1	Circulation and Stirring in the Southeast Pacific Ocean and the Scotia Sea
2	sectors of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current
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ABSTRACT

The large-scale deep circulation and eddy diffusivities in the Southeast Pa-17 cific Ocean and Scotia Sea sectors between 110°W and 45°W of the Antarc-18 tic Circumpolar Current (ACC) are described based on a unique lagrangian 19 dataset spanning a large sector of the Southern Ocean. The circulation and 20 lateral stirring are estimated using subsurface RAFOS float data collected dur-2 ing the Diapycnal and Isopycnal Mixing Experiment in the Southern Ocean 22 (DIMES). The mean flow, adjusted to a common 1400m depth, shows the 23 presence of jets in the time-averaged sense with speeds of 6cm/s in the South 24 East Pacific Ocean and upwards of 13 cm/s in the Scotia Sea. These jets 25 appear to be locked to topography in the Scotia Sea but, aside from negotiat-26 ing a seamount chain, are mostly free of local topographic constraints in the 27 Southeast Pacific Ocean. The EKE is higher than the MKE everywhere in the 28 sampled domain by about 50%. The absolute magnitude of the EKE increases 29 drastically (by a factor of 2 or more) as the current crosses over the Hero Frac-30 ture Zone and Shackleton Fracture Zone into the Scotia Sea. The isopycnal 3 stirring shows lateral and vertical variations with local eddy diffusivities as 32 high as $2500m^2/s$ at 700m decreasing to $1500m^2/s$ at 1800m in the Southeast 33 Pacific Ocean and higher vales in the Scotia Sea. However, when the action 34 of jets is taken into account, the cross-ACC diffusivity reduces significantly, 35 with values of $500m^2/s$ and $1000m^2/s$ at shallow and deep levels respectively. 36

1. Introduction

The global ocean circulation is often divided into a nearly horizontal, or approximately isopy-38 cnal, component, and an overturning component that is more tightly linked to diabatic processes 39 in the interior or at the polar extremes. The polar extremes of dense water formation create wa-40 ter masses that spread and fill the global ocean, but this spreading depends on the topography of 41 ocean basins. The cold deep water formed in the northern polar regions of the Atlantic Ocean, 42 North Atlantic Deep Water (NADW), flows south in a deep western boundary current and even-43 tually spreads along the northern flank of the ACC on its course to the Indian and Pacific Ocean 44 basins. A fraction of NADW is injected into the ACC in layers below the Drake Passage sill depth 45 and can be transported across the ACC in deep geostrophic boundary currents to upwell into re-46 gions of surface buoyancy loss and be transformed into Antarctic Bottom Water (AABW). The 47 other part of the NADW that moves into the Indian and Pacific basins is transformed to Indian 48 Ocean Deep Water (IDW) and Pacific Ocean Deep Water (PDW) via diapycnal processes (e.g. 49 Talley (2013)). 50

The shallower portions of these deep water masses of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, referred 51 to as Upper Circumpolar Deep Waters (UCDW), form layers in the Drake Passage latitude band 52 that are above the sill depth, sill depth being a somewhat complicated construct primarily due to 53 the Scotia Arc and the Kerguelen Plateau. In these layers, simple theory suggests that there is no 54 mean geostrophic flow across the 500km band of the ACC (Warren (1990)). It is often argued that 55 the dynamics in these layers is like that of the atmosphere, where the action of eddies can produce 56 a mean residual flux that on large scales in the Southern Ocean is towards the south. To quantify 57 the transport of this residual flux, in the absence of accurate deep velocity fields, one needs to 58 quantify the amplitude of the isopycnal eddy stirring (eddy diffusivity) and the large scale gradient 59

of thickness or potential vorticity (PV). Indirect estimates with box model inversions suggest a southward flux of order 10 Sv (Lumpkin and Speer (2007), Sloyan and Rintoul (2001), Garabato et al. (2014)) in deep layers.

One view of the ACC (for a recent review see Meredith et al. (2011)) is that of a large-scale, 63 latitudinally broad mean flow, with an eastward transport of about 140Sv. However, there are 64 large meridional excursions in the regions where it goes over mid-ocean ridges and approaches 65 continents. On this broad, baroclinically unstable mean flow lies a convoluted structure of jets and 66 eddies (Sokolov and Rintoul (2009)). The merging and splitting can at any instance be acting as a 67 barrier to mixing and at another instance strongly mix fluid parcels. This is in marked contrast to 68 the Gulf Stream, for example, where a single primary jet exists. The ACC jets can be locked to to-69 pography, and nearly stationary, or more freely evolving typically in regions with less topographic 70 control (Sallée et al. (2008a)). 71

Although the importance of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) to the adiabatic closure 72 of the meridional overturning circulation has been inferred for some time, direct measurements 73 of the strength and nature of this process have been lacking (Marshall and Speer (2012)). Here 74 we analyze results from an observational campaign, Diapycnal and Isopycnal Mixing Experiment 75 in the Southern Ocean (DIMES), which was undertaken in 2009-2014 to quantify the magnitude 76 of isopycnal eddy diffusivities and diapycnal mixing. We present results from the deployment of 77 RAFOS floats (subsurface drifters tracked by a moored acoustic network) in the South East Pacific 78 Ocean and Scotia Sea sectors of the ACC. 79

2. Overview of the DIMES RAFOS float experiment

⁸¹ RAFOS floats were deployed as part of the DIMES experiment, primarily between the syn-⁸² optically observed positions of the Sub-Antarctic Front (SAF) and Polar Front (PF) at $105^{\circ}W$.

Additional floats were deployed downstream of this deployment site to supplement the dataset. 83 The total number of floats deployed was 210. However, after failures, 140 float tracks comprising 84 183 years of float data (66795 float-days) were retrieved. Figure 1 shows summary of the exper-85 imental design and regional geography, together with the mean SSH contour lines that envelope 86 the extent of the initial float deployment relative to the ACC and the climatological position of the 87 SAF and PF according to Orsi et al. (1995). The SSH and frontal positions mark the southward 88 drift of the ACC from its northerly excursion along the Pacific-Antarctic Ridge, crossing it through 89 two major fracture zones near latitude $55^{\circ}S$, the apparent contraction through Drake Passage, to 90 enter the Scotia Sea and finally exit north over the North Scotia Ridge. The frontal positions also 91 show the large scale meandering of the PF and to as lesser extent the SAF. The float trajectories 92 are divided into shallow and deep floats based on their mean depth being greater than or smaller 93 than 1400m and qualitatively show a very similar behavior (Figure 2). These trajectories also 94 clearly show complexity created by the meso-scale eddies and presence of vertical shear, the latter 95 apparent from the longer displacements of the shallower floats. 96

Although many floats were deployed north of the historical position of the SAF all floats pro-97 ceeded east and exited the Southeast Pacific Ocean; remarkably, none moved northward suffi-98 ciently to be trapped and subsequently circulate in the subtropical gyre of the Pacific Ocean. This 99 behavior is in agreement with Faure and Speer (2012), who show the presence of a mean flow 100 toward the ACC in the interior layers between 1000-3000 m. In contrast, on the southern side of 101 the ACC, a few floats did appear to be continuing to move south, away from the core of the ACC. 102 The duration of the experiment was from 2009 to 2011 with the highest number of float-days 103 (one float tracked for one day) sampled in 2010 (Figure 3). The floats were ballasted to stay near 104 two isopycnal surfaces of neutral density 27.6 and 27.9 σ . However due to technical failures 105 the behavior was closer to that of isobaric floats. The distribution of float days in depth shows 106

a bimodal structure with peaks at 800m and 1400m corresponding to the mean positions of the
ballasting isopycnals. As the floats did not maintain their target density, the float-days distribution
in temperature is wider showing only a single peak. A distribution of float days over topographic
depth following the float shows a peak at 4500m corresponding to the mean depth of the Southeast
Pacific Ocean. This distribution also has a long tail towards shallower depths corresponding to the
passage through the Scotia Sea, where topographic variability is greater and topographic features
often reach within a few hundred meters of the surface.

