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Air-Ice-Ocean Momentum Exchange. Part II: Ice Drift

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ABSTRACT

A model was constructed to estimate ice floe trajectories. The model considers the balance of atmosphere and ocean drag forces on ice floes, including skin and body drag forces from wind, waves, and currents. Discussion of air–ice and water–ice skin stresses, water–ice form stress, and wave radiation stress is presented. Estimates are presented for the ice drift in a variety of hypothetical situations: (i) as a function of ice floe diameter, thickness, and concentration; (ii) in "wave" and "no wave" situations; and (iii) in constant wind forcing and time-varying wind forcing situations. The model is shown to be consistent with wave and ice observations collected during the Labrador Ice Margin Experiment 1987 on the Grand Banks during relatively high wind situations. Combining this model with the wave-scattering model of Part I allows estimation of 1) the effect of wave scattering attenuation on ice floe trajectories and the ice edge and 2) the effect of ice floe drift on the wave spectra. Thus, an enhanced modeling of wave and ice dynamics is achieved.

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