

Viña del Mar, March 12th of 2016

REF. MS No.: os-2015-87

Dr. Oliver Zielinski

Topic Editor

Ocean Science Discussion

Dear Dr. Zielinski,

Here we present the revised version of the manuscript “Seasonal hydrography and surface outflow in a fjord with deep sill: the Reloncavi fjord, Chile” (MS). Below you find out, in bold text the Reviewer observations following with our answer (Ans.) to each observation. We include page and line of the changes made on MS but that numbers are according to the Marked manuscript attached after the Answer to the reviewers. There are two different changes: 1) correction to the English made by American Journal Experts (AJE) and checked by myself (MIC), and 2) yellow highlighted text which are related with the answers to the Reviewers, which also are indicated on each answer.

We hope that you find this manuscript suitable for publication in Ocean Sciences,

Sincerely,

Dr. Manuel I. Castillo (MIC)
on behalf of myself and my coauthors

Anonymous Referee #1

Received and published: 14 December 2015

This paper reports on hydrographic and velocity observations in a fjord system in Chile from seasonal shipboard hydrographic measurements, moored ADCP observations, and meteorological and riverine data. The authors describe the seasonal cycle of hydrographic and wind properties in the fjord. The observations described are the most comprehensive to date for the region. They calculate outflow in an upper layer, which is used to infer and flushing time for the upper layer of the fjord.

Scientific Significance: 2 (good). The paper describes the circulation, hydrography, and forcing of an important Chilean fjord in more detail than previously available. The moored ADCP time series and repeat hydrographic surveys provide important information about variability on multiple time scales. Part of the motivation of the study was the intensive use of salmon aquaculture in Reloncavi fjord. It would be nice to see a few words in the conclusion stating how the findings of this study relate to the aquaculture issue.

Ans:

Thanks for your comment, but we think that include a comment on the Conclusions is not proper, instead we include a paragraph on the Discussion section (see pag 14, lines 29-30).

Scientific Quality: 2 (good). Generally the discussion of the observations is good. I have some questions (outlined below) about the calculation of vertical salt flux, and about cross-fjord velocity variability.

Presentation Quality: 3 (fair). The paper is well structured, and the data is presented clearly. There are however some substantial grammatical and structural problems with the English of the text. I still found the text readable, and found that information was still conveyed without much confusion – so the language problems do not interfere with the papers message. However, I would suggest that the authors take a close look at the English, perhaps with the help of a very strong English speaker, to smooth out some of the errors. Again, though, I'd like to stress that the paper still is effective in communicating its message.

Ans:

Thanks for your comments, in fact we were aware about the language, me and my co-authors revise the manuscript (MS) and we decide to upload the MS to OSD as it, we wait for the impression of the scientific editor which considers the MS enough readable to be reviewed. The new version of the MS was checked by AJE (American Journal Experts, <https://www.aje.com>) and we include the certificated of that revision on Supplementary material.

Specific comments:

When the vertical salt flux is calculated using the shear Richardson number, is the unfiltered velocity record used to calculate shear? In the text the authors says that they focus on sub-tidal and sub-inertial variability, and thus low-pass filter the velocity data.

Ans.

The salt flux was estimated using both CTD cast and ADCP unfiltered data. The idea was obtain maximum estimations (indicated on pag. 2547, lines 1-3 on the Reviewed manuscript) of the flux Richardson number (Ri) thus we using CTD cast and ADCP measurements taken almost simultaneously along the fjord.

What are the tides like in the region? I would imagine that tides could play an important role in mixing, and thus vertical salt flux and the estuarine circulation. I'd like to see a small discussion of why, or if and when, the tidal velocities are neglected. What are the errors, or sources of error associated with using the inferred (not measured) eddy diffusivity to obtain vertical salt flux? The N^2 profiles must be calculated from the CTD casts, while the dV/dZ is calculated from the moored ADCPs – is that correct? Is an N^2 profile near the ADCP mooring used to calculate Ri , A_z and K_z ? How representative would that value be when used to calculate a uniform vertical salt flux by multiplying by the area of the fjord?

Ans.

Despite the 3 m amplitude of the tides on the region, the variability associated to tides is weak especially in the upper 10 m (see Valle-Levinson et al., 2007). In fact, in this layer the variability is less than 10% and tidal currents are minor than 5 cm s⁻¹, here currents typically register intensities of 50 to 70 cm s⁻¹ (see Fig. A1). The idea was to inform the maximum limit of Ri which enter in the equations of A_z and K_z , clearly this is a first approximation and exist several source of variability involve but we consider that these parameters are relevant to be inform, but also we were aware that these estimations must be taken carefully and additional studies it is necessary to take into account the mixing on the fjord (see page 2551, lines 20-21). In fact, future studies on the region might include micro-profiler measurements to measure the mixing directly. Otherwise, the use of maximums of the vertical salt flux might be useful to obtain upper limits for the vertical exchange of salt along the fjord; we will include a phrase indicating that on the new MS (pag 17, lines 17-18).

The fjord is narrow with respect to the Rossby radius, but is there any evidence that there could be cross-fjord variability that might impact the estimates of the upper layer

volume flux made from a point velocity profile?

Ans.

The internal Rossby radii is about 10 km which is not quite longer than the cross-fjord length (3 km) in fact in the cross-fjord momentum balance Coriolis acceleration plays a key role on the subtidal dynamics (see Castillo et al., 2012). The cross-fjord currents are one order minor than the along-fjord currents (Valle-Levinson et al., 2007; Castillo et al., 2012), thus the secondary circulation is weak and the mean profile is nearly to zero intensity. There are not evidences that the cross-fjord currents has any impact on the estimations of the volume flux inform on the MS.