The concentration of floats, or density in float-days, is highest near and just downstream of the 114 deployment site at $105^{\circ}W$; a secondary peak is seen near the downstream deployment at $75^{\circ}W$ 115 (Figure 4a). These figures show the probability, given by the number of float-days in a bin divided 116 by the total number of float-days, that a float or passive tracer will pass through a bin if a tracer 117 source was present at the float deployment location (Ollitrault and Colin de Verdière (2002)). 118 This provides a complementary view of the flow kinematics in the region compared to the one 119 provided by the tracer release experiment (Tulloch et al. (2014)). The concentrating effect of the 120 convergence of the ACC into Drake Passage is apparent. 121

Another representation of the float density is provided (Figure 4b). Here, the number of floats 122 passing through each longitudinal section is summed in meridional bins and then normalized by 123 the total number of floats that pass through that longitudinal section. This effectively renormalizes 124 the concentration as the float cluster evolves downstream. Details of the local, transient, transport 125 pathways in the broader eastward flow are revealed more clearly, with the SAF and PF distinct 126 from about $95^{\circ}W$ to $75^{\circ}W$, followed by convergence, then separation again along the northern 127 boundary and topographic ridges in the Scotia Sea. Comparison with f/H (Figure 4b) shows a 128 tendency to conserve large-scale potential vorticity up to about $75^{\circ}W$. 129

A qualitative sense of the ACC flow and its prominent features during the experiment emerges 130 from the tracks and the geographically binned (eulerian) displays. One of these is a large meander 131 at $100^{\circ}W$, $59^{\circ}S$, which was experienced by the floats in both the 2009 and 2010 deployments. 132 Hovmoeller plots of SSH show that this is not a permanent flow structure, but nevertheless does 133 show a tendency to reappear in this region. This meander splits into two jets at $95^{\circ}W$ presumably 134 upon interacting with the San Martin Seamounts. We speculate that one of these jets is associated 135 with the PF and the other with the SAF. The jets merge as they approach Drake Passage, move 136 northward and make their way over the northern ends of the Hero Fracture Zone and the Shackleton 137 Fracture Zone through deep troughs, into the Yaghan Basin. Once in the Yaghan Basin, the floats 138 are again divided into two groups following topographic contours of of the continental slope on 139 the northern side and the West Scotia Ridge on the southern side of the Yaghan Basin. They exit 140 the Scotia Sea through the openings in the North Scotia Ridge beyond which tracking becomes 141 problematic as the topography blocks most of the sound source signals. 142

We focus here on velocity statistics and isopycnal mixing derived from the RAFOS float observations. A companion paper provides greater descriptive detail of the lagrangian aspects of the observations (Balwada et al. (2015), to be submitted). Along with the float data, sea-surface height (SSH) estimates were also used in this study for an approximate streamfunction and for surface geostrophic velocities. These data were obtained as absolute dynamic topography (ADT) data, an altimeter product produced by Ssalto/Duacs and distributed by AVISO, with support from CNES (http://www.aviso.altimetry.fr/duacs/).

3. Eulerian Mean Flow

¹⁵¹ *a. Vertical structure*

Float velocities are first compared to the available velocity fields from SSH and then averaged in vertical bins to get the structure of the absolute velocity as a function of depth. It is important to note that this comparison of float velocities to SSH velocities should not be expected to be highly accurate due to resolution limitations of the AVISO altimeter.

The SSH fields are available in 7 day averaged fields, which are then used to calculate the surface 156 geostrophic velocities ($\psi = \eta / (f \rho_0)$). The float velocities, resolved daily, are smoothed using a 157 3 day running mean to compare against SSH derived fields. We calculate the ratio of the float 158 speed to the SSH derived speed and the angle between the two velocities. These are then binned 159 in depth bins for each of the basins (Southeast Pacific Ocean and Scotia Sea) and plotted in Figure 160 5. The e-folding scale of the mode of the ratio is approximately 1650m in the Southeast Pacific 161 Ocean and 1300m in the Scotia Sea, however it is important to note that this fitting can have large 162 errors due to the large standard deviations of the ratio in each bin. This large standard deviation is 163 a result of both the time variability of the current and also the variation in decay scale (decreasing 164 to the south, Karsten and Marshall (2002)) as the mean stratification changes across the ACC. The 165 probability distribution function (PDF) of angle between surface and float velocities vs depth has 166 a mean of zero and a standard deviation around $50^{\circ} - 55^{\circ}$ for almost all bins with slightly higher 167 values for the deepest bin in the Southeast Pacific Ocean. 168

The ACC is often assumed to have an equivalent barotropic (EB) structure (LaCasce and Isachsen (2010)), which was suggested based on FRAM model output by Killworth (1992) and further discussed dynamically by Hughes and Killworth (1995). They showed that an EB solution can be derived based on geostrophic dynamics assuming a f-plane with small vertical velocities. Observations (Phillips and Bindoff (2014)) have shown some broad consistency with the model, showing
vertical coherence and small turning of velocity vectors with depth. However, the observations
also show that this model breaks down in regions of strong cross topographic flows, where large
vertical velocities would be present. It is also important to note that this model must break down
to allow cross ACC flows and the presence of the upper limb of the meridional overturning circulation. Hughes and Killworth (1995) showed that

$$\theta_z = -\frac{N^2 w}{f|u|^2} \tag{1}$$

where N^2 is the usual Brunt-Vaisala frequency, w is the vertical velocity, f is the coriolis force, 179 |u| is the flow speed and θ_z is the change of angle between the flow at two vertical positions 180 with depth. In what follows we use these relations to describe the observed patterns. The above 181 mentioned result, as noted by Hughes and Killworth (1995), is equivalent to Stommel's β spiral. 182 Ratios and angles between the float and SSH derived velocities are binned as a function of 183 surface speed (Figure 6). Firstly, the ratio of the float speed to the surface speed is more variable 184 for slower speeds and also more variable for similar speeds in the Scotia Sea when compared 185 to the Southeast Pacific Ocean. Secondly, the variability of the angle between the SSH derived 186 velocity and float velocity is greater for slower speeds and also this variability is slightly greater 187 in the Scotia Sea compared to Southeast Pacific Ocean for the same speeds. The positions of the 188 floats corresponding to slower surface speeds are not necessarily located on the boundaries of the 189 ACC or over rougher topography where the EB assumption might break down, but rather spread 190 throughout the region, similar to the float positions that correspond to the other speed bins. We can 191 explain these results, at least qualitatively, using the above mentioned relation (equation 1). Based 192 on this relation weaker surface speeds imply a greater turning with depth, for a given w, as turning 193 with depth is inversely proportional to the square of the surface speed. Also based on this relation 194

there should be greater turning if there are stronger vertical velocities, for a given speed, as there will be in the Scotia Sea due to rougher topography. Hughes (2005) has shown that in the ACC the vertical velocities generated by topography are an order or magnitude higher than the vertical velocities that are generated by wind stress. It still remains unclear as to why slower surface speeds lead to a greater mean ratio and variability of the ratio between float speed to surface speed.

