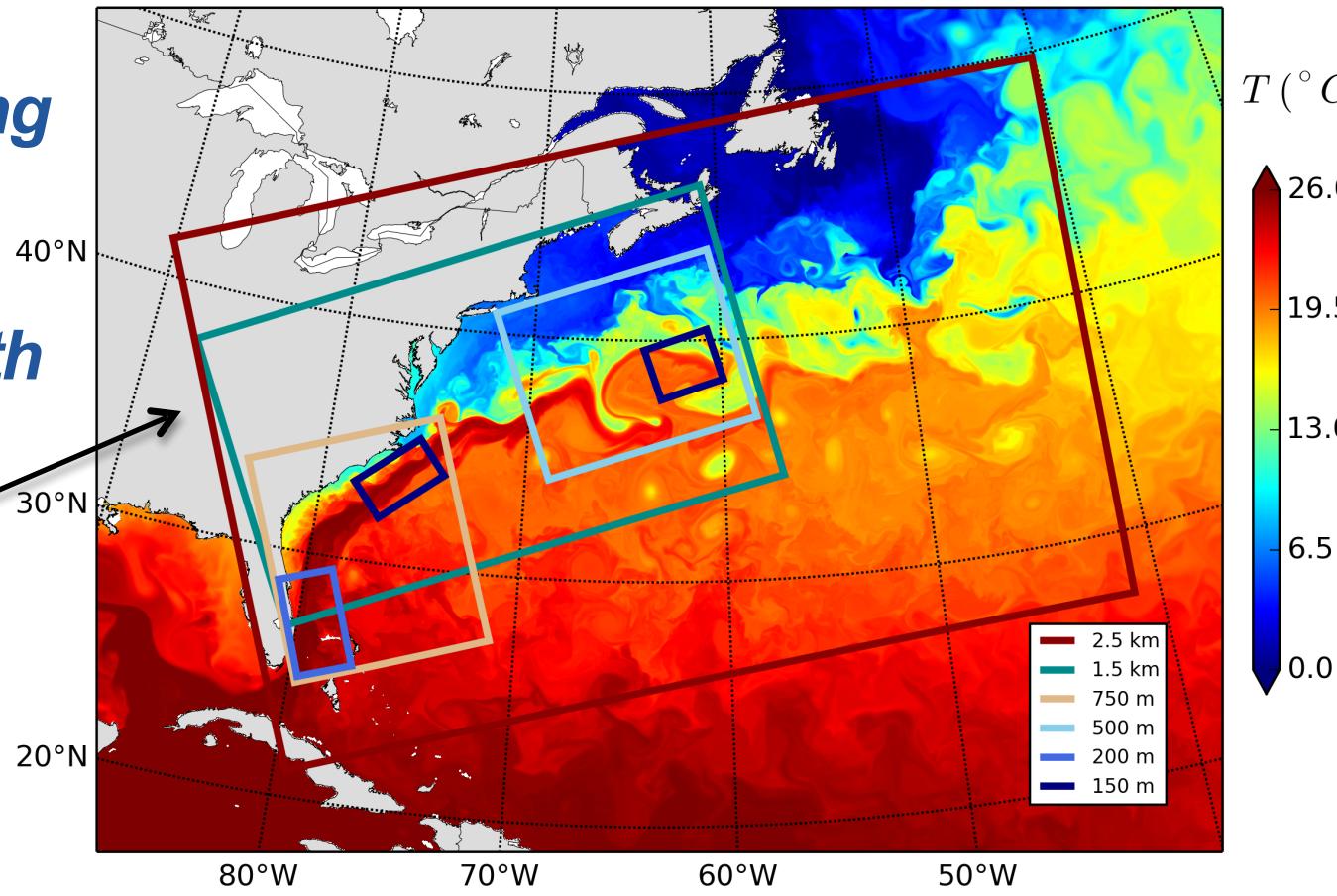
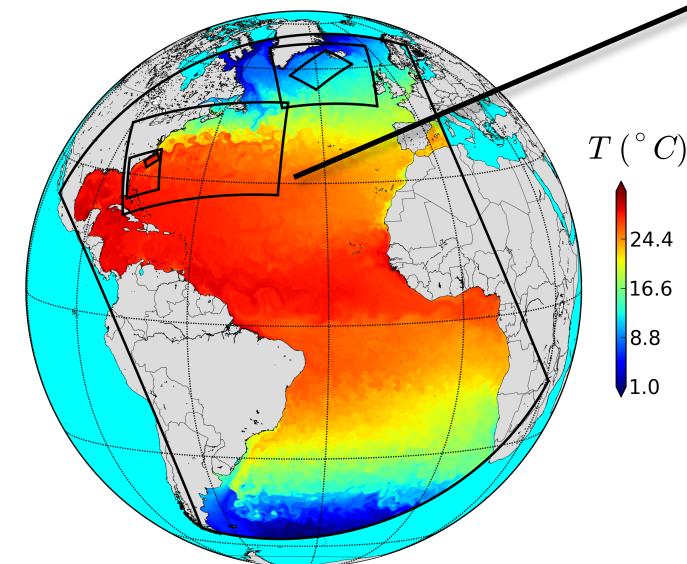


# Ocean Modelling examples:

$$\Delta x = 6 \rightarrow 0.15 \text{ km}$$

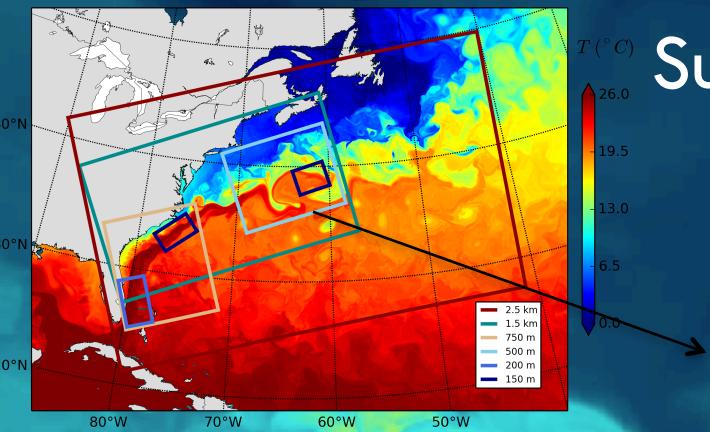
**Submesoscale-resolving regional simulation**

**Typical length = 1 month  
10 years**

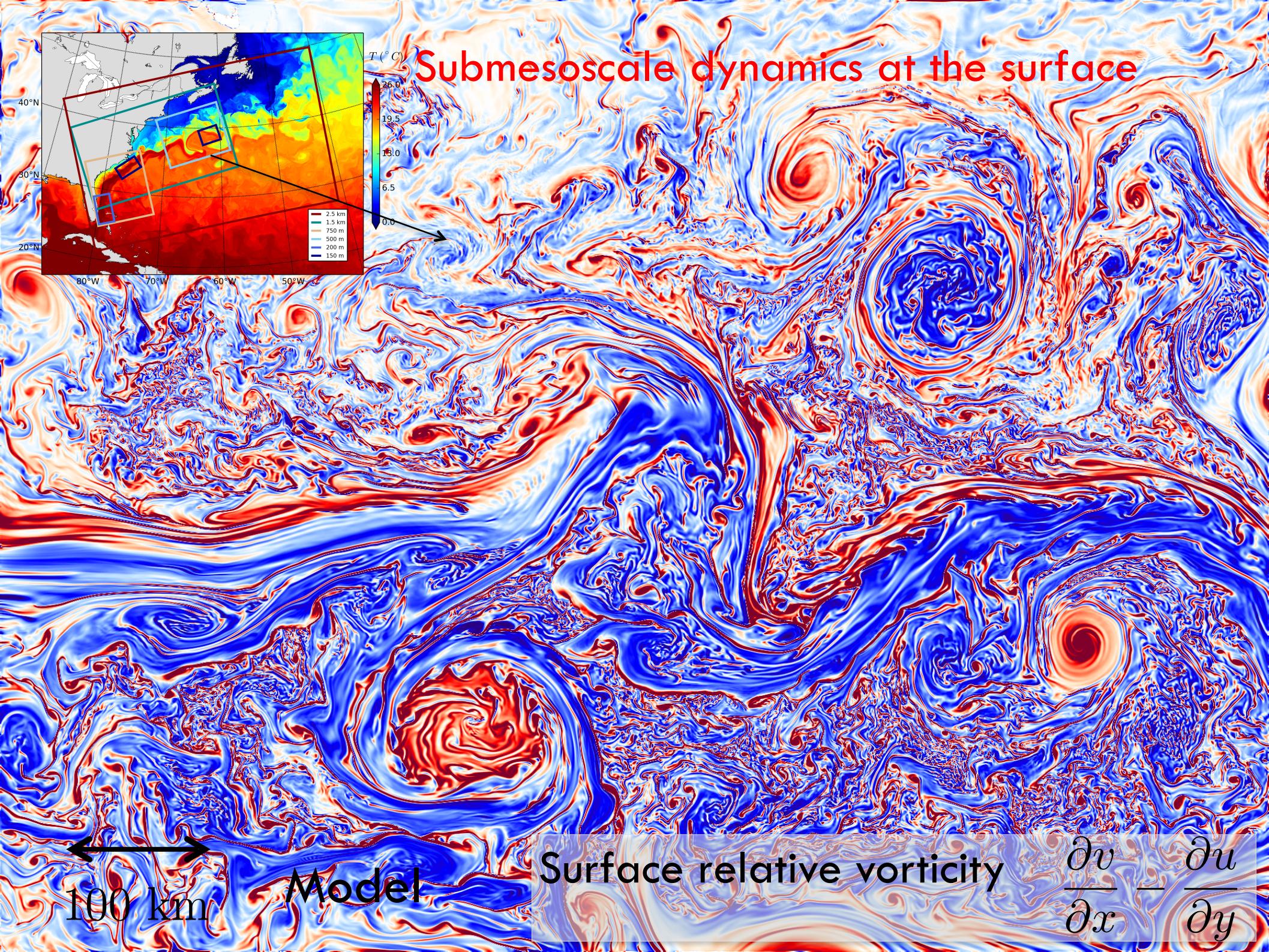


A portion of the Atlantic domain showing mean SST and several (1-way) nested grids:

# Submesoscale dynamics at the surface



ROMS ( $\Delta x = 500$  m)

