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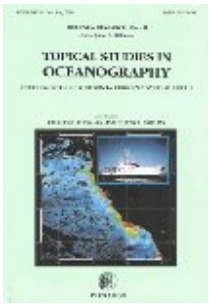
Studies of the California Current System: Part II, Guest Edited by Francisco P. Chavez and Curtis A. Collins



Studies of the California Current System: present, past and future

Substantial progress has been made over the last few decades in understanding the important physical, chemical and biological processes of the California Current System (CCS). This second volume of Studies of the CCS documents some of this progress. The physical studies focus heavily on the alongshore currents of the CCS.

While, as these contributions attest, substantial progress in CCS science has taken place, many questions, some raised over 75 years ago, remain incompletely answered. Today we seek to explain many of these same phenomena. Of particular interest are decadal scale variations of pelagic fisheries, like the California sardine, that are coherent with similar fisheries around the Pacific Rim (Kawasaki, 1992). This coherence supports what the early marine biologists noted, that environmental variability was responsible for the changes in fish abundance.

The dilemma that now faces those interested in the CCS is how to organize future scientific studies to answer these century-old questions. The CCS serves as a logistically convenient laboratory for an array of oceanographic educational and research institutions that extend along the West Coast of the United States from Ensenada, Mexico, to Vancouver Island, Canada.

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