Vertical structure of basin averaged velocities and their variances (Figure 7) were computed 200 using the raw velocities with no filtering, in contrast to what was done previously to compare to 201 SSH. The mean zonal velocity decreases from a value of 6cm/s at 600m to close to 1cm/s at 2400m 202 in the Southeast Pacific Ocean. The mean meridional velocity is close to zero (< 1cm/s) with a 203 slight southward flow component (associated with the southeastward ACC flow). The velocity 204 variance in the Southeast Pacific Ocean also shows a decrease with depth, dropping from a value 205 of $80cm^2/s^2$ to $20cm^2/s^2$. The zonal and meridional variances have a similar structure in the 206 vertical. They decreases rapidly up to 1300m and at greater depths they decrease more gradually, 207 implying a reduction in vertical shear with depth. The Scotia Sea has a velocity profile that shows 208 higher magnitudes of mean speed and velocity variance than the Southeast Pacific Ocean sector 209 and also decreases with depth. The mean zonal velocity decreases from 10cm/s at 400m to 5cm/s at 210 1800m. The mean meridional velocity is positive as the ACC flows north with velocities of 7cm/s 211 near 400m decreasing to 1cm/s at 1800m. The variances are similar in the zonal and meridional 212 directions, from $250cm^2/s^2$ at 400m to $60cm^2/s^2$ at 1800m. The decay is again rapid up to 1300m 213 and thereafter more gradual. 214

215 b. Horizontal Structure of flow

The mean flow was estimated by binning the float velocities into 2.0° zonal by 0.5° meridional bins. This choice was made based on the knowledge that the flow structures are usually zonally

aligned with meridional variability. The size of the bins was chosen such that the bins were large 218 enough to encompass sufficient number of data samples but also small enough to resolve the flow 219 structures that are present in the mean flow. It is important to recognize that the variability or EKE 220 measurements in each bin reflect not only the time variable component but also the mean horizon-221 tal shear that might be present in the region covered by the bin. As the floats were spread unevenly 222 in the vertical in each bin, an adjustment/rescaling was done to the horizontal velocities to approx-223 imate the corresponding velocity at the 1400m depth level (this is level where the highest number 224 of float days were sampled). This adjustment was done assuming an EB structure and using the 225 mean speed vertical profile in each of the basins, calculated using all the float velocities (separately 226 for the Southeast Pacific Ocean and Scotia Sea). Adopting this rescaling approach to ensure more 227 statistical reliability seems acceptable based on the results shown in the previous subsection. We 228 also checked to see if the residual velocities were gaussian by performing a Kolmogrov-Smirnov 229 statistical test, and found this to be approximately true with p values around 0.3 in the Southeast 230 Pacific Ocean and 0.9 in Scotia Sea as shown in Figure 8. 231

To clarify the relation between the averaged data and the underlying trajectories we also present selected trajectory segments, chosen as follows. The float tracks were subdivided into 120 day segments and then for each segment the ratio (ε) of float displacement to the total distance was calculated

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\int_0^{120} \bar{U}dt}{\int_0^{120} \bar{u}dt} = \frac{\int_0^{120} \bar{U}dt}{\int_0^{120} \bar{U}dt + \int_0^{120} \bar{u'}dt}$$
(2)

This ratio is always less than 1, more so when the integrated residual velocity (or looping) component is larger. This ratio was used to group the tracks into looping and other, non-looping segments.

In the Southeast Pacific Ocean there are three primary regions where looping is found (Figure 9). The first one is a single large eddy near the deployment line $(105^{o}W)$ in which many floats

were deployed. The second location is both upstream and downstream of the San Martin Sea 241 Mounts. The upstream location is associated with the crest of the large meander where the flow 242 appears to split into smaller eddies and the downstream location is associated with larger loops. 243 The third region of looping is found around $85^{\circ}W$ and $60^{\circ}S$. The straighter float tracks lie in 244 regions of time mean jets, as seen in eulerian means discussed below, which are located on the 245 northern and southern sides of the looping regions. In the Scotia Sea the strong recirculation of the 246 Yaghan Basin stands out (Figure 11). There is another looping area where the EKE increases for 247 the second time downstream of the Yaghan Basin. The straighter trajectories appear to trace out 248 the continental slope and West Scotia Ridge, similar to the strong mean flows discussed below. 249

The binned mean velocity field in Southeast Pacific Ocean (Figure 10) shows primarily an east-250 ward zonal flow in two principal jets spaced approximately 200km apart, with a small southward 251 component. The maximum bin averaged speeds at 1400m are approximately 6-8cm/s in the core 252 of the jets. We identified these jets as the SAF and PF based on the hydrographic properties asso-253 ciated with strong flows that were observed during the deployment cruises (not shown). The PF 254 shows a meander in the binned mean flow upstream of the San-Martin seamounts at $95^{\circ}W$, $59^{\circ}S$, 255 which seems to be associated with the barotropic PV (f/H). This is probably the reason for the 256 repeated appearance of the large meander at this location, as was seen in Hovmoeller plots and by 257 the two float deployments. The San Martin seamounts at 95° W, 59° S are associated with a weaker 258 mean flow, which extends somewhat downstream of the seamounts. 259

The meandering of the jets, upstream of the San Martin seamounts, is associated with a slightly higher EKE. The northern jet flows along f/H contours near 57° S and $90^{\circ}W$, and weakens downstream where the f/H contours diverge. This divergence of f/H contours is collocated with a tongue of high EKE signal - the highest in the Southeast Pacific Ocean - which is also one of the regions where large looping is seen. The standard deviation ellipses in this region are primarily isotropic, with a slightly greater zonal component associated with the region where the highest EKE is observed in the region.

In the Scotia Sea (Figure 12), the strongest average speeds near the 1400m level are 14-16cm/s, 267 which is twice that of the Southeast Pacific Ocean. The mean velocity vectors in this region have 268 a northward component associated with the ACC turning north and crossing over the North Scotia 269 Ridge. The plot of speed shows the ACC approaching the Shackleton Fracture Zone as a single 270 broad jet, with the strongest flows located near the northern side of the Drake Passage. This jet 271 splits into two branches as it crosses the Shackleton Fracture Zone. The northern branch closely 272 hugs the continental slope of South America, like a boundary current, and the southern branch goes 273 south of the Yaghan Basin over the West Scotia Ridge. A strong cyclonic recirculation associated 274 with the topographic depression in the Yaghan Basin, as the mean velocity vectors turn westwards 275 in the center of the basin. The segments of the trajectories shown in Figure 11 also showed the 276 presence of a recirculation in this region. 277

High EKE is evident downstream of the Hero Fracture zone and Shackleton Fracture zone, in 278 the Yaghan Basin (Fig. 12). This increase in EKE is probably associated with instabilities related 279 to crossing over the two fracture zones and the time variability of the Yaghan Basin topographic 280 recirculation. The highest EKE signal in the Scotia Sea is found near $56^{\circ}S$ and $51^{\circ}W$. This 281 is downstream of the region where the two topographic jets merge and possibly interact with a 282 topographic bump located at $54^{\circ}W$ and $55^{\circ}S$. This region also shows significant looping in the 283 trajectories. The standard deviation ellipses, similar to the Pacific Ocean sector, do not have a 284 strong preferred orientation except in some bins near the boundaries, where they are oriented 285 along the topography. 286

287 c. Vertical motion of floats

²⁸⁸ The spatial variability of the high frequency vertical motions of the floats was calculated by tak-²⁸⁹ ing a 3 day running mean of the pressure time series from each float and removing this component ²⁹⁰ from the original time series in order to calculate a high frequency residual time series. This resid-²⁹¹ ual is the high frequency component of the pressure signal or δ pressure. It is clear in individual ²⁹² float trajectory time series that the high frequency pressure variation increase significantly as the ²⁹³ float goes through the Drake Passage and enters the Scotia Sea (Balwada et al. (2015)).