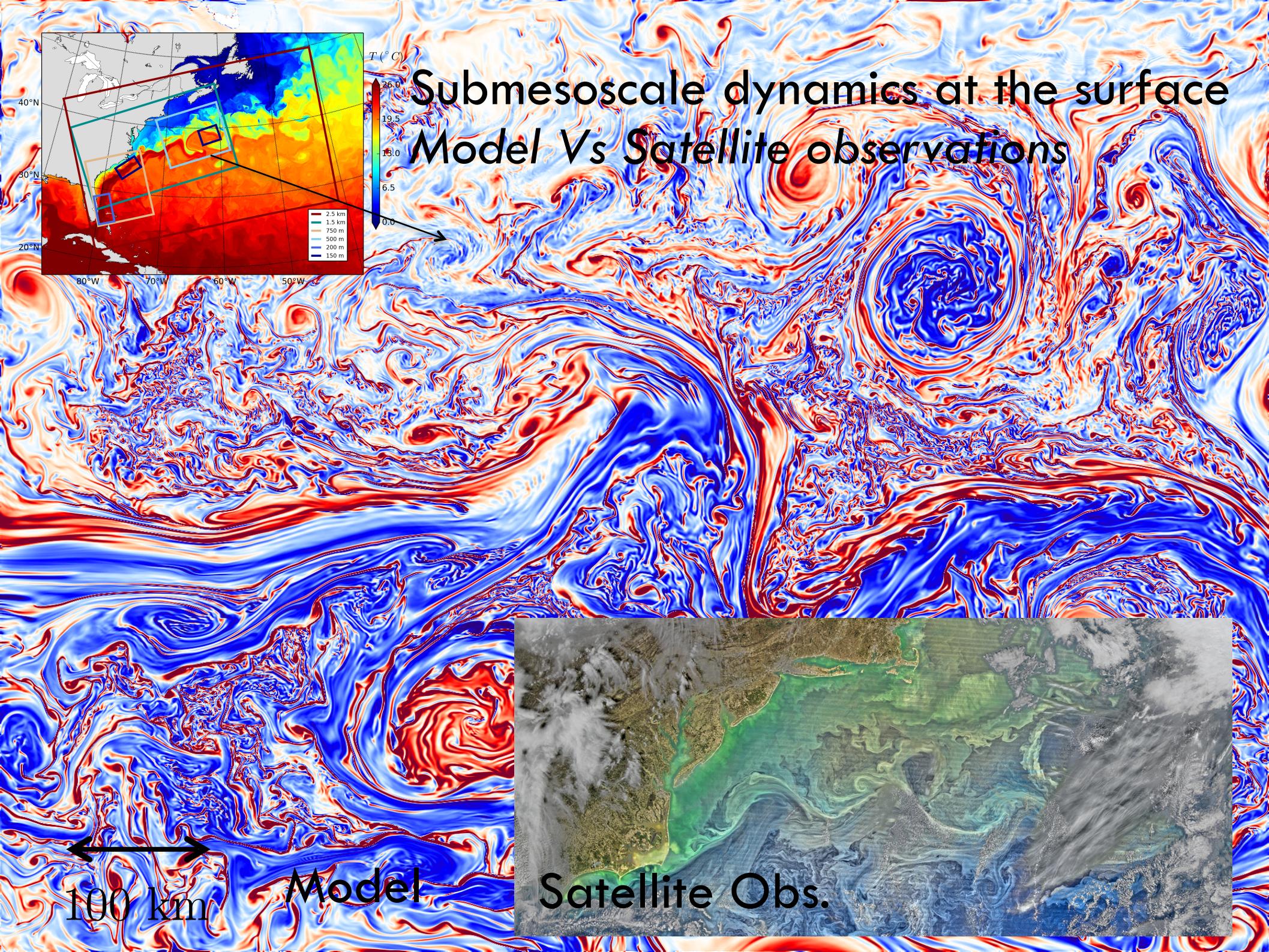


# Submesoscale dynamics at the surface

Model

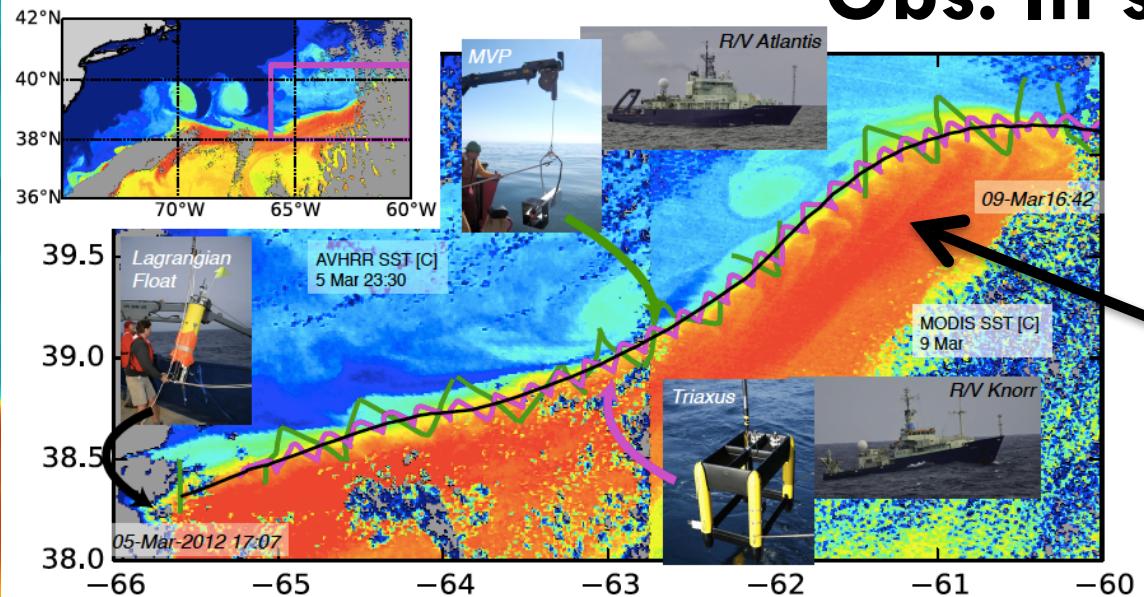
Surface relative vorticity

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$$



# Submesoscale dynamics at the surface Model Vs Satellite observations

## Obs. In situ



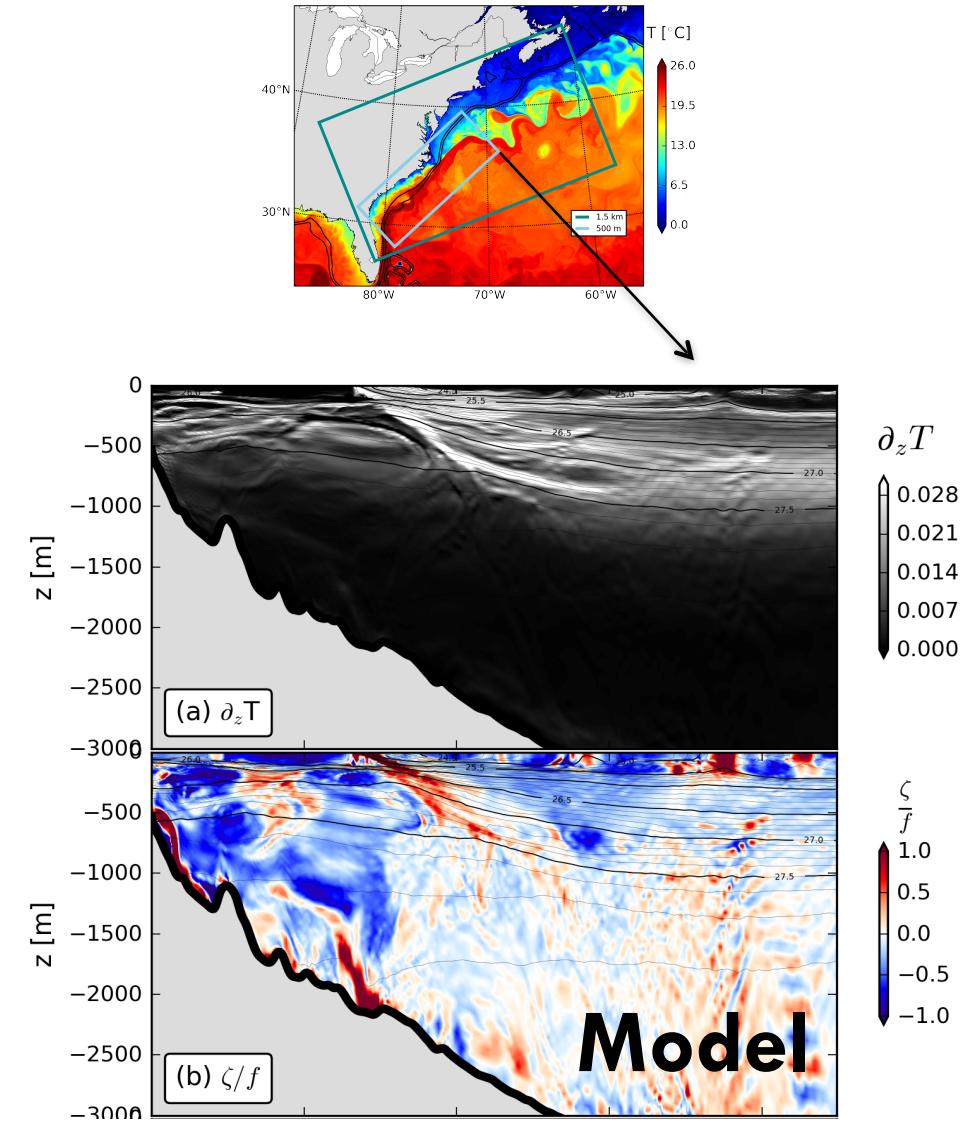
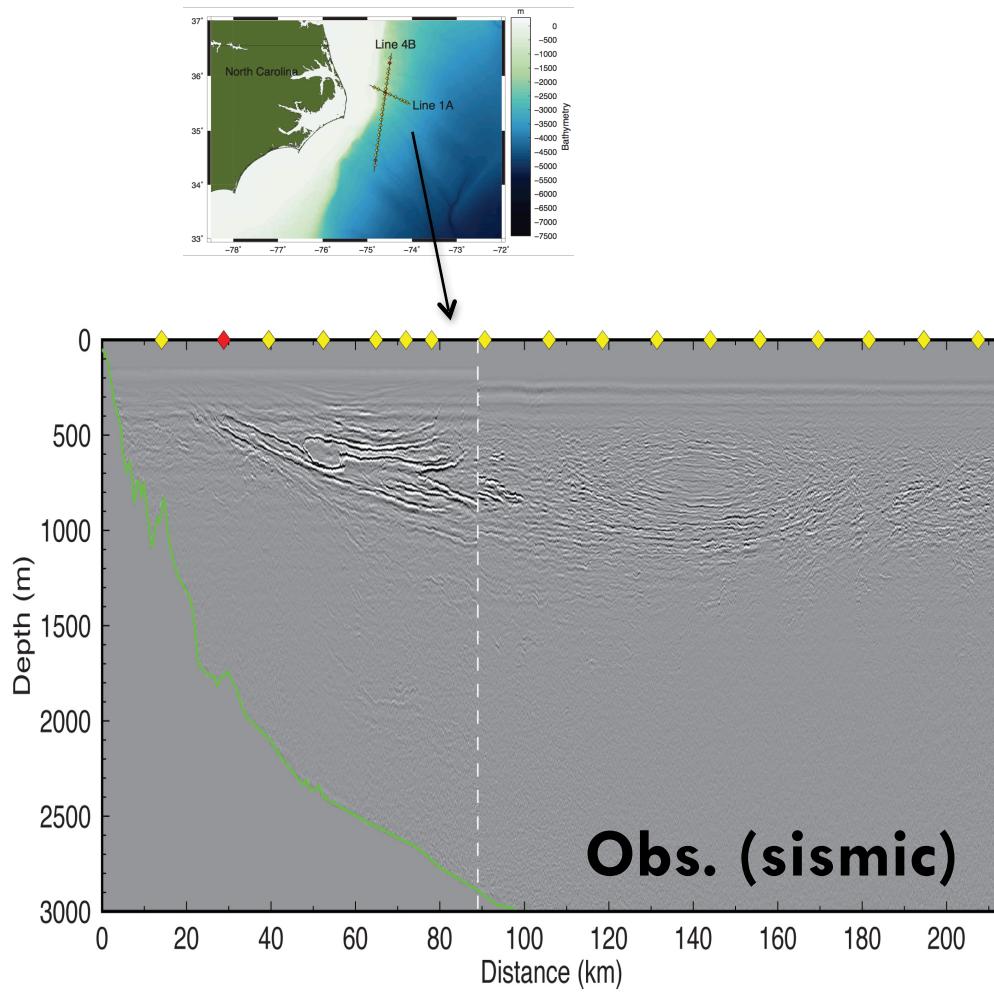
## LATMIX 2012 Campaign

(Scalable Lateral Mixing and Coherent Turbulence)

