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Physical Forcings of Eastern Pacific OMZ

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The Eastern Pacific (EP) hosts one of the most productive eastern boundary upwelling systems (EBUS) of the world oceans, encompassing an extended Oxygen Minimum Zone (OMZ). EBUS is characterized by complex dynamical processes spanning a wide range of spatio-temporal variability due to the strong coupling between the ocean and atmosphere. In particular, the EP OMZ is strongly modulated by the remote variability exerted by the equatorial dynamic (i.e., circulation, El Niño), local variability exerted by coastal upwelling driven by the divergence in Ekman transport and by high-frequency variability exerted by mesoscale activity. We provide here a brief synthesis of current research related to dynamical processes, both physical and biogeochemical, involved in the EP OMZ.

Position

Affiliation

Email Address

Are you a SFB 754 / Future Ocean member?

Primary author(s): Dr MONTES, Ivonne (Instituto Geofísico del Perú, Lima, Perú.)

Co-author(s) : Dr DEWITTE, Boris (LEGOS-CNRS/IRD/UPS/CNES, Toulouse, France); SUDRE, Joel (LE-GOS/CNRS); Dr PAULMIER, Aurélien (LEGOS-CNRS/IRD/UPS/CNES, Toulouse, France.); HERNANDEZ-AYON, Martin; GARCON, Veronique

Presenter(s): Dr MONTES, Ivonne (Instituto Geofísico del Perú, Lima, Perú.)

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