The rate of change of the high frequency component may be calculated, giving an (aliased) view 294 of the vertical motions of the floats due to short time-scale processes. It may also be interpreted 295 as a measure of the maximum amplitude of vertical motions due to small scale processes. Similar 296 to the previous sections, we first separate these data into a Southeast Pacific Ocean and Scotia Sea 297 areas and calculate the vertical profiles of the vertical motions in depth bins (Figure 13a). The 298 binned mean of the vertical motion was zero as would be expected for high frequency components 299 (not shown). The variance decreases with depth and is significantly higher in the Scotia Sea 300 compared to the Southeast Pacific Ocean. 301

³⁰² Vertical profiles of the pressure variance were used to rescale the rate of change of the vertical ³⁰³ motions from all depth levels to a common level of 1400m. These rescaled vertical motions were ³⁰⁴ then binned in geographical bins $(2^{o} \times 1^{o})$ and the variances and means calculated for each bin. ³⁰⁵ The means were approximately zero with no significant spatial pattern. The variance (Figure 13b), ³⁰⁶ similar to the mean speeds and EKE presented in the previous sections, increase significantly in ³⁰⁷ the Scotia Sea. The highest variances, almost 2 orders of magnitude higher than the Southeast ³⁰⁸ Pacific Ocean, were observed along the continental slope and along the North Scotia Ridge in the Scotia Sea. This increase is consistent with a greater lee wave activity in the Scotia Sea, associated
 with strong flow over ridges.

4. Length scales, time scales and isopycnal stirring

For the analysis that follows we divided the region into six groups as defined next, unless 312 otherwise noted. Three divisions in the zonal direction $(110^{\circ}W - 90^{\circ}W, 90^{\circ}W - 70^{\circ}W)$ and 313 $70^{\circ}W - 30^{\circ}W$) and two divisions in depth (500 - 1400 m and 1400 - 2500 m). For each divi-314 sion, the mean $(U_i = \langle u_i \rangle = 1/N \sum u)$, where the sum is over all available observations and N 315 is the number of observations, and residual $(u'_i = u_i - U_i)$ velocities were calculated. Subscripts 316 i or j represent the direction (zonal, meridional). The means and the corresponding variances are 317 presented in Table 1. The errors were calculated using standard error calculation methods, similar 318 to the ones described by Ollitrault and Colin de Verdière (2002). The Reynold's fluxes (not shown) 319 were calculated and are negligible for such large area averages. 320

³²¹ Spatial correlations are calculated as

$$C_{ij}^{e}(r) = \frac{(\langle u_{i}'(x)u_{j}'(\vec{x}+r) \rangle)}{\langle u_{i}'(\vec{x})u_{j}'(\vec{x}) \rangle}$$
(3)

where r is the separation between the floats and the averaging is done in 50 km r bins using samples at all times. This correlation is then used to calculate the eulerian integral length scale.

$$L_{ij}^e = \int_0^\infty C_{ij}^e(r)dr \tag{4}$$

This calculation is done using two methods as described below because we cannot integrate observational correlations to infinity. 1000 noisy correlation curves are generated using the mean correlation curve plus gaussian noise within two standard errors. In the first method these noisy correlation curves are integrated out to the first zero crossing. In the second method an exponentially decaying function is fit to the noisy correlation curves and the decay scale is given by the fitting. Both methods produce 1000 estimates, corresponding to each noisy correlation curve that was generated. The average of these estimates is taken to be the length scale and the error is represented as one standard deviation of these estimates. The results are shown in Table 1. Both procedures produce very similar length scales with the exception of the deep Scotia Sea, where observations are scarce.

The spatial correlation function (C_{ij}^e) was calculated as well (not shown). It has a structure 334 that is commonly seen, decreasing exponentially followed by a negative lobe and then oscillation 335 around zero until it decays completely. We interpret the negative lobe as a signature of cyclonic 336 and anticyclonic eddies that are present in an alternating patterns, as is often seen in experiments 337 (Sommeria et al. (1989)) and other regions of the ocean such as the Gulf Stream. The length 338 scale is approximately 60km for most of the region, with slightly larger scales in the west at the 339 shallower level. We interpret the greater scales in the west as an imprint of the large meander that 340 was seen by many of the floats (Balwada et al. (2015)). 341

We also present the distance at which the first and second zero crossing occur for the correlation function (Table 1). This gives a sense of the distance at which the velocities broadly reverse, or the diameter of the eddies. This scale is approximately 130 km for most of the region, which is in broad agreement with the eddy sizes calculated for this region using SSH fields (Chelton et al. (2011)).

To inspect the properties in frequency domain we divided the trajectories into 120 day segments. Each segment was assigned its corresponding spatial bin based on its mean position and mean depth. The binned time series are then used to calculate the lagrangian frequency spectra $S(\omega)$ of the velocity time series. This is presented in variance preserving form (Figure 14). The lagrangian frequency spectra show a broad peak that migrates to high frequencies as the floats moves east, and is also located at higher frequencies in the same geographical bin at the shallower depth. The peak ³⁵³ migrates from periods of approximately 60 days in the deep western part of the Southeast Pacific
³⁵⁴ Ocean to periods of 15 days in the shallow Scotia Sea. This can be explained as a consequence of
³⁵⁵ Doppler spectral shifting that can occur in the presence of mean flow as discussed in Chen et al.
³⁵⁶ (2015).

The lagrangian spectra were also plotted on a log-log axis (not shown) to determine spectral 357 slopes. The spectra at periods smaller than 7 days have slopes steeper than -3, which implies 358 that motions at these time scales are not contributing to the lagrangian dispersion. The spectra at 359 periods between approximately 7 and 60 days have spectral slopes between -3 and -2. The spectra 360 flatten at periods larger than 60 days (lower frequencies), which is a critical requirement for the 361 eddy diffusivities to exist. If the spectra do not flatten at low frequencies the power of the spectra 362 at zero frequency does not necessarily converge, implying that the the diffusivity is undefined 363 (Rupolo et al. (1996)). 364

The binned time series are also used to calculate the velocity autocorrelation.

$$R_{ij}^{l}(\tau) = \frac{\langle u_{i}'(t)u_{j}'(t+\tau) \rangle}{(\langle u_{i}'(t)u_{j}'(t) \rangle)}$$
(5)

The angular brackets represent averaging over the trajectories that are present in the bin. This correlation is then used to find the lagrangian integral time scale.

$$T_{ij}^{l} = \int_{0}^{\infty} R_{ij}^{l}(\tau) d\tau \tag{6}$$

Structurally, R_{ij}^l looks similar to C_{ij}^e : there is a decay and oscillations, usually with a prominent negative lobe. This structure would be expected based on a turbulent field in which the flow decorrelates in time but also has the presence of significant looping and meandering. This can be approximated as a function of the form:

$$R_{ij}^{l}(t) = e^{-t/T_{eij}} \cos(2\pi t/4T_{dij})$$
(7)

where T_{eij} is a decay scale and T_{dij} is the time of first zero crossing or the meander time scale. This form is fit to the mean autocorrelation functions; the parameters and error in fits is calculated using bootstrapping. This is done using the method of producing noisy correlation functions as described above, used for spatial correlation integration. Previous observational studies using lagrangian measurements (Sallée et al. (2008b), Garraffo et al. (2001)) have fit a functional form of the type shown above or similar forms.