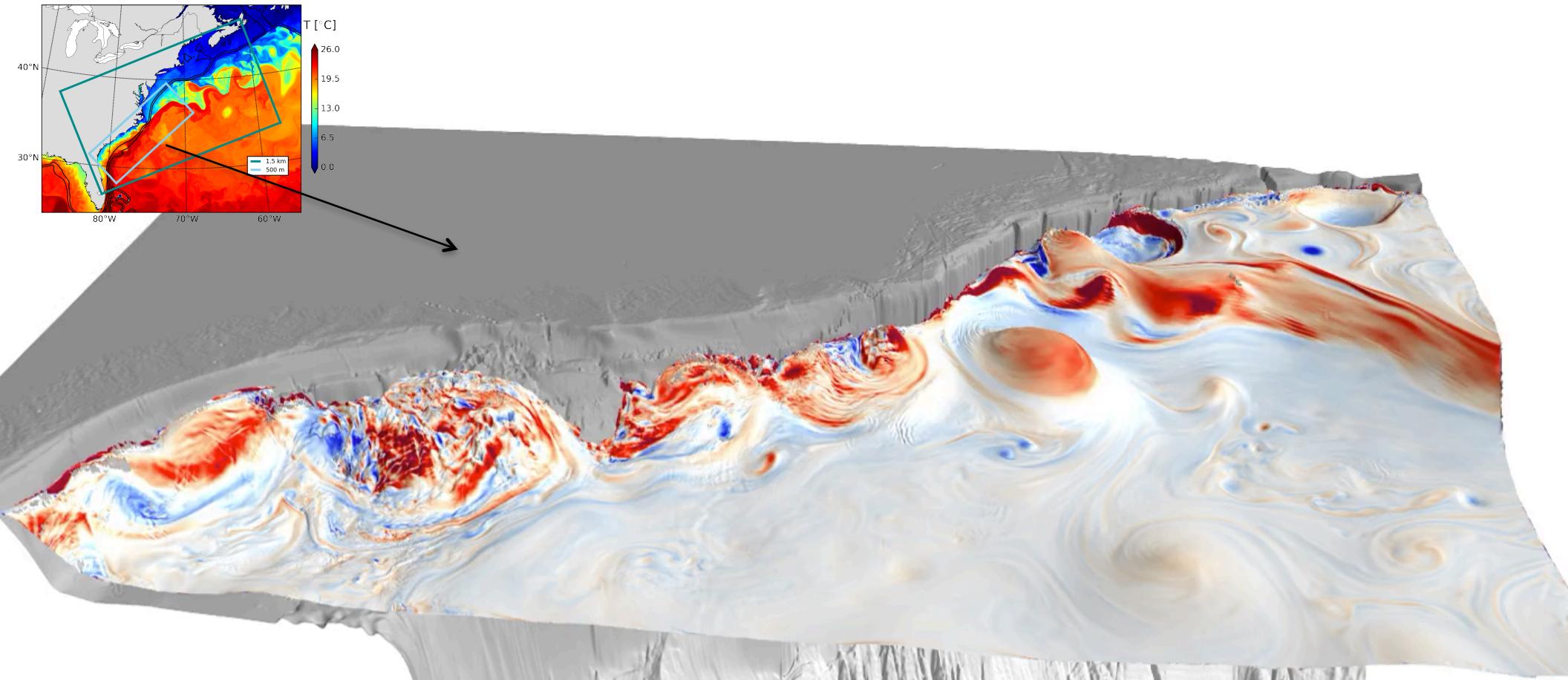
Model

# Submesoscale dynamics in the interior

- Generation of submesoscale coherent vortices:



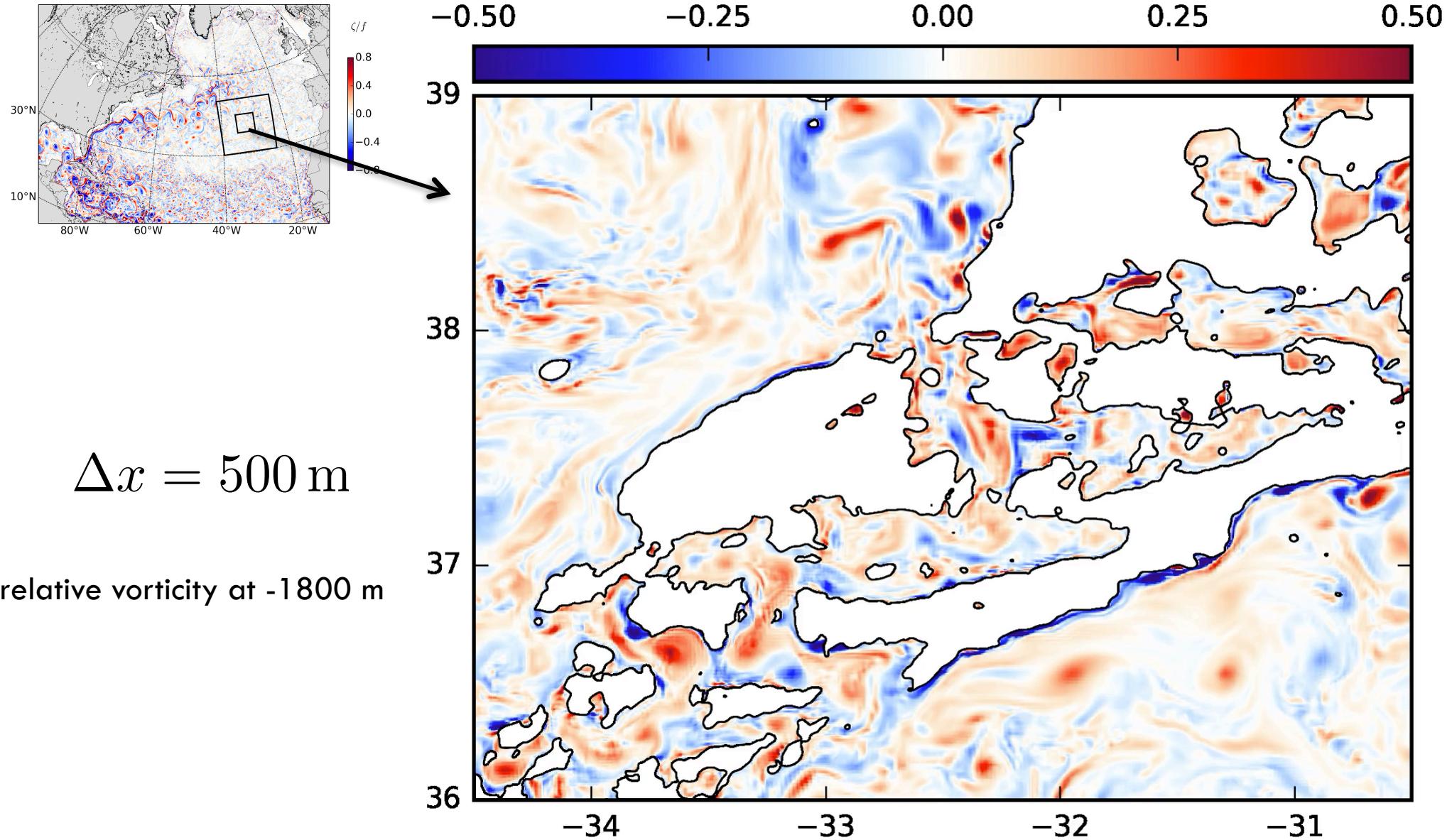
# Submesoscale dynamics in the interior



Relative vorticity  $(\pm f)$

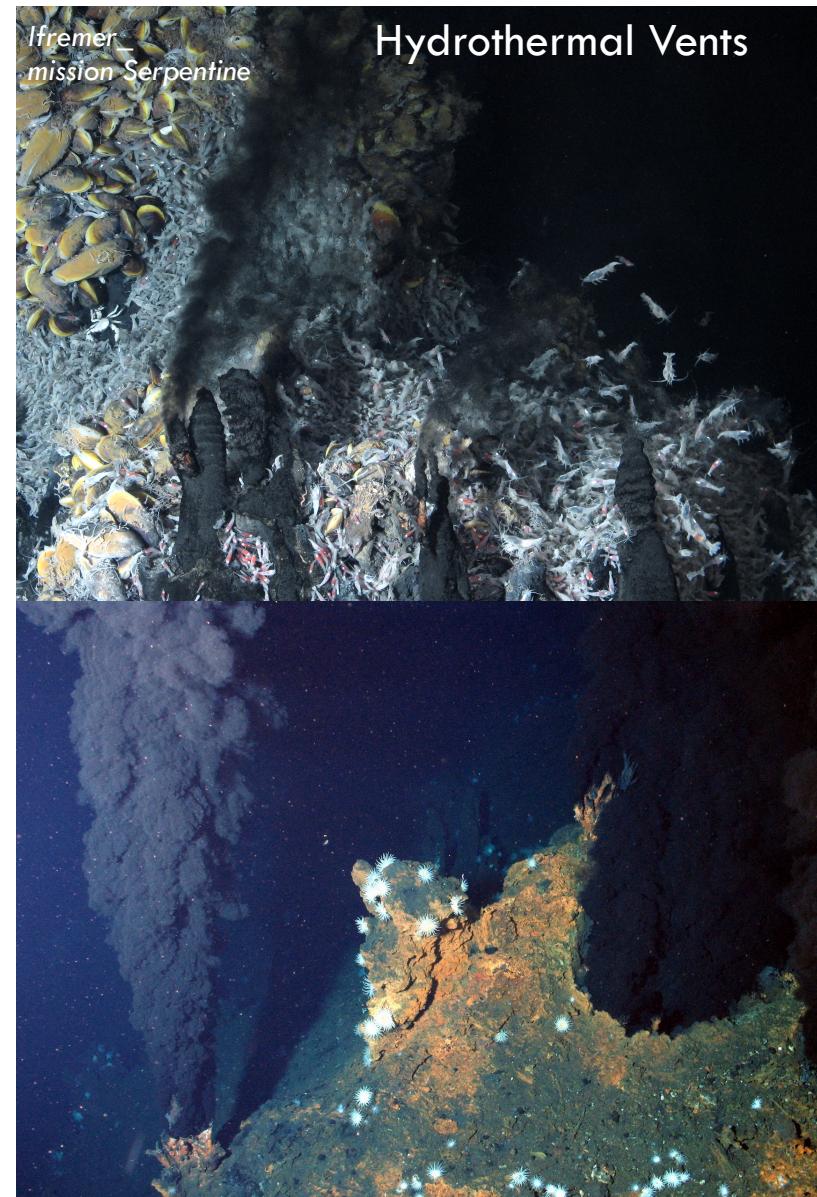
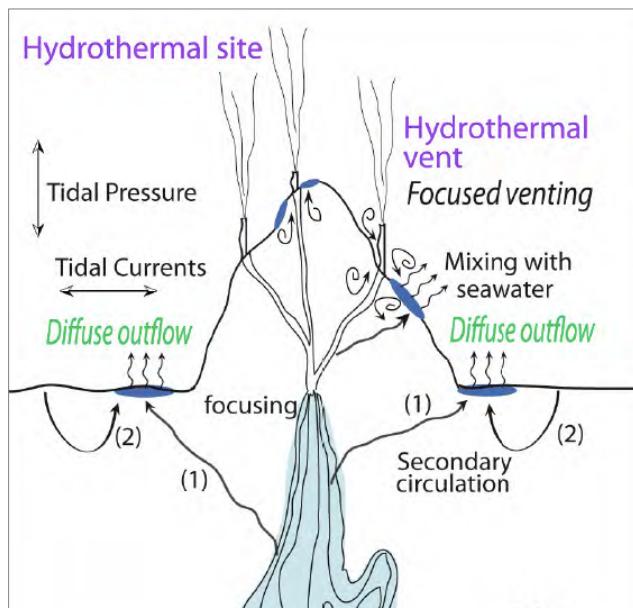
On the isopycnal  $\sigma = 27 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$

