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Title: An attempt to simulate the South China Sea during the summer of 1999

Abstract: In the South China Sea (SCS), the sea surface south of 15N is often much cooler in summer than is in spring. Satellite observations based on SeaWiFS indicate an anticyclonic eddy located roughly at 112E and 11N from June to August. This study is an attempt to simulate both the cold SST patch and the anticyclonic eddy during the summer of 1999, using ocean models froced by various forcing products. The reduced gravity model uses the 200m isobath as its basin boundary, and produces an anticyclonic eddy that resembles the observations. The lack of a thin Ekman layer near the surface, however, prevents it from simulating a realistic SST pattern. The currents from general circulation models, on the other hand, are extremely sensitive to shallow isobath, as well as wind forcings.

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