Klocker et al. (2012) applied the mixing suppression theory (Ferrari and Nikurashin (2010)) to 378 particles instead of tracers and derived an autocorrelation function of the same form as (7). This 379 links physical processes to the presence of the two scales using dynamical arguments. Their theory 380 was derived for a randomly forced Rossby wave solution to a quasi-geostrophic system. The non-381 linear terms, used as forcing for the Rossby waves, were parameterized as a sum of a white noise 382 process and linear damping. The decay time scale (T_{eij}) was associated with the linear damping 383 time scale. The oscillation time scale (T_{dij}) was based on the dominant wave number multiplied 384 by the difference of mean speed and observed phase speed. This difference is associated with the 385 mean PV gradient based on the dispersion relation for linear Rossby waves. Their expression for 386 the autocorrelation is (their eqn 18) 387

$$R_{\nu\nu}(t') = \frac{2k^2 EKE}{K^2} e^{-\gamma t'} cos[k(c_w - U)t']$$
(8)

where *k* is the zonal wave number, *K* is the amplitude of the total wave number, γ is the linear damping constant, c_w is the observed phase speed and *U* is the mean zonal speed. Based on this model, a stronger PV gradient (larger $|c_w - U|$), holding the damping time scale constant, would call for the the oscillation time scale to be relatively smaller. This would, in turn, imply a more prominent negative lobe in the autocorrelation function. A larger negative lobe implies a smaller lagrangian integral time scale and smaller eddy diffusivities. ³⁹⁴ Based on eqn (8) we can calculate a theoretical meander time scale using the binned mean flow, ³⁹⁵ observed feature propagation speeds(c_{wi}) from Fu (2009) and observed length scales.

$$2T_{dii}^{theory} = \pi/(k_j.(c_{wj} - U_j))$$
⁽⁹⁾

The analytical integral of this chosen autocorrelation function gives an effective lagrangian integral time scale

$$T_{ij}^{l} = \frac{4T_{eij}T_{dij}^{2}}{\pi^{2}T_{eij}^{2} + 4T_{dij}^{2}}$$
(10)

These time scales are presented in Table 1. The integral time scale (T_{ij}^l) approaches the decay 398 time scale (T_{eij}) as the meander time scale (T_{dij}) gets relatively longer. This happens when the 399 meander time scale is long since the amplitude of the autocorrelation function will decay to a very 400 small value before the negative lobe can significantly affect the integral. This leads to the fitted 401 T_{duu} being very large (> 500 days) for most of the bins and those results are not shown in the Table. 402 The decay time scale, which generally increases with depth, is about 10 days in the Southeast 403 Pacific Ocean and 6 days in the Scotia Sea. This is expected based on simple scaling arguments so 404 that $T_{eij}^2 \propto \frac{1}{|k|^2 u_{ii}^2}$ and the fact that the length scales are similar at the shallower and deeper levels. 405 This is different than the result in Lumpkin et al. (2002); they found that the time scale remained 406 roughly constant with depth and the length scale decayed with depth in the North Atlantic Ocean. 407 The eulerian time scale calculated using current meters in different parts of the ACC are close 408 to 20 days. Phillips and Rintoul (2000) presented these numbers for a mooring array south of 409 Australia and compared it to the time scales calculated in the Drake Passage during FDRAKE. 410 It is not surprising that the eulerian timescales are larger than the lagrangian time scale, as the 411 floats propagate through eulerian features faster than the eulerian features pass through a region 412 (Middleton (1985-02-01T00:00:00)). 413

We then use these time scales and EKE to calculate the eddy diffusivities ($\kappa_{ij} = EKE.T_{ij}^l$). 414 The meridional diffusivities are similar in the two Southeast Pacific Ocean bins; approximately 415 $2200m^2/s$ in the shallower bins and $1400m^2/s$ in the deeper bins. The meridional diffusivity is 416 approximately $3200m^2/s$ in the Scotia Sea. The zonal diffusivities are generally greater, and this 417 is to be expected because they are enhanced by both the mean horizontal shear and mean vertical 418 shear, which cannot be completely removed by removing a bin averaged mean to find the residual 419 velocities. In the Scotia Sea both the zonal and meridional diffusivities seem to be affected by 420 these shears. 421

Using the results from the above analysis, that the scales are similar across the Southeast Pacific 422 Ocean, we use all the tracks between $110^{\circ}W - 70^{\circ}W$ and increase the number of vertical bins to 423 resolve better the vertical structure of diffusivity. The diffusivity is calculated the same way as 424 above by first fitting to the autocorrelation function and calculating the time scales. The diffusivity 425 calculated using only the decay time scale ($K_o = EKE.T_{eij}$), the diffusivity calculated using the 426 lagrangian integral time scale called the suppressed or expected diffusivity ($K = EKE.T_{ij}^{l}$) and the 427 theoretical estimate of diffusivity $(K^{theory} = \frac{4EKET_{eij}T_{dij}^{theory2}}{\pi^2 T_{eij}^2 + 4T_{dij}^{theory2}})$ from Klocker et al. (2012) are shown 428 together in Figure 15. The presence of mean flow or the presence of a negative lobe in the auto-429 correlation function suppresses diffusivity, which is evident as K_o is greater than K everywhere. In 430 the calculation of K^{theory} the observed decay time scale is used as there is no other way to calculate 431 it. T_{dii}^{theory} for this figure was calculated using a length scale of 100 km as it provided a better fit 432 against the observed diffusivity than using the calculated length scale from spatial autocorrela-433 tions. This value is higher than the calculated integral length scales (60 km) but smaller than the 434 length scale of the first zero crossing (100 km). Thus, the theoretical value should be regarded as 435 a fitted form rather than an absolute prediction. 436

It has been pointed out that in the ACC, diffusivities can take 6 months or longer to asymptote 437 to a constant value LaCasce et al. (2014), if the diffusivity is calculated as $\langle X^2 \rangle /2T$ or some 438 similar measure (LaCasce (2008)). If this holds, calculating binned diffusivities is problematic, 439 as the floats spend only a fraction of 6 months in a bin. Another reason binned diffusivities were 440 not calculated in this section is because the floats are spread in the vertical; for the mean flow 441 calculations we could use the EB assumption to rescale the float velocities to a common depth 442 level but no similar procedure can be applied to rescale the float trajectory to a common depth 443 level. What we have presented in this section are in essence binned diffusivities, but with the 444 choice of the bin size being very large $(30^{\circ}lon \times 10^{\circ}lat)$ much larger than the bins for the mean 445 flow. Previous float and drifter studies have presented diffusivities in bins the same size as the 446 bins used for describing the mean flow (e.g. Ollitrault and Colin de Verdière (2002), Swenson 447 and Niiler (1996)), but using a dataset that was primarily limited to a certain depth level or the 448 sea-surface. 449

Keeping these facts in mind, the dispersion is calculated for the Southeast Pacific Ocean and 450 the Scotia Sea float tracks divided into two depth bins, in cross-SSH coordinates (Figure 16). The 451 diffusivity is estimated as $\langle X^2 \rangle /2T$, where X is the cross stream distance. The diffusivity 452 estimates, using this calculation, are approximately $500m^2/s$ and $1100m^2/s$ for the shallow (500-453 1400m) and deep (1400-2500m) Southeast Pacific Ocean floats. In the Scotia Sea the diffusivities 454 are approximately $1200m^2/s$ for the both shallow (500-1000m) and deep floats (1000-2000m) but 455 with larger error bars. These limits of the depth bins were chosen to allow for an almost equal 456 data distribution in both depth bins. The division between Southeast Pacific Ocean and Scotia Sea 457 was chosen to be $70^{\circ}W$. The error bars on the dispersion are calculated using bootstrapping where 458 the trajectories are resampled allowing for repeats and the dispersion curves calculated a 1000 459 times. The error in the dispersion figure is calculated as one standard deviation of the bootstrap 460

samples. For the diffusivity curve the error is the range of slopes that fit between the errorbars of the dispersion curves. In the Southeast Pacific Ocean there are about 55 floats for each depth bin at the first day and this number only marginally decreases to about 45 by day 250. However in the Scotia Sea, on there first day, there are about 40 floats but within 150 days this number decreases to around 15. The choice of coordinates does not affect the diffusivity estimate in the Southeast Pacific Ocean as the SSH contours are almost zonal (Tulloch et al. (2014)).