# Submesoscale dynamics in the Abyss!



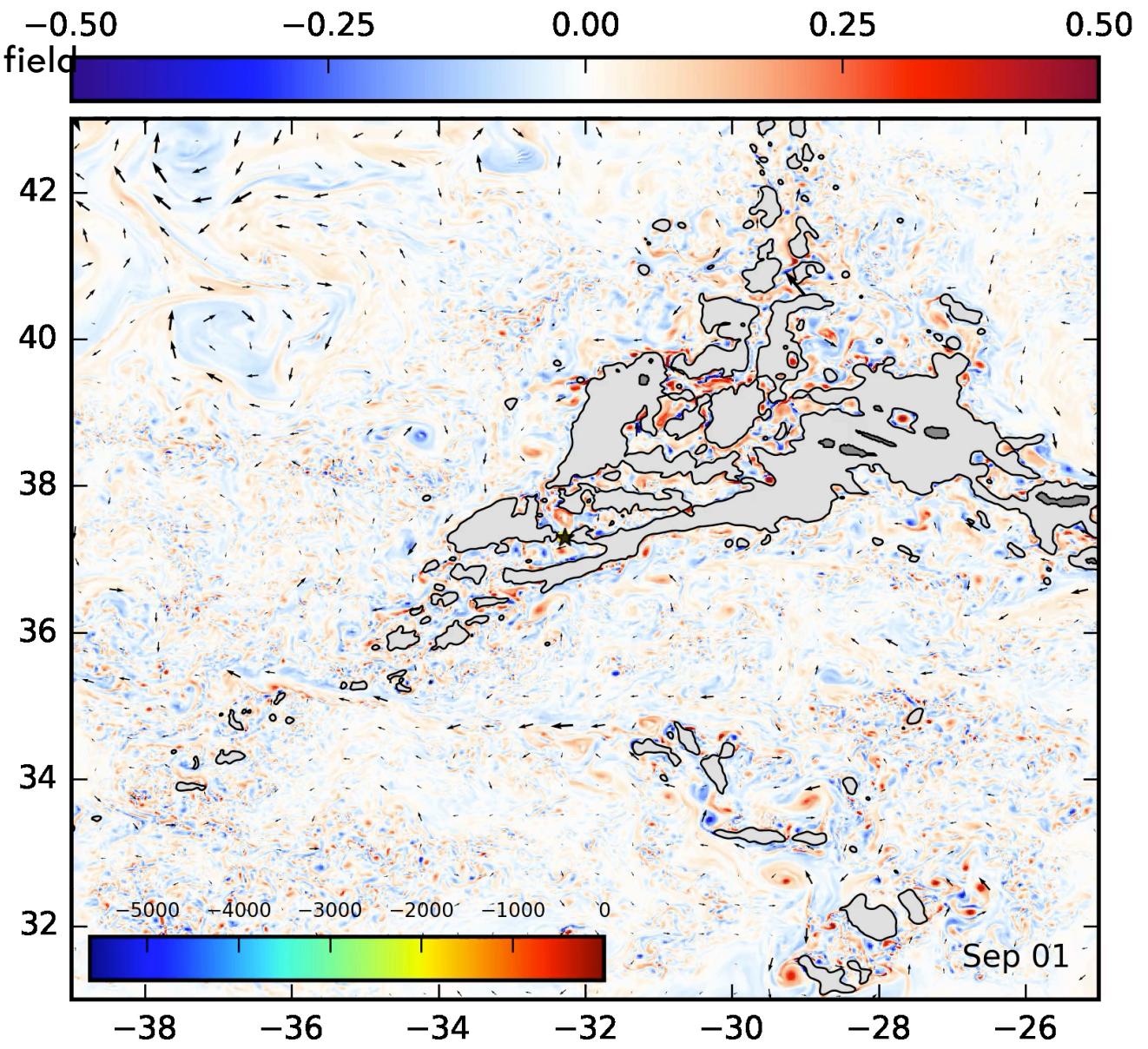
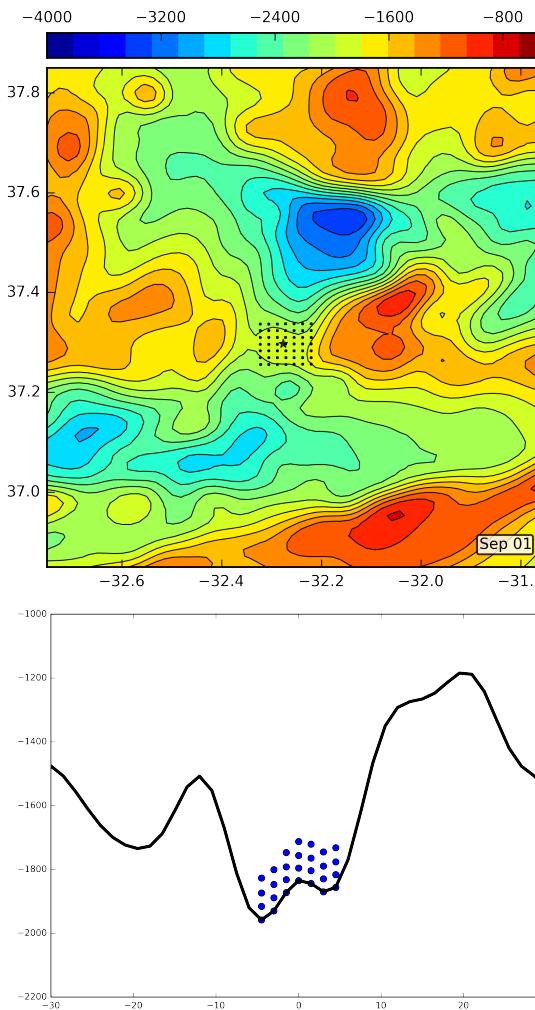
# And the abyssal turbulence impacts a lot of things:

- Dispersion of hydrothermal effluents
- Transport of biogeochemical tracers
- Connectivity between deep ecosystems



# Dispersion of larvae by abyssal turbulence

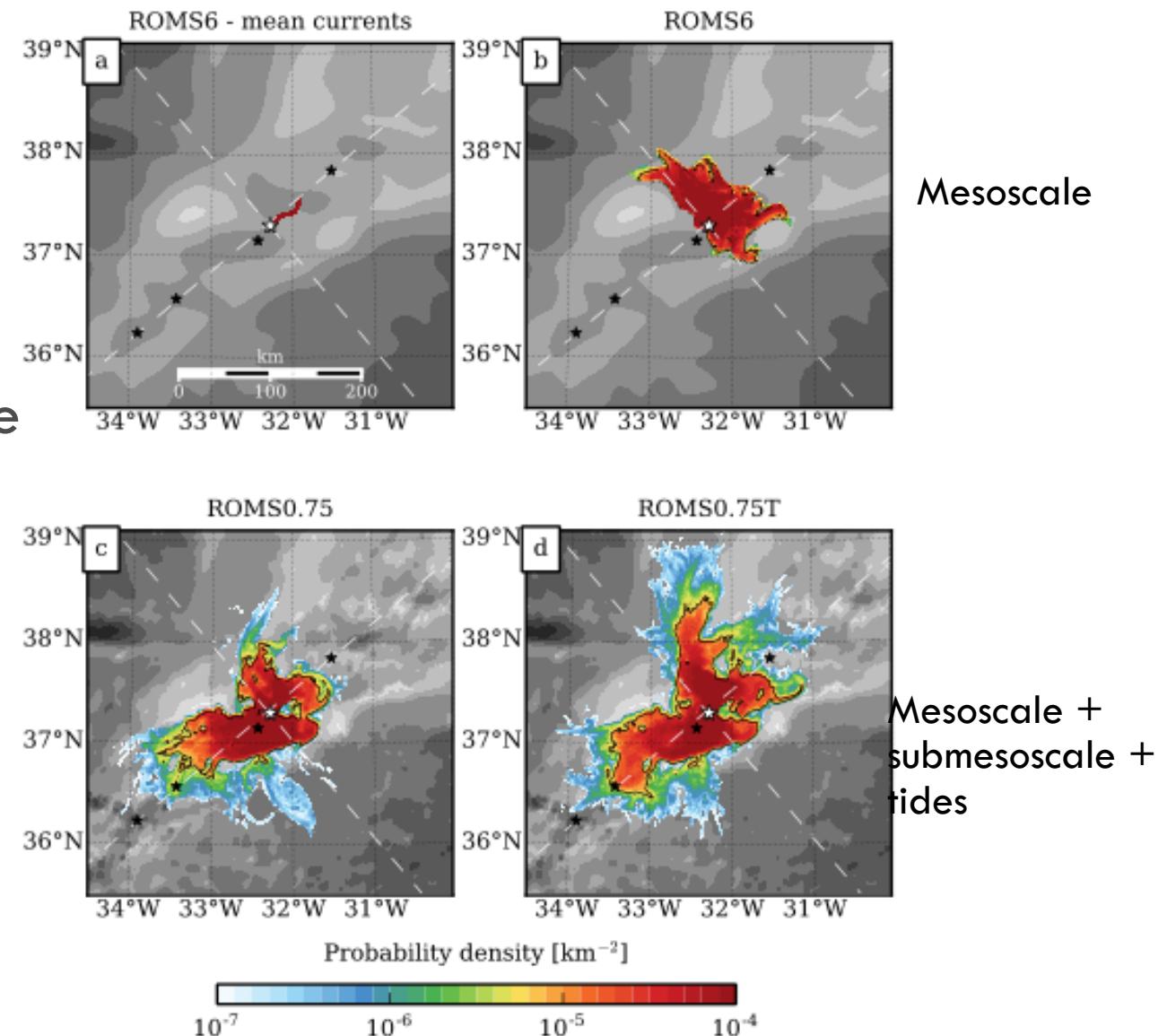
Continuous release of Lagrangian particles near the Lucky Strike vent field  
(1.5 km res)



# Dispersion of larvae by abyssal turbulence

Mean currents  
only

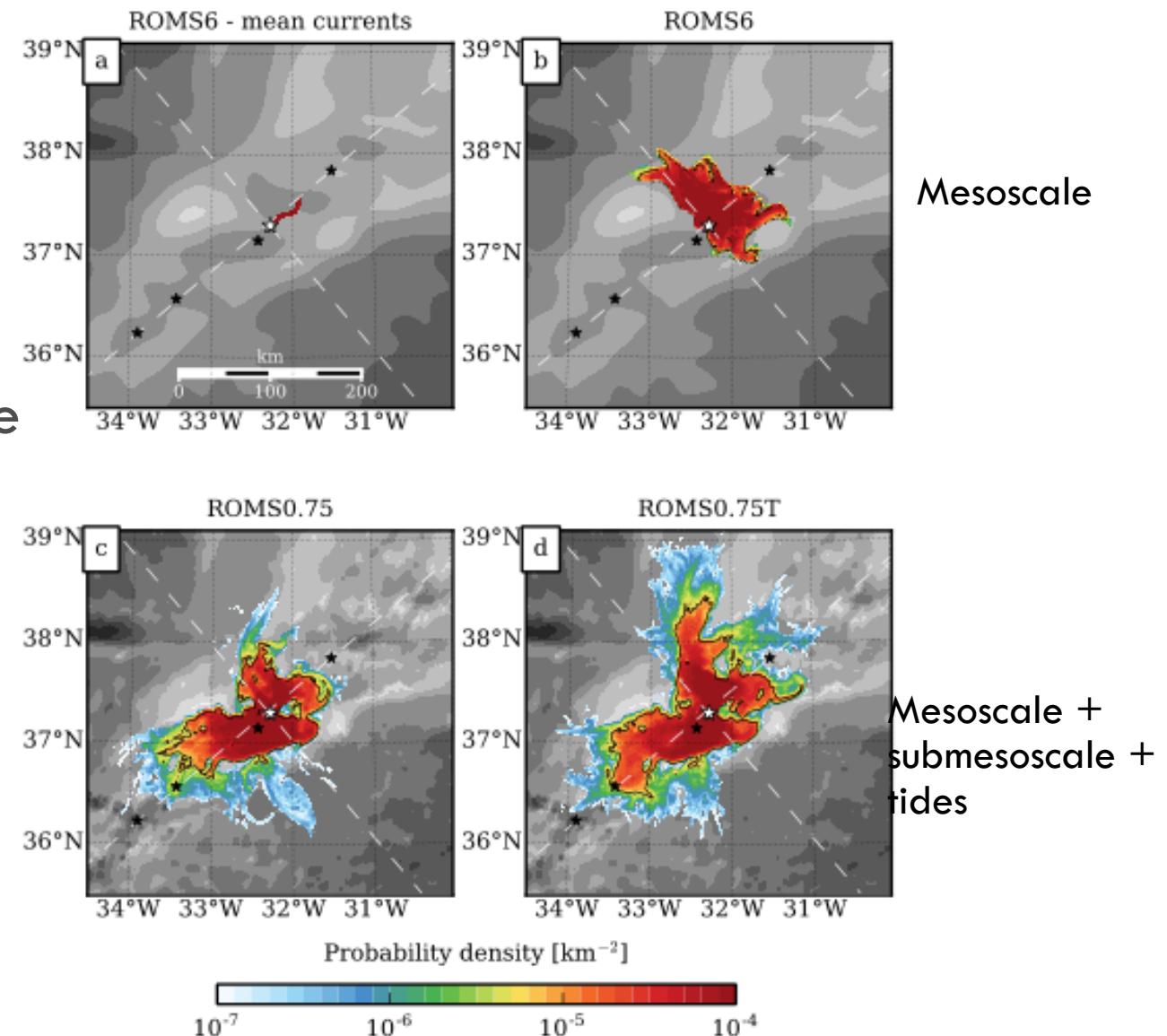
Larvae dispersion from the  
Lucky Strike vent after 30  
days.



