

## **SEASONAL VARIABILITY OF THE EASTERN NORTH ATLANTIC COMPUTED FROM XBT DATA.**

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Seasonal variability of the Eastern North Atlantic is studied using XBT data collected on board of research vessels and opportunity ships from July 1995 to November 1998.

The objectives of the present work are to compute temperature anomalies relative to average temperature profiles at different latitudes and within 2 by 2 degree square boxes.

The XBT measurements are made along three transects between:

- 1) Lisboa and Madeira (Portugal),
- 2) Madeira (Portugal) and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain), and
- 3) Las Palmas GC and Cadiz (Spain).

These measurements are made approximately every three months, starting December 1996 for the first two transects and starting July 1995 for the last one.

The seasonal variability is presented with anomaly plots for each transect as a function of time and space.

## **SPATIAL TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE OUTCROP OF SOME CHARACTERISTIC ISOTHERMS OF THE EASTERN NORTH ATLANTIC CENTRAL WATER.**

Poster

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A SST derived from a ten-year-time series is used to research the outcrop of the isotherms that characterise two well-described modes - SMW and MMW- of ENACW. The formation area for SMW was found to be about  $0.8 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$  on average while for MMW a mean value  $1.4 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$  is found. Interannual variabilities of the order of 10 to 15% of these quantities are observed for both modes. From 1985 to 1994, the trend has been very similar: an initial decrease in the formation area over the first years followed by a constant slight increase. These results very well agree with what is in literature, although the dense and continuous nature of the data used allows to study year-to-year variations as well as the stability of the conditions favourable to modal water formation.