In the Scotia Sea use of the across SSH dispersion allows the quantification of cross stream-467 line mixing, which cannot be done by calculating zonal and meridional diffusivities. Similar to 468 LaCasce et al. (2014), the shallower diffusivities decrease over time and end up smaller than the 469 deeper diffusivities in the Southeast Pacific Ocean after 150 days. It is not quite clear what sets 470 this 150 day time scale, considering the decay scale is about 10 days. The dispersion of the shal-471 low floats in the Southeast Pacific Ocean does not grow linearly but saturates after some initial 472 increase, whereas the dispersion from the deeper floats in the Southeast Pacific Ocean increases 473 almost linearly as would be expected for a diffusive process. 474

Is there a mid-depth maxima in diffusivity, and if so then why does it exist? To answer this 475 question we compared the different estimates of diffusivity for the Southeast Pacific Ocean. La-476 Casce et al. (2014) presented a single vertically averaged isopycnal diffusivity from the same float 477 data as here and Tulloch et al. (2014)) gave a measure of diffusivity at the tracer isopychal level 478 using the tracer surveys. These studies also presented a vertical structure of diffusivity that was 479 calculated by releasing particles and tracers in a model and advecting them using the model veloc-480 ity field. Their modeling results showed that the vertical structure of diffusivity had a mid-depth 481 maxima of about $1000m^2/s$ at approximately 2000m and it was reasoned that this was a result of 482 mixing length suppression at shallower depths in the presence of stronger large-scale mean flow. 483 However, it took longer than 6 months to asymptote to this value using the particles, and a long 484

term (100-500 days) linear fitting was done to the second moment of the tracer concentrations. 485 In contrast, Bates et al. (2014) presented an area averaged diffusivity from SSH observations and 486 ECCO output and did not obtain a mid-depth maxima in diffusivity. Bates et al. (2014) results 487 were based on using a length scale that was calculated from SSH fields (Chelton et al. (2011)), 488 assuming it to be the dominant length scale. Recently, Chen et al. (2015) provide diffusivities in 489 the DIMES regions using an approach that accounts for contributions of multiple length scales by 490 integrating over the wavenumber-frequency spectra in the region. Interestingly, their spatial maps 491 of eddy diffusivities show a significant degree of inhomogeneity. To calculate a single vertical 492 profile of eddy diffusivity over the region they do a simple area averaging, similar to the Bates 493 et al. (2014) work. They obtain some hints of a mid-depth maxima in their results but generally 494 the trend of eddy diffusivity is to decrease with depth. 495

Naveira Garabato et al. (2011) calculated mixing lengths in the ACC using hydrographic data 496 and showed the presence of suppressed mixing lengths in frontal regions of the ACC, at least in 497 regions of smooth topography and essentially zonal jets. Naveira Garabato et al. (2011) applied 498 the mixing suppression ideas in a more local sense, by calculating the mixing length as the RMS 499 temperature fluctuation divided by the large scale temperature gradient on neutral surfaces. In 500 summary, the results above can be divided into three categories: local estimates (Naveira Garabato 501 et al. (2011)), eulerian estimates that are spatially averaged (Bates et al. (2014), Chen et al. (2015)) 502 and longer term estimates using lagrangian passive tracers (LaCasce et al. (2014), Tulloch et al. 503 (2014)).504

It is important to remember that the ACC is a region of a complex flow bands of low EKE and negligible mean flows along with strong mean flows or jets. The regions within the ACC where the mean flow is weaker, such as between localized jets, could have large diffusivities and be wellmixed regions, while the regions of strong jets act as barriers to cross-stream mixing. However, if

the jets merge and split they might not always be barriers to mixing. Probably because the South-509 east Pacific Ocean is a relatively simple region, the jets persist for long durations without much 510 splitting and merging and act as barriers (Thompson (2010)). This hypothesis for the Southeast 511 Pacific Ocean is supported by our binned mean flow estimates showing jet like structures and also 512 the results of Thompson et al. (2010), who showed that the region between the Udintsev Fracture 513 Zone and the Drake Passage had the most number of distinct PV pools or regions of homogenized 514 PV, compared to any other region of the Southern Ocean, implying that strongly mixed regions 515 exist in the Southeast Pacific Ocean but there is little mixing between each of them. 516

We believe that the discrepancy between the various eulerian estimates, which are similar to 517 our initial estimates using a functional fit to Lagrangian autocorrelation function (Figure 15), and 518 longterm lagrangian passive tracer estimates, which are similar to our second estimate using long 519 term dispersion calculations (Figure 16), arises because of the nature of the averaging used to 520 estimate a single number for diffusivity over a large region. The correct way to average diffusivities 521 in a cross stream direction was shown in Nakamura (2008) for the atmospheric case. Using a 1D, 522 zonally averaged model the correct predictor of eddy diffusivities was shown to be the harmonic 523 average $(K_{average} = (\int 1/K(y)dy)^{-1})$, where regions of low mixing dominate the average. This 524 model holds if the region has barriers that are invariant in time; a zonally uniform flow (along 525 stream) might be a good assumption for the Southeast Pacific Ocean as discussed earlier. Hence, a 526 lagrangian passive tracer spreads through a region and converges to the harmonic mean rather than 527 an area average, as was made in the eulerian estimates. However, it remains unclear as to what 528 is the proper averaging methodology if the regions is not zonally homogeneous and the barriers 529 merge and split in space and time, which would better represent the ACC. 530

⁵³¹ Overall, our results appear to be consistent with these previous notions and results. Jets are ⁵³² faster at shallower levels and act as stronger barriers to mixing, while at deeper levels the jets slow down and the barrier effect becomes weaker. Also, the regions between the jets at shallow levels are more strongly mixed than at deeper levels simply because of the higher EKE at shallower levels. To confirm this, the model particle calculations of LaCasce et al. (2014) were revisited (not shown here). Calculations of dispersion at shallower levels showed saturation after an initial growth period of about 50-100 days, similar to the saturation seen in Figure 16. Long integrations, longer than about 6 months, produced lower diffusivities similar to the diffusivity calculations above using dispersion in the cross stream direction.