# Dispersion of larvae by abyssal turbulence

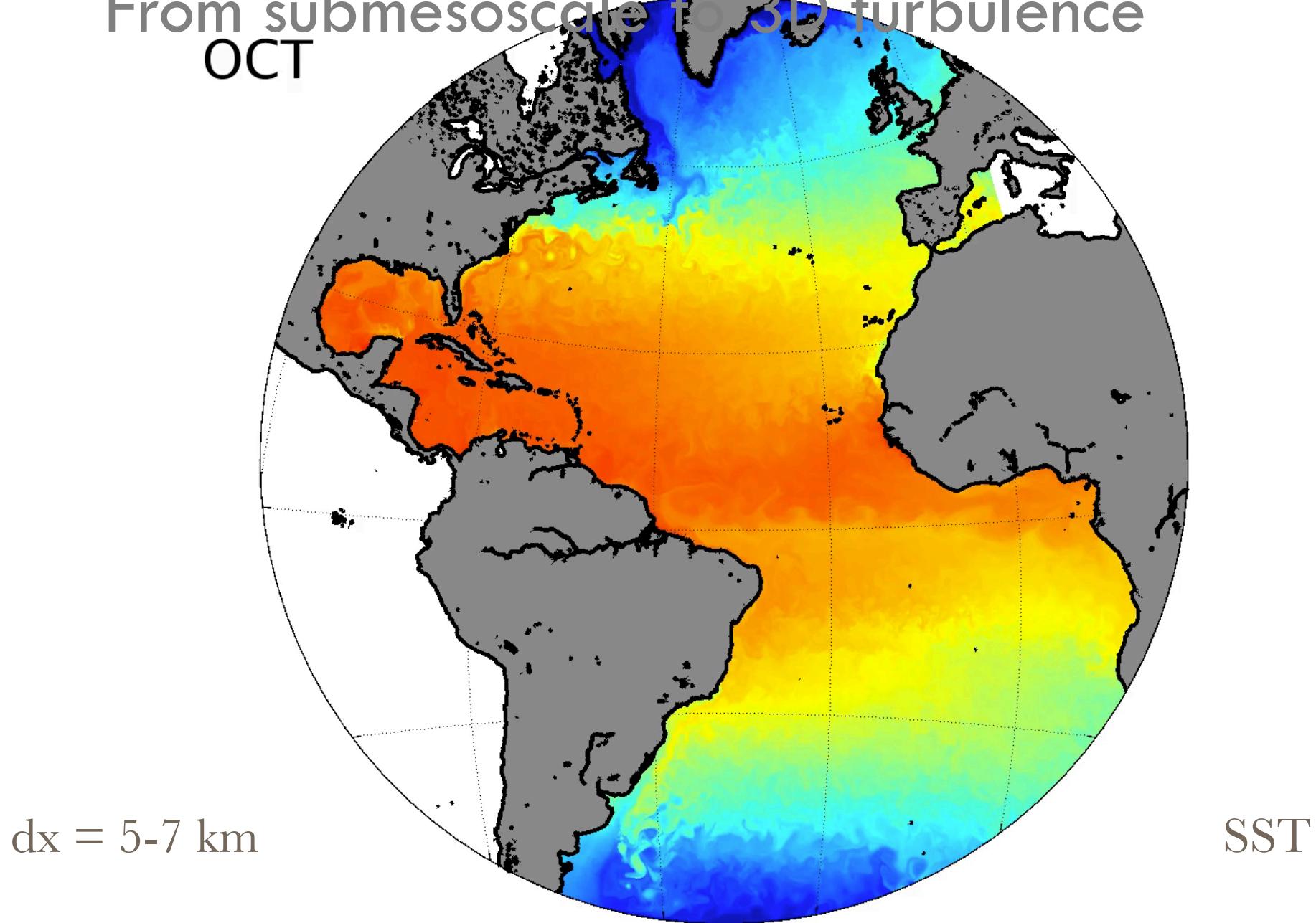
Mean currents  
only

Larvae dispersion from the  
Lucky Strike vent after 30  
days.



# From submesoscale to 3D turbulence

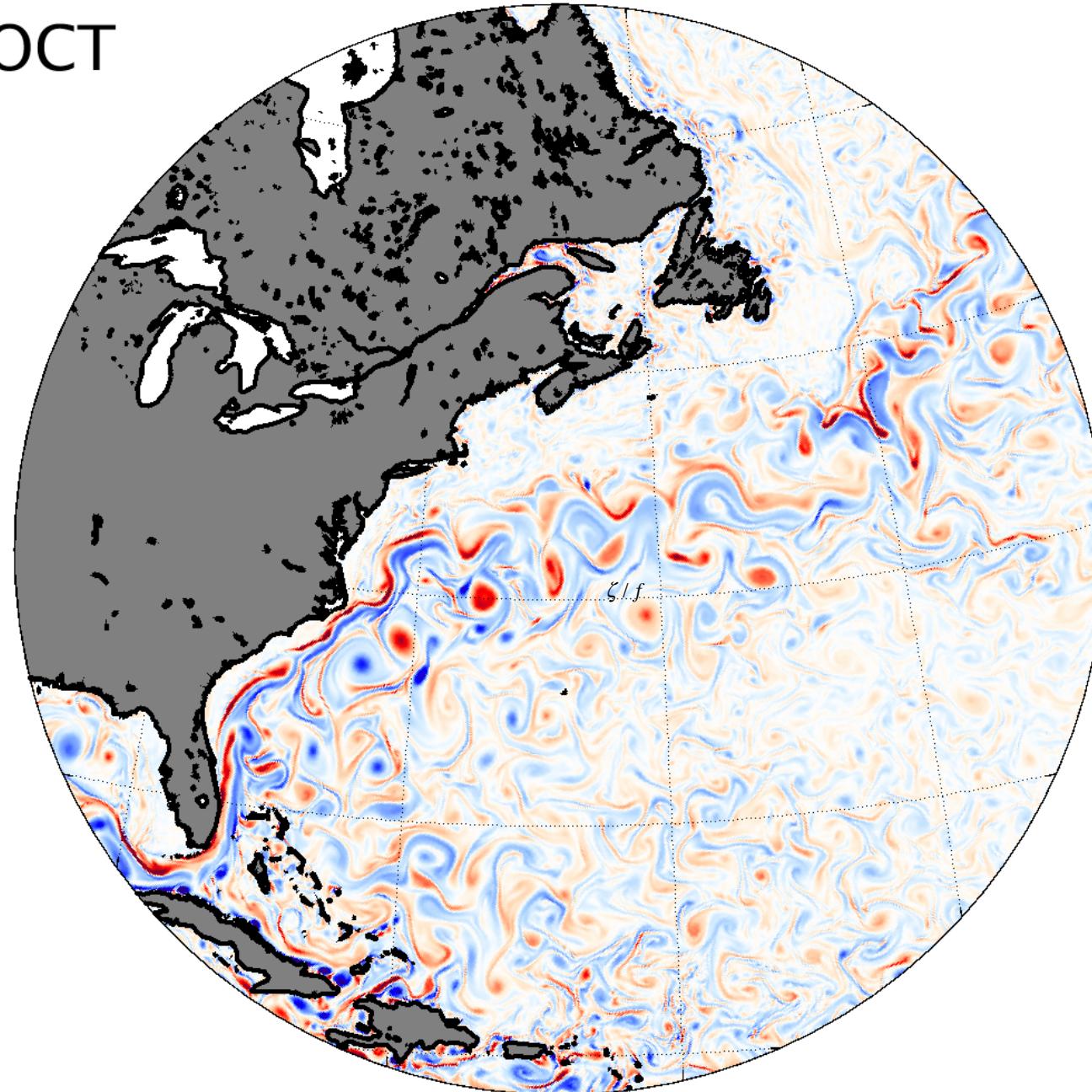
OCT



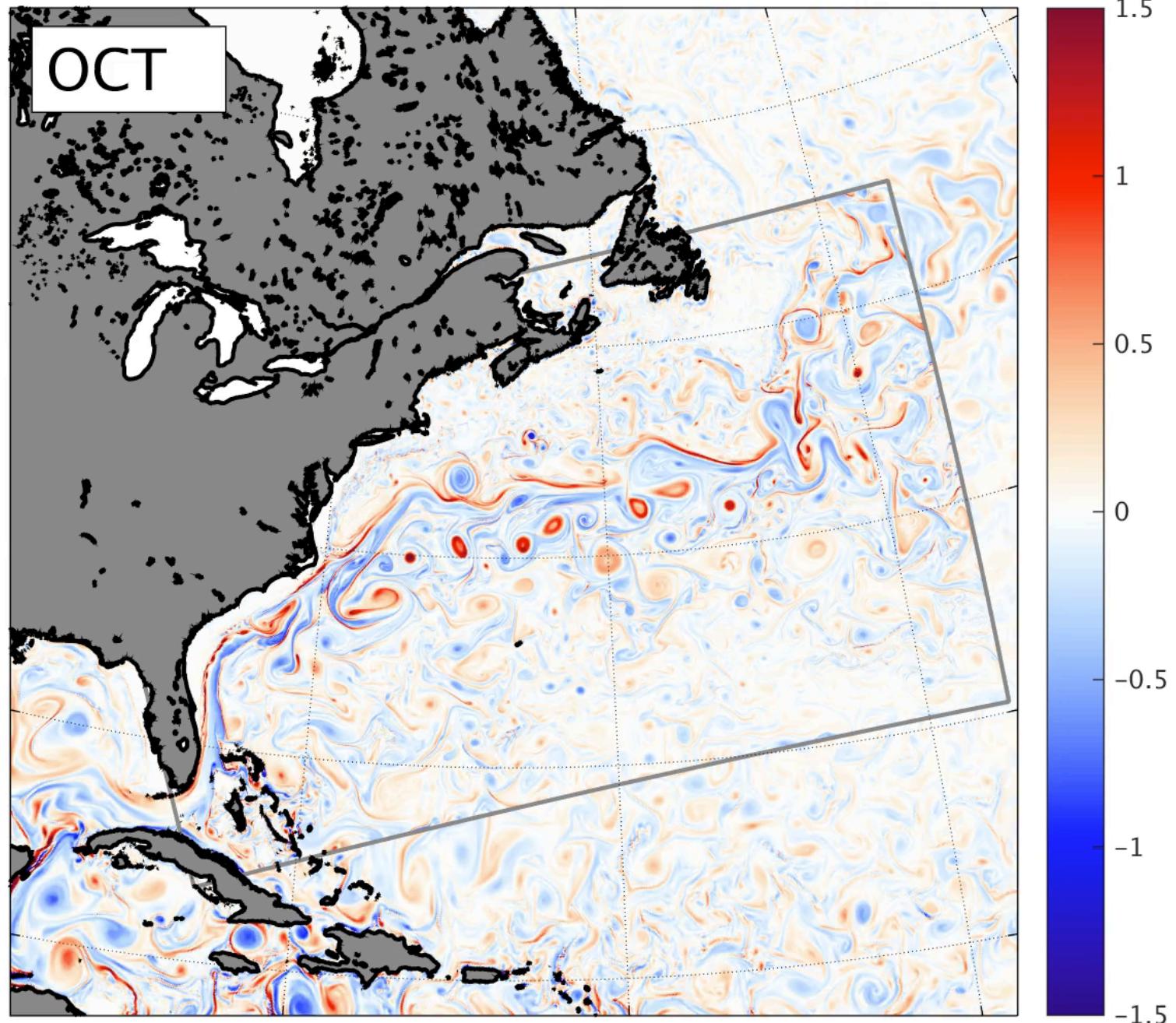
Simulations using ROMS: Regional is a relative concept

