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On the Detection of “Inertial” Waves with Pycnocline Followers

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ABSTRACT

The vertical displacements associated with oscillations near the local inertial frequency f , in a stratified ocean, are found to be significant, even very close to f . For a frequency, $\omega = (1 + \epsilon)f$, the ratio of rms vertical velocity to horizontal velocity is $O(\epsilon^{1/2})$. Observations near Hawaii, made with a recently developed pycnocline follower, show inertial oscillation events similar to those found by Webster in current meter records, and discussed theoretically by Crepon and by Pollard.

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