540 **5. Discussion**

The DIMES floats provide a striking set of trajectories that quite clearly show both the large-541 scale circulation and the turbulent nature of the flow in the ACC. The floats sampled depths be-542 tween 500 and 2500 m from $105^{\circ}W$ to $40^{\circ}W$, primarily between the SAF and PF. At a depth level 543 of approximately 1400m in the Southeast Pacific Ocean the mean speeds ranged from 6 cm/s in the 544 jets to 1cm/s between the jets, whereas in the Scotia Sea the typical speeds were almost doubled. 545 The EKE in the two regions also differed substantially, $10 - 60cm^2/s^s$ in the Southeast Pacific 546 Ocean, and $20 - 140cm^2/s^2$ in the Scotia Sea, at similar depths. The EKE and the mean speeds 547 increase as the flow crosses over the Hero Fracture Zone and Shackleton Fracture Zone, from the 548 relatively calm Southeast Pacific Ocean to the vigorously unstable Scotia Sea. The flow at various 549 depths shows good semblance to the flow at the surface observed by satellites and leads us to be-550 lieve that the flow is EB to first order. The vertical motions of the floats, dominated by shorter time 551 scale phenomena, also show an order of magnitude increase from the Southeast Pacific Ocean to 552 the Scotia Sea and are the highest over the continental slope of South America. 553

⁵⁵⁴ No previous direct measurements of large-scale mean flow and variability exist in the deep ⁵⁵⁵ Southeast Pacific Ocean against which we can compare results. However, current meter mea-

surements from different sites in the ACC, primarily south of Australia and in the Drake Passage 556 region, found similar flow statistics (Phillips and Rintoul (2000), Ferrari et al. (2012), Firing et al. 557 (2011)). Phillips and Rintoul (2000) compared the vertical structure of the flow with older cur-558 rent meter measurements from the FDRAKE experiment and their results are qualitative similar 559 to ours. The mean vertical shear generally decreases with depth, in agreement with our results. 560 The velocities from the current meter in other regions also show a correspondence with the SSH 561 derived velocity fields that generally decreases with depth. Our results show congruence with the 562 SSH derived velocities but no significant change with depth, as we do not see any evidence of 563 greater turning in deeper versus shallower bins. Instead, we notice that the relationship is weaker 564 with a decrease in surface speed, perhaps due to sampling considerations with the altimetry. 565

The jets observed in the mean flow estimate of the Southeast Pacific Ocean and Scotia Sea have 566 scales and separations that are very similar to the eddy length scales in the region. They also 567 show meanders at scales similar to the eddy scale, set by the meanders in the Southeast Pacific 568 Ocean and also set by the scale of the topography, especially in the Scotia Sea. It is important to 569 realize that these structures exist over time scales that are longer than time scale of passage for 570 the particles through the region, which is the reason they are seen in the mean field, and could be 571 significantly affecting the spreading of tracers. We speculate that the spacing between the jets in 572 Southeast Pacific Ocean basin is initially set upstream by the spacing between the fracture zones in 573 the Pacific-Antarctic Ridge. Subsequently, the approximately 200km spacing seen in this region is 574 probably set by a combination the weak non-uniformities in f/H gradients and upstream effect of 575 the seamounts. The extent to which a Rhines' scale-like separation between the jets plays a role, 576 as can be expected in a nearly flat bottom ocean basin, is difficult to evaluate. It is important to 577 remember that the topographic features will play a role in setting the circulation at mid-depth if 578 the velocities along the bottom are non-trivial, which (for depths greater than 2500m) is a criteria 579

that cannot be tested by these data. However, previous studies have shown the presence of strong bottom flows in a few different locations in the ACC. The visual correspondence between the f/H field and mean flow features seen here leads us to believe that even in this relatively smooth and deep region of the ACC, the bottom exerts a strong influence on the flow.

Quantifying the isopycnal stirring was one of the main motivations behind the DIMES float 584 experiment. The floats provide the first ground truth of the of the stirring processes at work. They 585 clearly show the presence of jets in the flow and strongly suggest that they form transport barriers, 586 with the strength of these barriers decreasing with depth. The regions between the jets are well 587 mixed and the diffusivities in these regions decreases with depth, following the general decrease 588 of EKE with depth and in accordance with mean flow suppression. The long-time asymptote 589 of diffusivity in the Southeast Pacific ocean shows stronger mixing at depth, with cross stream 590 diffusivities of $500m^2/s$ between 500-1400m and $1100m^2/s$ between 1400-2500m. 591

There are fewer data in the Scotia Sea; this lack of data produces noisier estimates, with average 592 cross stream diffusivity of approximately $1200m^2/s$ both in the shallow and deep bins. The results 593 for the Scotia Sea are plagued not only by the scarcity of data but also by the presence of an 594 extremely complex mean flow pattern. The complex mountain ranges present in this region can 595 guide flow in the deeper layers significantly different from the flow above, leading to mean currents 596 that cross the core of the ACC. One example of this is seen in the floats that continued east in the 597 Scotia Sea, instead of crossing over the North Scotia Ridge into the Argentine Basin (Fig. 11). This 598 dispersion or leakage can transport water across the major fronts of the ACC in a non-diffusive 599 fashion. 600

The results here imply that the strong inhomogeneities exist in the diffusivities, related to jets and thin barriers to mixing within the broader ACC. This may have lead to disparate previous results based on the chosen averaging method. In an ideal case, with zonally homogeneous jets,

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a lagrangian estimate of meridional diffusivity should asymptote to the harmonic average of the 604 diffusivities in the meridional direction (Nakamura (2008), see also Thompson and Sallée (2012)). 605 The ACC is not zonally homogeneous and in most regions the jets are transient features of flow 606 that do indeed merge and split. In such a complex system, it is not clear yet that a simple measure 607 of mixing is appropriate. Using lagrangian observational methods, however, we are able to reveal 608 some of this complexity and point to dynamical structure in the flow that controls mixing. There 609 remains a gap in our understanding of the relation between large-scale flow quantities and relevant 610 eddy diffusivities, hindering the development of parameterizations of eddy diffusivities in complex 611 flow. 612

