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Spinup toward Communication between Large Oceanic Subpolar and Subtropical Gyres

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ABSTRACT

An interpretation in terms of planetary waves is proposed, which sheds light on the dynamics underlying the large-scale cross-gyre geostrophic flow recently developed in a two-layer ventilated thermocline model.

The cross-gyre communication flow is the result of an arrested nondispersive baroclinic Rossby wave in the presence of zonal Sverdrup transport along the line of vanishing Ekman pumping. A baroclinic adjustment is described in which a resting ocean settles to a steady communicating solution.

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