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Satellite Observations of Mesoscale Eddy Dynamics in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean

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ABSTRACT

Active mesoscale (300 km diameter) eddy formation off the Pacific coast of Central America was observed during February 1976 by a thermal infrared sensor aboard the NOAA 4 satellite. These anticyclonic eddies, closely associated with wind-induced upwellings, propagate westward at an average speed of 13 km day^{-1} , which is approximately the speed of nondispersive baroclinic Rossby waves at latitude 12°N .

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