SPURS-2 Plans

Frederick Bingham
UNC - Wilmington

Tom Farrar
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

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SPURS-2

- Location: 10°N, 125°W in the eastern tropical Pacific near the northernmost extent of the ITCZ
- Stage: pre-field planning. Field program to start spring/summer 2016
- Sponsoring agencies: NASA, NSF, NOAA
- Organizing committee: T. Farrar, A. Jessup and L. Rainville. Plus PIs on next slide
- Embedded within current TPOS
- White paper published in Oceanography, March 2015, SPURS Planning Group
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SPURS-2

2012-2013 Sea Surface Salinity (Aquarius)
SPURS-2 Science Questions

• What governs the structure and variability of upper-ocean salinity near the ITCZ?

• Where does the fresh water go, and how does the ocean distribute it from the small scales of the input (atmospheric mesoscale) to the regional scale of the east Pacific fresh pool?

• What local and non-local effect does the freshwater flux have on the ocean and what are the feedbacks on the atmosphere?
Surface Salinity along 125°W
Specific Phenomena of Interest

• Barrier layers and the role of salinity in upper-ocean stratification

• Surface fluxes

• Ocean/atmosphere Ekman layer coupling

• Salinity fronts and rainfall-induced ‘fresh pools’

• Influence of rain on remote sensing

• See SPURS Planning Group (2015) for more detail
Ocean/atmosphere Ekman layer coupling

• Atmospheric divergence / oceanic convergence
• => Upwelling and formation of NECC front
• Termination of shallow overturning circulation
• Is low SSS driven by rainfall, advection or both?
• Why is SSS-min displaced from rainfall max?

Mean salinity along 125W
The Field Campaign

- **Element (PI):**
  - Surface salinity profiler (Asher)
  - Drifters (Centurioni)
  - Shipboard meteorology (Clayson)
  - Flux Mooring (Farrar)
  - Wavegliders (Hodges)
  - Seagliders (Rainville)
  - Floats (Riser)
  - Sea Snake (Schanze)
  - Lagrangian float (Shcherbina)
  - Hydrography (Sprintall)
  - Balloon-mounted IR camera (Drushka)
  - Rain radar (Rutledge)
  - Prawler Moorings (Kessler)
Other Elements

• Element (PI):
• Data management (Bingham)
• Modeling (Li)
• Satellite measurements
• Ship time (Rainville)
Potential Pitfalls

• Strong seasonal variability of SSS and rainfall
  o Continuous sampling by mooring and Lagrangian assets

• Swift currents and rapidly shifting fronts make Lagrangian observations problematic
  o Frequent visits by the Lady Amber
  o Deployment from ships of opportunity
  o Lagrangian frame experiments
Plan

• Anticipated start summer 2016
• Intensive surveys summer 2016 and 2017
• Frequent repeat visits (~ every 2 months) by the Lady Amber for deploying or repositioning Lagrangian assets
• Regional and local modeling
• Remote sensing
• Data management