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Continental Shelf Waves: Low-Frequency Variations in Sea Level and Currents Over the Oregon Continental Shelf

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ABSTRACT

Sea level variations and currents on the Oregon continental shelf exhibit wavelike characteristics in a frequency band from approximately 0.15 to 0.45 cycle per day (cpd). Shelf wave dispersion curves and eigenfunctions for the Oregon continental shelf profile computed using a numerical technique are compared with a low-frequency ($\sim 0.03-0.75$ cpd) spectral analysis of the current, sea level, and atmospheric pressure records. In a narrow band around 0.22 cpd the current, sea level relationship is consistent with the predicted values for free barotropic continental shelf waves.

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