Animation from J. Molemaker

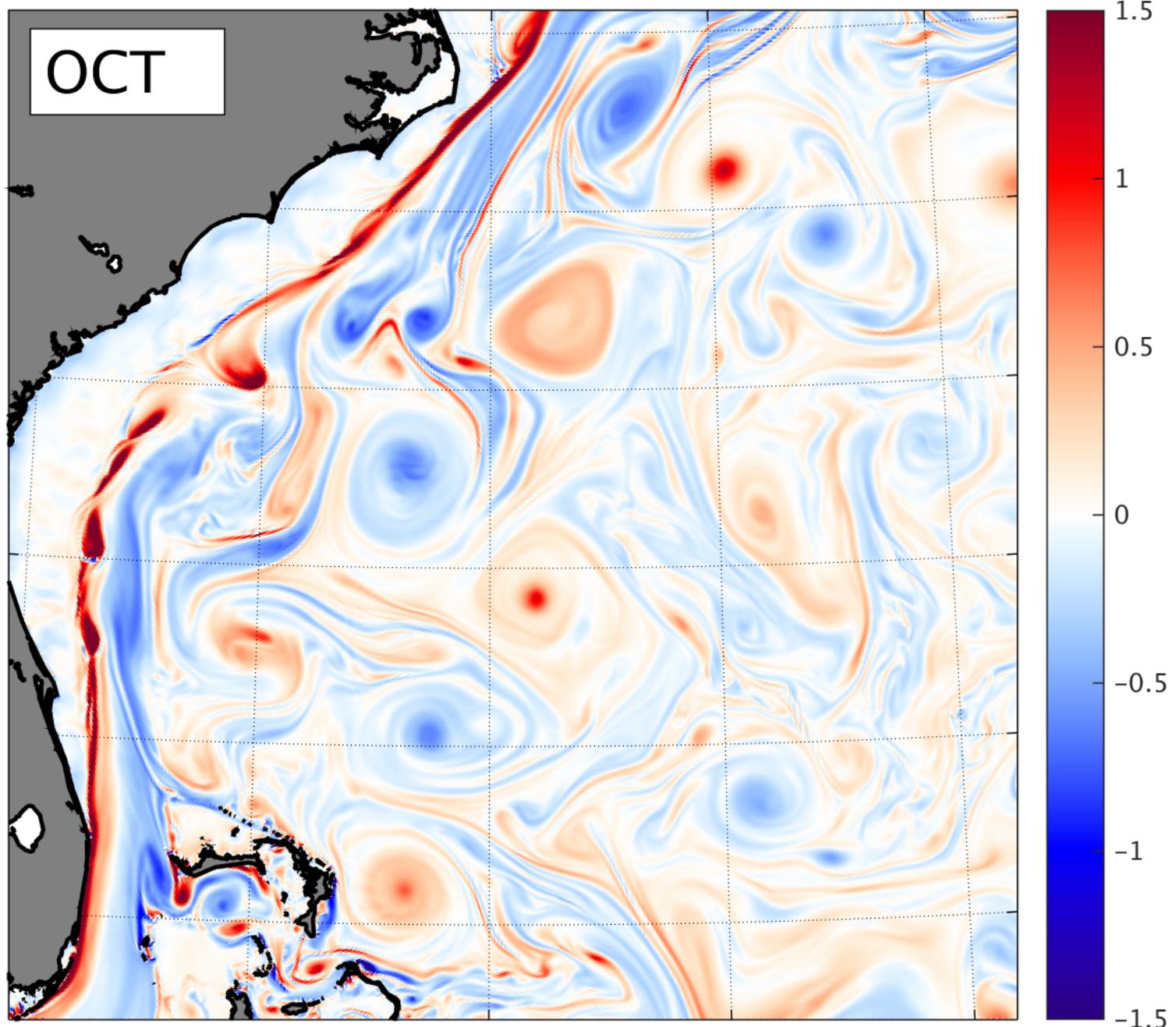
OCT

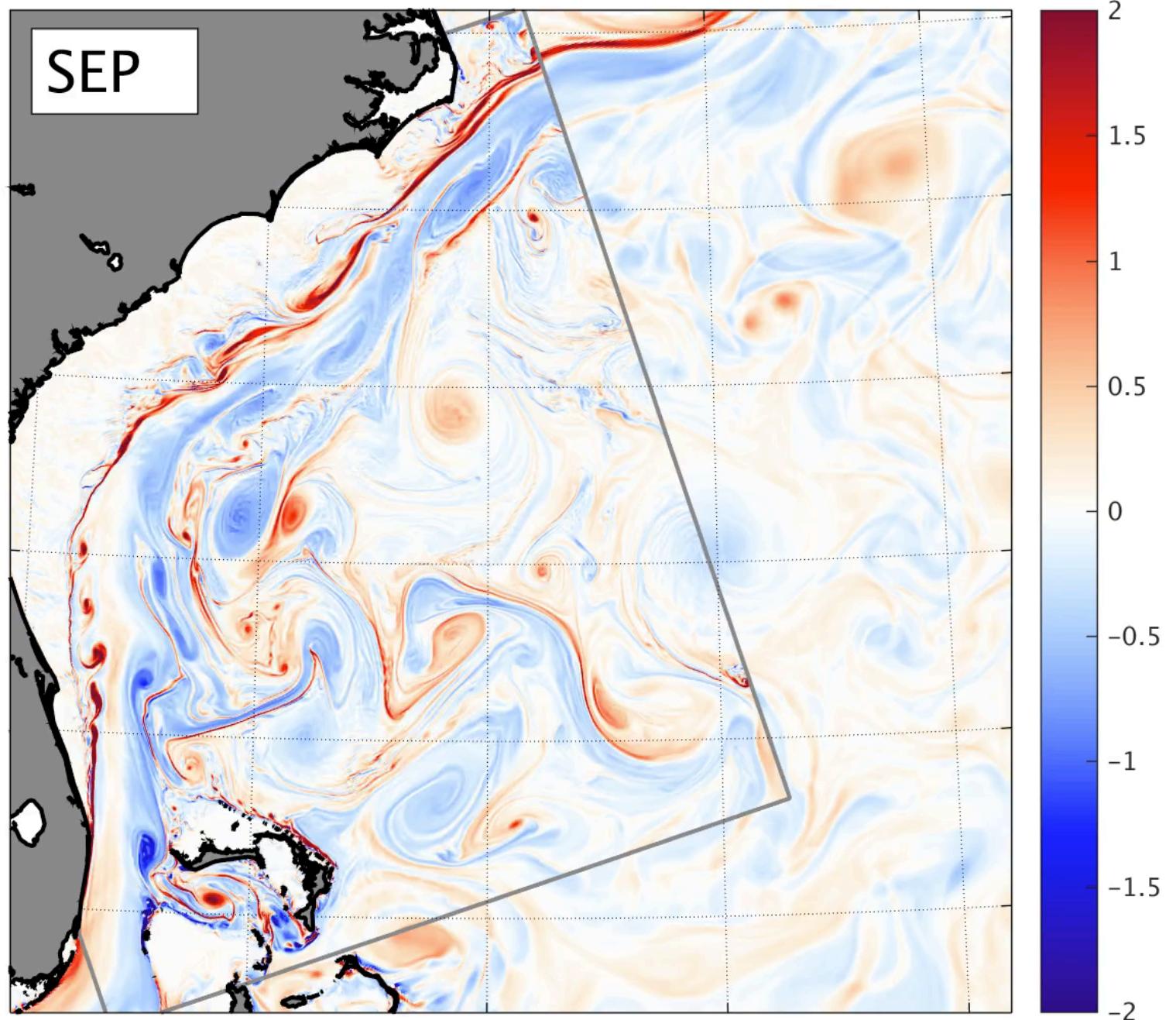


Normalized relative vorticity, or  $Ro = \zeta / f$

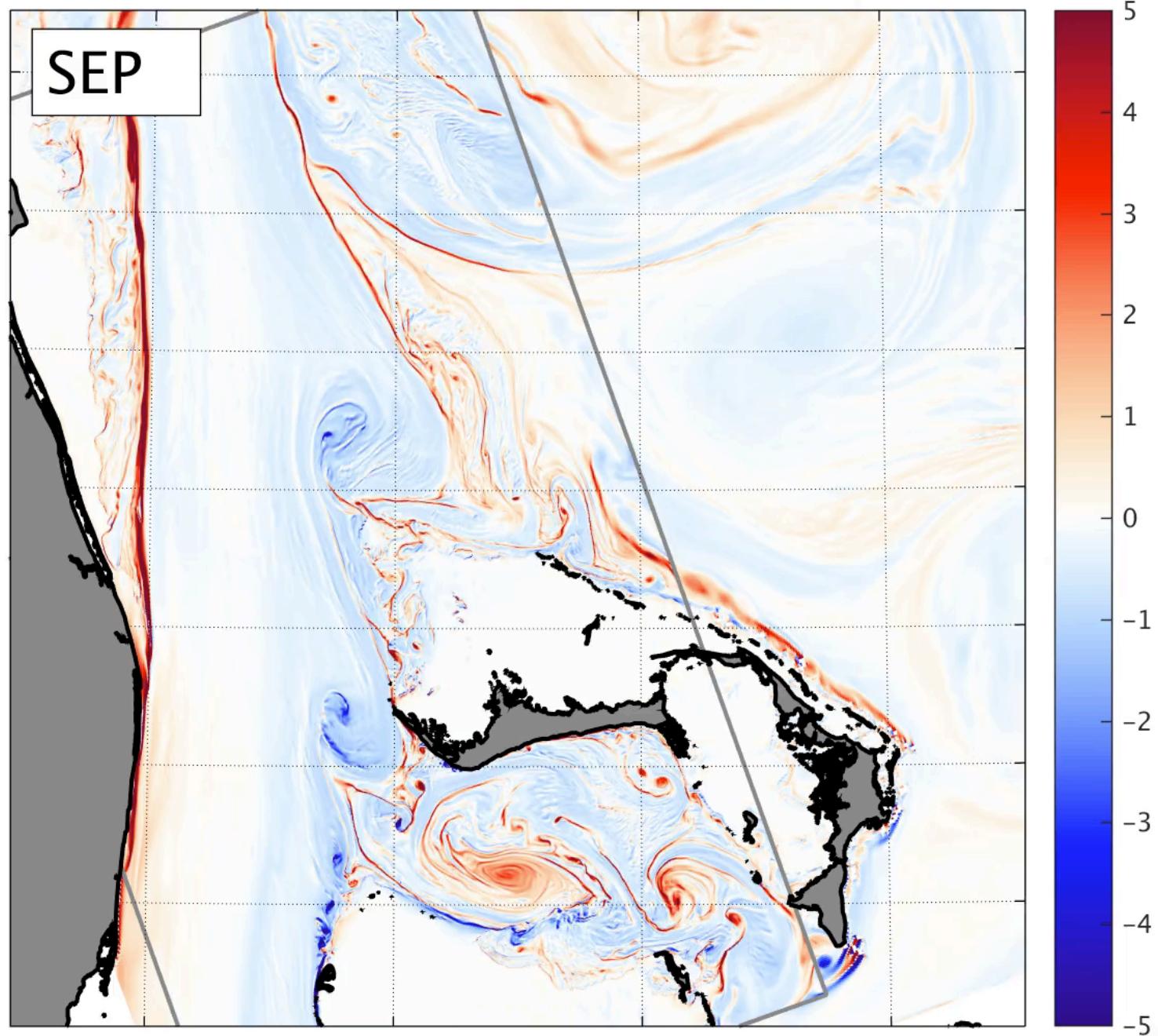
$\zeta / f$ 

Nested domain with open boundaries with  $dx = 2.5 \text{ km}$