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Longitude bins	$110^{\circ}W - 90^{\circ}W$		$90^{o}W - 70^{o}W$		$70^{o}W - 40^{o}W$	
Depth bins	500 - 1400m	1400 - 2500m	500 - 1400m	1400 - 2500m	500 - 1400m	1400 - 2500m
$L^e_{uu}(km)$	75.09 ± 1.17	57.81 ± 0.79	61.09 ± 3.8	77.90 ± 6.64	57.47±3.16	56.60 ± 9.62
$L^e_{\nu u}(km)$	92.03 ± 1.5	59.97 ± 0.99	57.59 ± 2.35	77.11±8.12	68.49±5.12	62.22 ± 16.06
$L^{e}_{uu}(fit)(km)$	79.74 ± 0.78	57.55 ± 0.42	62.23 ± 1.92	58.28 ± 1.77	57.27 ± 1.89	40.27 ± 4.05
$L^{e}_{\scriptscriptstyle VV}(fit)(km)$	88.72 ± 0.82	55.52 ± 0.46	54.89 ± 1.15	68.10 ± 2.51	55.80 ± 2.09	36.15 ± 3.48
1^{st} zero crossing $C^e_{uu}(\text{km})$	125.01	139.99	125.01	143.48	129.20	75.05
1^{st} zero crossing $C^e_{\nu\nu}(km)$	221.96	147.02	152.16	131.60	144.50	75.04
2^{nd} zero crossing $C^e_{uu}(\text{km})$	239.83	225.07	175.68	225.06	247.73	175.15
2^{nd} zero crossing $C^e_{\nu\nu}(\text{km})$	401.58	378.07	175.5	225.09	225.03	225.0
U(cm/s)	3.4 ± 0.33	2.25 ± 0.23	5.77 ± 0.65	3.83 ± 0.42	7.97 ± 1.38	6.68 ± 1.74
V(cm/s)	-0.6 ± 0.4	-0.51 ± 0.24	0.63 ± 0.64	0.01 ± 0.34	3.46 ± 1.43	2.4 ± 1.53
$c_{zonal}(cm/s)$	0.46 ± 0.98	0.46 ± 0.98	0.72 ± 0.86	0.72 ± 0.86	2.05 ± 1.73	2.05 ± 1.73
$c_{meridional}(cm/s)$	-0.18 ± 0.45	-0.18 ± 0.45	-0.07 ± 0.39	-0.07 ± 0.39	1.14 ± 1.41	1.14 ± 1.41
$u'u'(cm^2/s^2)$	35.45 ± 2.77	19.26 ± 1.4	80.14 ± 8.28	28.75 ± 3.16	215.5 ± 28.74	122.31 ± 27.14
$v'v'(cm^2/s^2)$	52.52±4.1	21.94 ± 1.6	75.93 ± 7.84	26.27 ± 2.89	230.05 ± 30.68	94.57 ± 20.99
$T^l_{uu}(days)$	11.62 ± 1.58	10.98 ± 1.6	9.67 ± 1.68	12.72 ± 1.39	4.07 ± 0.82	5.89 ± 0.54
$T^l_{vv}(days)$	5.63 ± 0.74	7.77 ± 0.84	4.66 ± 0.64	6.29 ± 0.75	1.98 ± 0.44	3.35 ± 0.51
$T_{euu}(days)$	11.72 ± 1.59	13.14 ± 1.58	9.74 ± 1.63	12.95 ± 1.25	4.1 ± 0.68	9.35 ± 2.32
$T_{evv}(days)$	14.43 ± 2.42	15.52 ± 2.45	7.65 ± 1.31	11.7 ± 1.43	4.14 ± 0.69	7.96 ± 0.95
$T_{duu}(days)$	-	-	-	-	-	22 ± 28.7
$T_{dvv}(days)$	18.92 ± 14.94	26.47 ± 29.96	19.55 ± 50.99	26.39 ± 96.76	6.95 ± 15.12	10.86 ± 1.56
$T_{duu}^{theory}(days)$	126.81 ± 182.19	105.17 ± 162.85	47.61 ± 51.18	557.80 ± 3607.9	17.08 ± 14.89	28.58 ± 47.27
$T_{dvv}^{theory}(days)$	14.78 ± 5.32	18.69 ± 10.61	7.00 ± 1.59	14.50 ± 4.59	5.62 ± 2.14	7.07 ± 3.79
$K^o_{xx}(m^2/s)$	4425.3±751.11	2350.2 ± 376.99	5858.7±1293.6	3104.6±563.3	7487.8 ± 1876.7	8563.2±3406.3
$K_{yy}^o(m^2/s)$	5463.2±1236.4	2773.4 ± 559.9	5027.3 ± 1099.3	2818.2 ± 560.8	7617.6±1907.2	7416.6±2510.1
$K_{xx}(m^2/s)$	4402.4 ± 768.4	1962.4±345.1	5858.6±1293.6	3049.1 ± 572.5	7092.7±2118.9	5433.2 ± 1790
$K_{yy}(m^2/s)$	2132.2 ± 366.9	1391.1 ± 208.2	2821.1 ± 566.3	1496.8 ± 296.7	3475.8 ± 1072.8	3087.9 ± 1085.2

TABLE 1: Statistics for DIMES RAFOS floats in six longitudinal and depth bins

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FIG. 2: Trajectories of the floats with mean depth greater than (a) 1400m (60 tracks) and (b) shallower than 1400m (80 tracks). The green dots represent the launch location and the red dots represent the surfacing location.



FIG. 3: Distribution of the total float days as a function of (a) calendar year, (b) pressure, (c) temperature and (d) height above topography.





FIG. 4: (a) Number of float days in $2.0^{\circ}X0.5^{\circ}$ bins. (b) Number of floats that cross through a meridional bin normalized by the total number of floats that cross through the corresponding meridian. f/H contours are overlaid (gray) with f the Coriolis parameter and H the bathymetric depth



FIG. 5: Geostrophic velocities, calculated using SSH, compared with velocities from the floats. Probability distribution functions of ratio of float speed versus SSH derived speed plotted versus depth for (a) Southeast Pacific Ocean and (b) Scotia Sea respectively. Mode (solid lines), and mean (dashed lines) are given, error-bars represent one standard deviation; exponential fits (white lines) with depth scale of 1300m in the Scotia Sea and 1650m in the Southeast Pacific Ocean. Probability distribution function of the angle between SSH derived velocity and float velocity as a function of depth for (c) the Southeast Pacific Ocean and (d) Scotia Sea respectively; mean (solid) and one standard deviation (dashed).



FIG. 6: Probability distribution function of the ratio of float speed to SSH derived geostrophic speed binned in surface speed bins for (a) the Southeast Pacific Ocean and (b) Scotia Sea respectively. Probability distribution function of angle between SSH derived velocity and float velocity binned in surface speed bins for (a) Southeast Pacific Ocean and (b) Scotia Sea respectively; mean (solid) and one standard deviation (dashed).



FIG. 7: Vertical structure of (a) mean velocity in the Southeast Pacific Ocean (black) and Scotia Sea (blue), (b) EKE in the Southeast Pacific Ocean (black) and Scotia Sea (blue) binned in depth level bins. 'o' and '*' represent the zonal and meridional components respectively.



FIG. 8: Probability distribution functions of residual velocities in the (a) Southeast Pacific Ocean (b) Scotia Sea. The p values for the KS test to check gaussianity is shown in the legend.



(a)



(b)

FIG. 9: 120 day segments of float tracks in the Southeast Pacific Ocean, showing loopers (a) and others (b). The way the distinction is made is described in the text.



FIG. 10: Binned eulerian fields for the Southeast Pacific Ocean. (a) Arrows indicate direction, mean speed is shaded. (b) EKE along with standard deviation ellipses. Barotropic PV (f/H) in the background corresponds to the depth field from Figure 9.



(a)



(b)

FIG. 11: Floats tracks in the Scotia Sea. (a) shows the loopers and (b) shows the non-loopers. The way the distinction is made is described in the text.



FIG. 12: Binned eulerian fields for the Scotia Sea. (a) Arrows indicate direction, mean speed is shaded. (b) EKE along with standard deviation ellipses. Barotropic PV (f/H) in the background corresponds to the depth field from Figure 11.



FIG. 13: Variance of the rate of change with time of the high frequency component of the pressure signal from the floats averaged for the two basins binned in the vertical (a; Southeast Pacific Ocean black, Scotia Sea blue) and geographically (b).



FIG. 14: Variance preserving lagrangian spectra from float velocity. Zonal velocity (solid line with dark shading) and meridional velocity (dashed with light shading). Errorbars are obtained by bootstrapping.



FIG. 15: Vertical structure of meridional diffusivity in the Southeast Pacific Ocean. The diffusivity scale $Ko = EKE.T_{evv}$ (blue) is calculated using only the decay time scale from the floats, the estimated value $K = EKE.T_{vv}^{l}$ (red) is calculated using the full lagrangian time scale from the floats and the value $K^{theory} = \frac{4EKET_{eij}T_{dij}^{theory2}}{\pi^2 T_{eij}^2 + 4T_{dij}^{theory2}}$ (black) is calculated using the decay time scale from the floats and meander time scale from theory, which assumed a length scale of 100km.



FIG. 16: Dispersion (a) and diffusivity (b) for the floats launched west of $100^{\circ}W$ in the Southeast Pacific Ocean divided into vertical bins encompassing 500-1400m and 1400-2500m. Dispersion (a) and diffusivity (b) for the floats that crossed $70^{\circ}W$ into the Scotia Sea and divided into vertical bins encompassing 500-1000 m and 1000-2500 m.