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Towed Thermistor Chain Observations During MILE

by

T. J. Spoering C. A. Paulson D. Denbo

and

J. Wagner

Office of Naval Research N00014-76-C-0067 N00014-79-C-0004 NR 083-102

Data Report 74 Reference 79-11 July 1979

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of isotherms induced by internal waves in the thermocline.

#### TOWED THERMISTOR CHAIN

#### OBSERVATIONS DURING MILE

by

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#### INTRODUCTION

This report presents observations of temperature in the upper ocean obtained with a towed thermistor chain as a part of the Mixed Layer Experiment (MILE). The observations were taken between 20 and 40 m depth in the vicinity of Ocean Station P (50N, 145W) during August and September 1977. The thermistor chain was towed by the NOAA Ship OCEANOGRAPHER.

The temperature observations have been analyzed by Spoering (1979) to show the characteristics of internal waves in the upper ocean. Spoering's report also contains additional descriptions of the instrumentation, observations and analysis.

#### INSTRUMENTATION

The thermistor chain was constructed of sensors, conductors, plastic fairing, a strain member and a 450 kg. depressor. The thermistors were installed at 1 m intervals over a 25 m section of the chain. Four pressure sensors were installed at intervals of 8 m. The 450 kg. lead-filled depressor was attached to the lower end of the chain. The angle between the chain and the vertical was less than 10° for tow speeds up to 3 m/s with the depressor at a depth of 40 m. Signals from the sensors were recorded and displayed aboard ship by use of a minicomputer system.

#### OBSERVATIONS

The thermistor chain was usually towed on alternate days around a 20 km square. The tow tracks and times are presented in Appendix A. The tow beginning on 5 September proceeded four times around a five-km square centered on a heavily instrumented mooring. The tow tracks and speeds were determined from satellite fixes, radar fixes on the moorings and dead reckoning. During tows, the ships heading and speed were maintained as constant as possible on each leg. The tow speed ranged from 1 to 3 m/s and usually was greater than 2 m/s.

The structure of the upper ocean and the meteorological conditions were characteristic of mid-latitudes during late summer. The upper 30 m of the ocean was usually well-mixed or weakly stratified, bounded below by

a layer of large temperature gradient. Winds during the experiment ranged from near calm to 20 m/s. Wind speeds during tows of the thermistor chain ranged up to 12 m/s.

The only disappointment in the performance of the thermistor chain system was the failure of many of the temperature sensors. The failures were caused by saltwater leaks into the potting between the thermistors and the pad resistors and by leaks through the glass coatings of the thermistor. As a result of these failures only 4 to 10 thermistors were functional at any one time. The operational thermistors were concentrated in one section of the chain. This section was normally centered at a depth of about 30 m, in and above the region of high stratification.

#### ANALYSIS

The temperature observations were low-pass filtered by computing sequential 30 s averages. The filtered observations were edited to remove effects of radio noise and other errors. These filtered and edited observations are shown in Appendix B as functions of time and distance during a tow.

Isotherm depths were determined by linear interpolation between the filtered temperature observations. The depths of isotherms at spacings of  $0.5^{\circ}$ C are shown in Appendix C as functions of time and distance during a tow. Some of the tows are also plotted with a  $1.0^{\circ}$ C spacing in Appendix D,

#### REFERENCES

Spoering, T. J., 1979: Towed observations of internal waves in the upper ocean. Report 79-10, School of Oceanography, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331, 121 pp.

#### APPENDIX A Tow Tracks

Tow tracks are shown on the following pages for all of the runs. The origin of the coordinate system is at  $49^{\circ}$  43.31'N, 145 W. The abcissa and ordinate are in kilometers displacement to the east and north, respectively. The locations of each of the moorings are shown by an X. The southern mooring was the most heavily instrumented, primarily with VACMs. The northern mooring was instrumented by R. Davis with propeller-type current meters. The eastern mooring consisted of a wave-rider.





























#### APPENDIX B

### Temperature Cross-sections

Temperature averaged over sequential 30 s intervals are plotted on the following pages.



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![](_page_25_Figure_1.jpeg)

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## APPENDIX C

Isotherm Cross-sections, 0.5°C Spacing

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Isotherm depths, interpolated linearly from the temperatures plotted in Appendix B are plotted on the following pages.














































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## APPENDIX D

## Isotherm Cross-sections, 1.0° Spacing

Isotherm depths, interpolated linearly from the temperature observations shown in Appendix B are plotted on the following pages for selected runs.











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