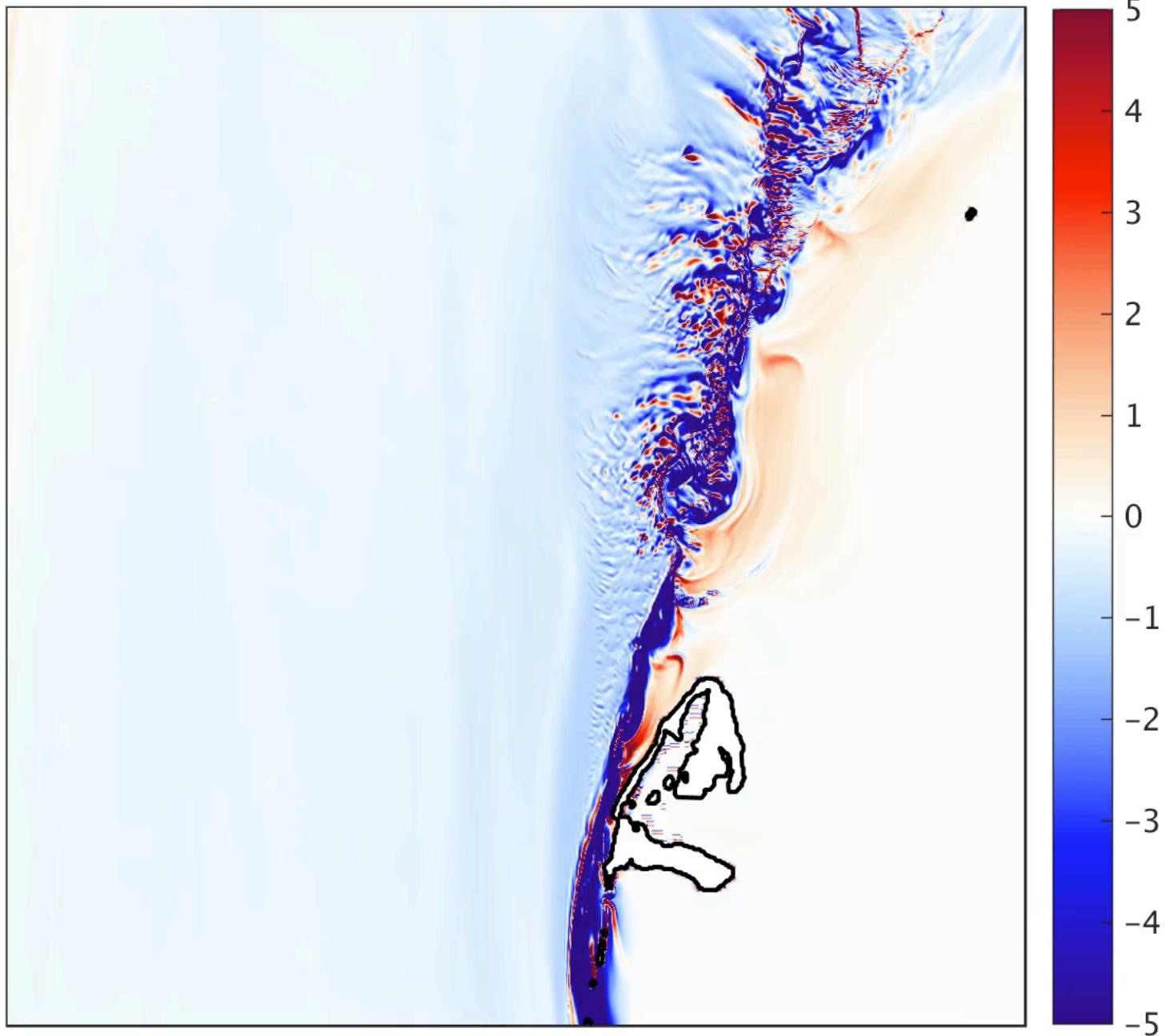
$\zeta / f$ 



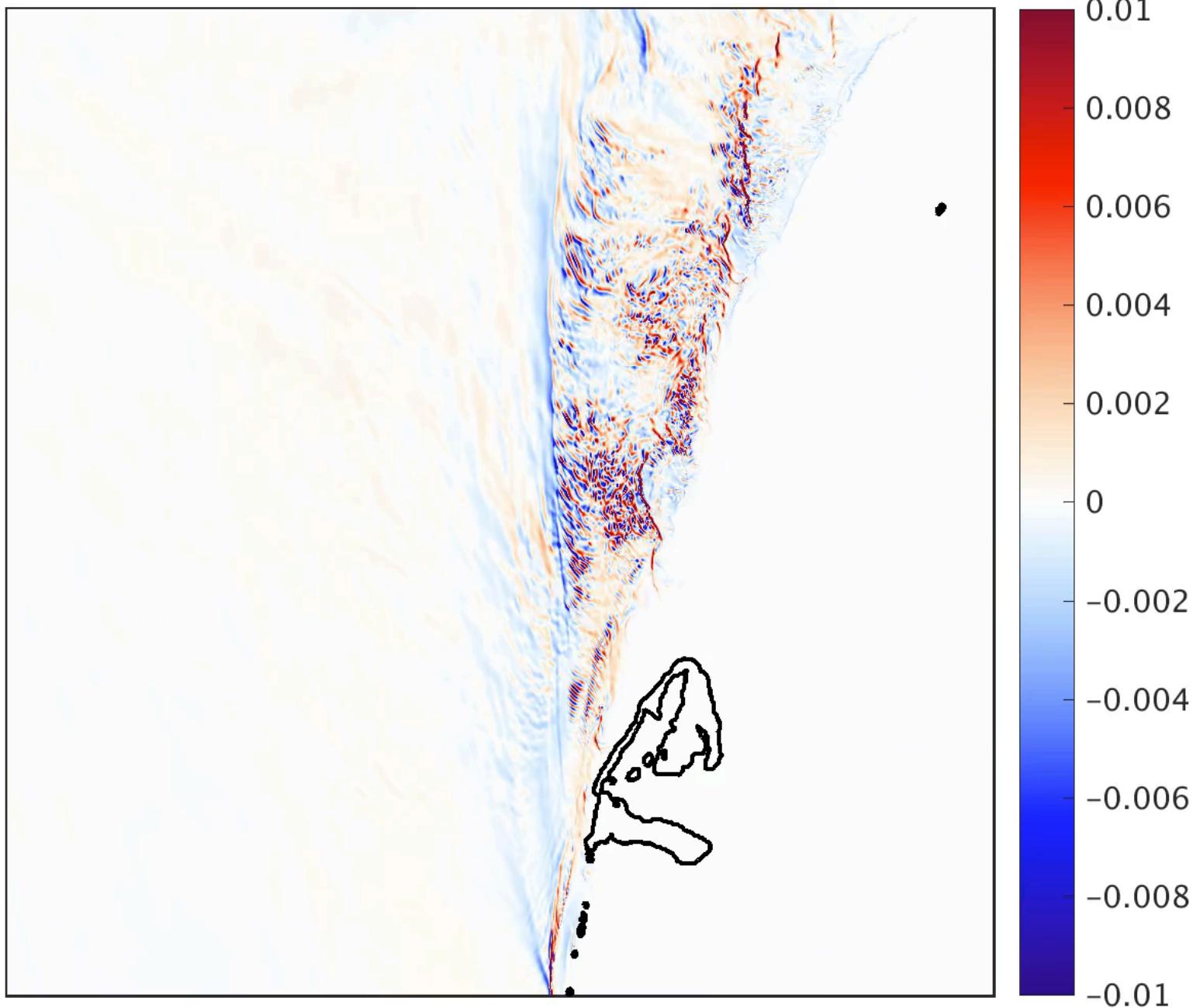
$\text{dx} = 700 \text{ m}$



$\text{dx} = 200 \text{ m}$

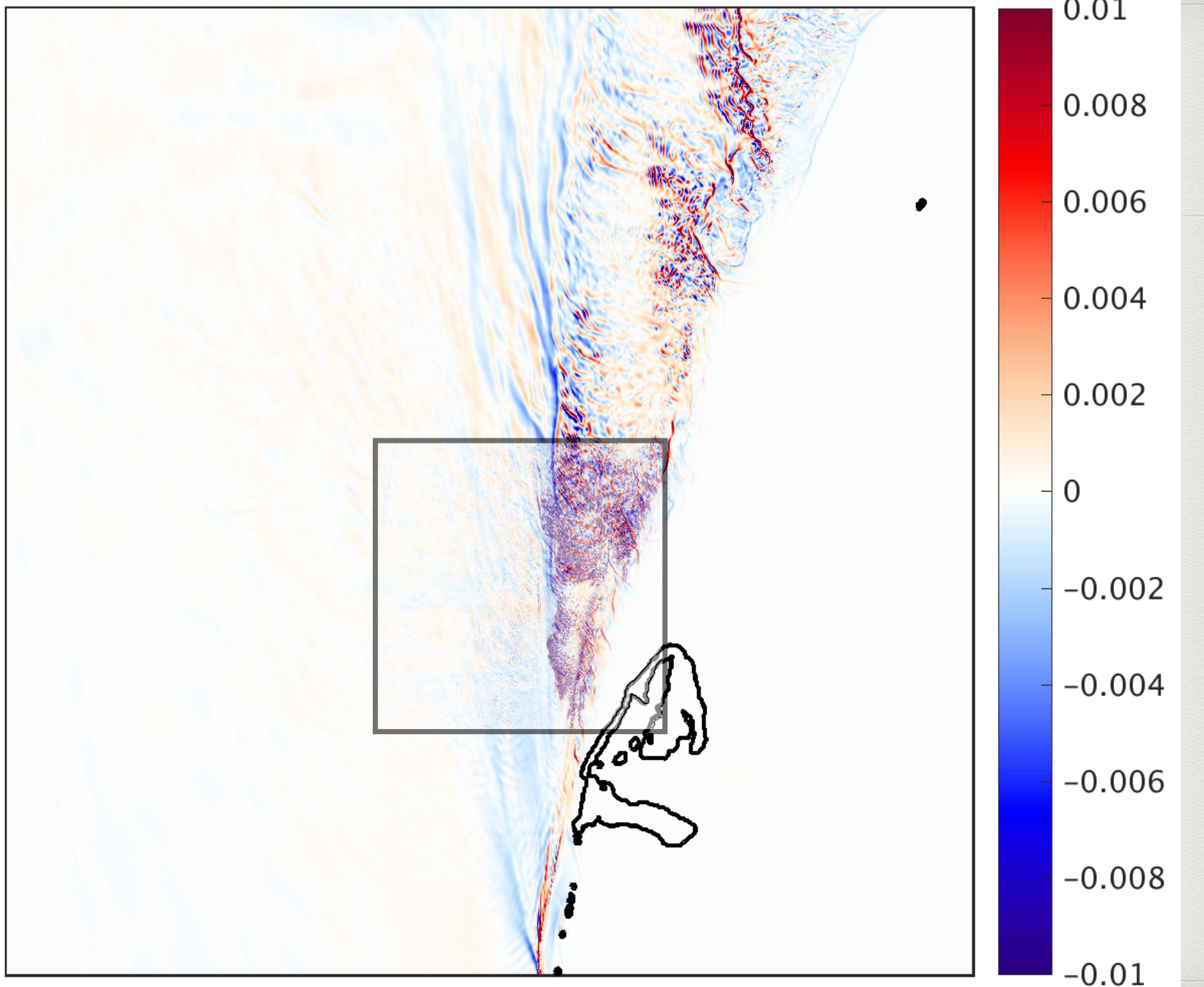


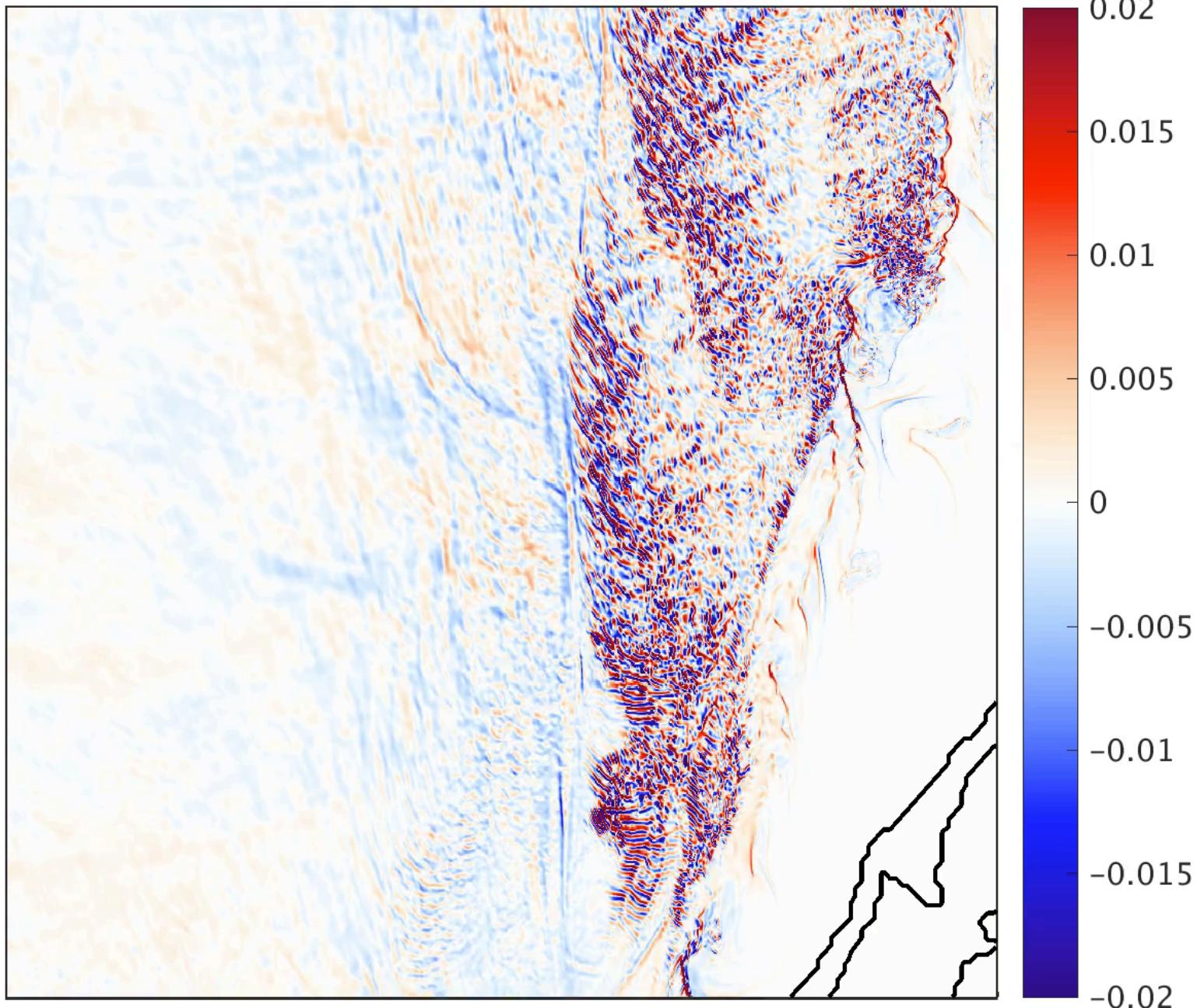
$\text{dx} = 50 \text{ m}$ , non-hydrostatic



$\text{dx} = 50 \text{ m}$ , non-hydrostatic

Surface layer vertical velocity



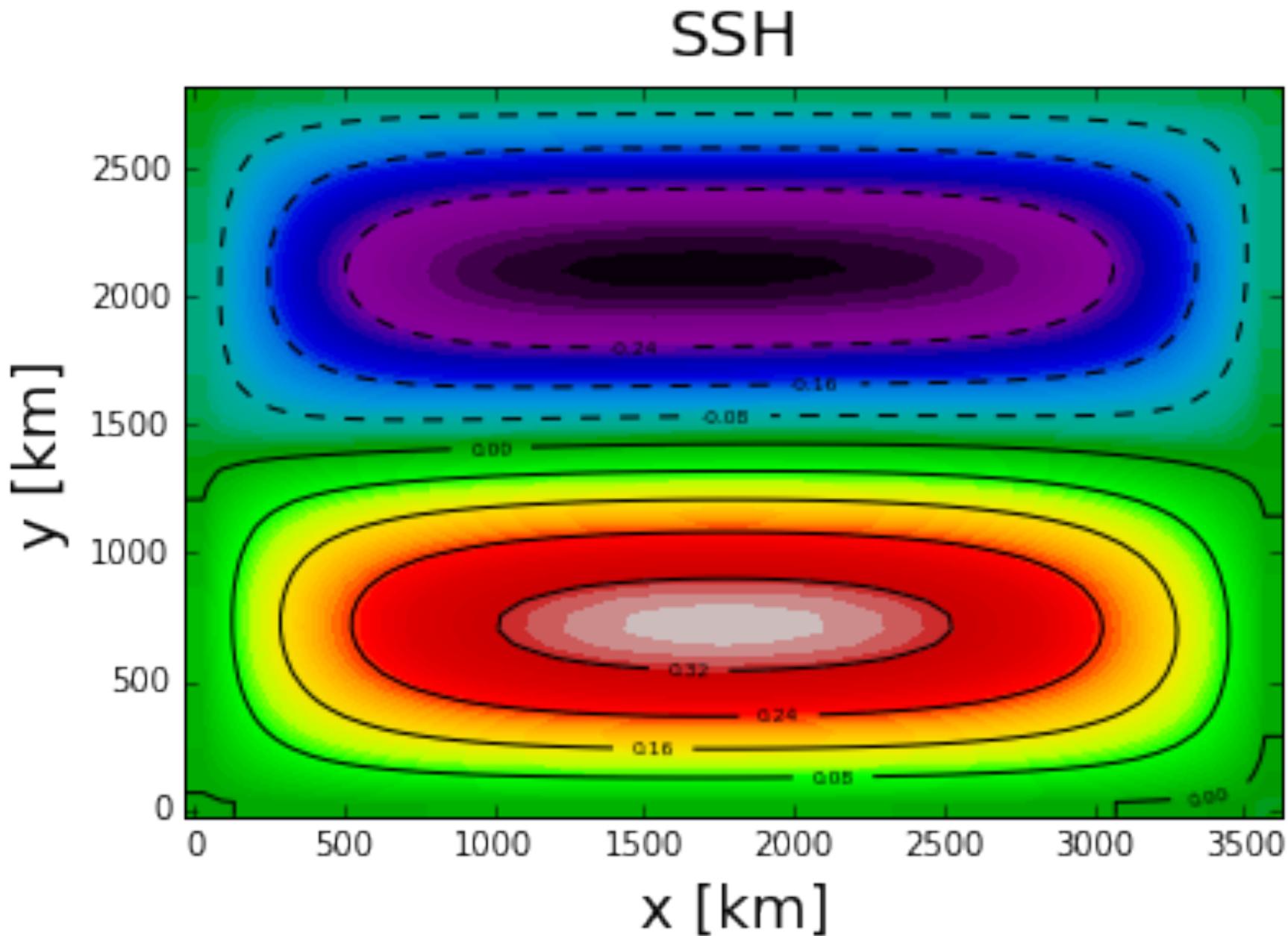


$dx = 15 \text{ m}$  (NH)



Visible light, (credit NASA)

## Activity 1 - Run an idealized ocean basin



## Activity 1 - Run an idealized ocean basin

---

- **Jobcomp** (compilation)
- **cppdefs.h** (Numerical/physical options)
- **param.h** (gris size/ parallelisation)
- **croco.in** (choice of variables, parameter values, etc.)

# 1) Preparing and compiling the model

For that use the jobcomp bash file  
`./jobcomp`

1. Set library path
2. Automatic selection of option accordingly the platform used
3. Use of makefile
  - C-preprocessing step : .F → .f using the CPP keys defintions (in cppdefs.h file, customization of the code)
  - Compilation step : .f → .o (object) using Fortran compiler
  - Linking step : link all the .o file and the librairy (Netcdf, MPI, AGRIF)  
--  
▪ --> produce the executable **roms**

# 1) Preparing and compiling the model

Edit the param.h and cppdefs.h file to set-up the model

param.h defines the size of the arrays in ROMS:

```
...
# elif defined REGIONAL
# if defined BENGUELA
    parameter (LLm0=23, MMm0=31, N=32) <--- Southern Benguela test Model
# else
    parameter (LLm0=??, MMm0=??, N=??)
# endif
...

```

```
graph LR; A[cppdefs.h] --> B[Basic options]; A --> C[More advanced options]
```

- Define CPP keys used by the C-preprocessor when compiling the model.
  - Reduce the code to its minimal size: fast compilation.
  - Avoid FORTRAN logical statements: efficient coding.

# 1) Preparing and compiling the model

View  
cppdef.h  
file



```
!-----  
!      BASIC OPTIONS  
!  
*/  
/*          Configuration Name */  
# define BENGUELA  
/*          Parallelization */  
# undef OPENMP  
# undef MPI  
/*          Embedding */  
# undef AGRIF  
/*          Open Boundary Conditions */  
# undef TIDES  
# define OBC_EAST  
# undef OBC_WEST  
# define OBC_NORTH  
# define OBC_SOUTH  
/*          Embedding conditions */  
# ifdef AGRIF  
# undef AGRIF_OBC_EAST  
# define AGRIF_OBC_WEST  
# define AGRIF_OBC_NORTH  
# define AGRIF_OBC_SOUTH  
# endif  
/*          Applications */  
# undef BIOLOGY  
# undef FLOATS  
# undef STATIONS  
# undef PASSIVE_TRACER  
# undef SEDIMENTS  
# undef BBL
```

```
!-----  
!      MORE ADVANCED OPTIONS  
!  
*/  
/*          Model dynamics */  
# define SOLVE3D  
# define UV_COR  
# define UV_ADV  
# ifdef TIDES  
# define SSH_TIDES  
# define UV_TIDES  
# define TIDERAMP  
# endif  
/*          Grid configuration */  
# define CURVGRID  
# define SPHERICAL  
# define MASKING  
/*          Input/Output & Diagnostics */  
# define AVERAGES  
# define AVERAGES_K  
# define DIAGNOSTICS_TS  
# define DIAGNOSTICS_UV  
/*          Equation of State */ ...  
/*          Surface Forcing */ ...  
/*          Lateral Forcing */ ...  
/*          Input/Output & Diagnostics */ ...  
/*          Bottom Forcing */ ...  
/*          Point Sources - Rivers */ ...  
/*          Lateral Mixing */ ...  
/*          Vertical Mixing */ ...  
/*          Open Boundary Conditions */ ...  
/*          Embedding conditions */ ...
```

# 2) Running the model

## The namelist roms.in

roms.in provides the run time parameters for ROMS:

```

title: Southern Benguela
time_stepping: NTIMES dt[sec] NDTFAST NINFO
        480    5400   60   1
S-coord: THETA_S, THETA_B, Hc (m)
        6.0d0  0.0d0  10.0d0
grid: filename
        ROMS_FILES/roms_grd.nc
forcing: filename
        ROMS_FILES/roms_frc.nc
bulk_forcing: filename
        ROMS_FILES/roms_blk.nc
climatology: filename
        ROMS_FILES/roms_clm.nc
boundary: filename
        ROMS_FILES/roms_bry.nc
initial: NRREC filename
        1
        ROMS_FILES/roms_ini.nc
restart: NRST, NRPFRST / filename
        480 -1
        ROMS_FILES/roms_RST.nc

```

**Warning ! These  
should be identical to  
the ones in  
romstools\_param.m**

```

history: LDEFHIS, NWRT, NRPFHIS / filename
        T 480 0
        ROMS_FILES/roms_his.nc
averages: NTSAVG, NAVG, NRPFAVG / filename
        1 48 0
        ROMS_FILES/roms_avg.nc
primary_history_fields: zeta UBAR VBAR U V wrtT(1:NT)
        T F F F F 10*T
auxiliary_history_fields: rho Omega W Akv Akt Aks HBL Bostr
        F F F F F F F F
primary_averages: zeta UBAR VBAR U V wrtT(1:NT)
        T T T T T 10*T
auxiliary_averages: rho Omega W Akv Akt Aks HBL Bostr
        F T T F T F T T
rho0:
        1025.d0
lateral_visc: VISC2, VISC4 [m^2/sec for all]
        0. 0.
tracer_diff2: TNU2(1:NT) [m^2/sec for all]
        10*0.d0
bottom_drag: RDRG [m/s], RDRG2, Zob [m], Cdb_min, Cdb_max
        0.0d-04 0.d-3 1.d-2 1.d-4 1.d-1
gamma2:
        1.d0
sponge: X_SPONGE [m], V_SPONGE [m^2/sec]
        100.e3     800.
nudg_cof: TauT_in, TauT_out, TauM_in, TauM_out [days for all]
        1. 360. 10. 360.

```

# Activity 1 - Run an idealized ocean basin

---

- **param.h**

```
parameter (LLm0=60, MMm0=50, N=10)
```

- **cppdefs.h**

```
# define UV_COR  
# define UV_VIS2  
# define TS_DIF2
```

```
# define ANA_GRID  
# define ANA_INITIAL
```

- **ana\_grid.F**

```
f0=1.E-4  
beta=0.
```

- **croco.in**

```
bottom_drag: RDRG(m/s), RDRG2, Zob [m], Cdb_min, Cdb_max  
            3.e-4          0.      0.      0.      0.  
gamma2: 1.  
lin_EOS_cff: R0 [kg/m3], T0 [Celsius], S0 [PSU], TCOEF [1/Celsius], SCOEF [1/PSU]  
           30.          0.          0.        0.28        0.  
lateral_visc: VIS2 [m^2/sec ]  
              1000.    0.  
tracer_diff2: TNU2 [m^2/sec]  
              1000.    0.
```

# Homework

---

- For next time:
  - Read <https://www.jgula.fr/ModNum/Stommel48.pdf>
  - Read <https://www.jgula.fr/ModNum/Munk50.pdf>
  -