In section 4.2 mean salinities and temperatures for layers are listed with some +/- values. What are the +/- indicating? Standard deviation? Standard error? These layers are all to some degree stratified, so there must be a large variation in temperature and salinity in the defined layers just based on the vertical stratification.

Ans.

The errors +/- indicate standard deviation, the mean values were obtained from repetitions on the 19 along-fjord stations in each sub-basins (there are four sub-basins). Although in depth the fjord present large changes in salinity and temperature (because the strong stratification), along-fjord changes are small into the defined layers and even into the same season (Fig. A2), most of this seasonal variability is in the upper layer (< 5 m depth). We will incorporate a phrase indicating that the errors are standard deviation in the new MS on pag. 8, lines 5-6.

The Oxygen and Chlorophyll data is described in the Results section, but not really addressed in the Discussion or Conclusion. This is related to a point I made earlier, but can some explicit connections be made between this data and implications for aquaculture? I don't know much about this, but it'd be nice to see a little more discussion of the biologically relevant observations. Also, in section 4.2 sometimes the saturation of oxygen is referred to, but this saturation is obviously strongly dependent on temperature. It's not clear to me in the text if the saturation values (e.g. page 2544 line 19) are relative to the surface values, or are appropriately calculated relative to in-situ temperature and salinity.

Ans.

As the Reviewer indicate the Oxygen and Chl-a was described on the MS, we are completely agree with the observation that both needs to be properly addressed on the Discussion

section. We incorporate on the new version Discussion and comparison with other regions, we also propose an explanation about the DO seasonal variability but for Chl-a, we speculate only the possible biological/ecological implications based on previous work on the region as Montero et al (2011) on pages 14 and 15. In the case of the Oxygen saturation, we estimated that percentages from the in-situ measurements as the Reviewer indicate, we add a phrase on the new version of the MS to highlight that (pag. 10, line 16).

Page 2546, line 14-16: The sentence says that the outflow in winter is “nearly half of R”, but I think it should say “nearly double R” ?

Ans.

The sentence on page 2546, was changed accordingly with the Reviewer observation (page 12, line 16).

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 22 December 2015

General comments:

Although quite descriptive, this manuscript provides a comprehensive vision of a fjord from southern Chile. However, a wider perspective is missing. A comparison with well known fjords from the northern hemisphere would be advisable.

Ans.

We will incorporate in the new version of the manuscript (MS) references which compares our findings with other fjords, like the Juan de Fuca strait (Canada), Bradshaw and Doubtful sounds (New Zealand), the Gullmar fjord or the By fjord (Sweden) (see page 15, lines 8-13, page 16, lines 15-17) . We think that one interesting issue to remarks is related with the specific comments made by the Reviewer, despite the southern Patagonian fjords are as deep as the Norwegian, Swedish or Canadian fjords here the deeper basin near their heads are mainly hypoxic ($< 2 \text{ mL L}^{-1}$) which is a result of a combination of physical and biogeochemical processes (Silva and Vargas, 2014).

Silva, N., Vargas, C.A., 2014. Hypoxia in Chilean Patagonian Fjords. Progress in Oceanography 129-A, 62-74.

Specific comments:

It would be interesting to see a discussion about (a) the representativeness of the weather station and (b) a comparison with respect to local (fjord) wind versus regional

wind field and their relative contribution to the fjord circulation.

Ans.

The work of Montero et al. (2012), compares regional winds (a pixel outside the Chiloe island) with the meteorological station in Puelo for the period August to November of 2008 they report positive and significant correlation between both data sets ($r = 0.44$, $p < 0.001$). Additionally, the seasonal pattern of the region (see Saavedra et al., 2010) coincides with the local pattern reported in this study. Typically, the data problems in these systems (Patagonian fjords) is how representative is the regional wind into the fjord systems (contrary to the observation), because within the fjords winds tend to be locally forced and along the axis of the fjord (Farmer and Freeland, 1983) thus a local weather station it is necessary to study the dynamics of the circulation. In the Reloncavi fjord, we observed that wind plays a key role in the modification of the gravitational along-fjord circulation (see Castillo et al., 2012). We also study the influence of the wind stress on the subtidal dynamics in a recent work in review on PlosONE, on there we analyzed how into the fjord winds event could perturb the pycnocline which then oscillates at the natural internal period (internal seiche oscillation) of the fjord which is nearly of 3 days.

Despite all the quoted studies, we make a simple analysis of the wind-stress into the fjord and outside the fjord, the magnitudes outside were major than the observed winds in Reloncavi (Fig. A3). We are aware that exist differences on magnitude, but the regional pattern persist on the seasonality of the winds inside the Reloncavi fjord. We include a paragraph on the MS to remarks the wind consistency on the region on pag, 16, lines 5-9.

An interesting topic is the low oxygen concentration observed during some months of the year. The author analyzes this situation from a physical perspective but no attention is paid to (seasonal) biological processes, considering the impact of salmon and mussels farming and the contribution of organic carbon sources.

Ans.

The problem was mainly analyzed from the physical oceanography because the study had that scope, analyzing the exchanges from a physical perspective; we design and use data to aboard the study of the dynamics of the fjord. Obviously we take measurements of Oxygen and Chl-a in which processes are involve biological and ecological factors beyond the pure physic. With our data is only possible speculating the implications on the biology associated.

We will incorporate on the new version a paragraph highlighting the low DO near the head of the fjord, and that issue must be taken into account for the policy makers to the use and control of the aquaculture on the head of the fjord (pag. 14-15).

Technical comments:

The English is understandable but there are many grammatical errors in the text. Some paragraphs and sentences need to be rewritten to improve the manuscript and make the reading more fluent. Figure captions need to be checked. For instance, Fig. 2 describes a wind-rose but there is no wind rose there but a histogram; there is a b) panel which is not described in the caption, moreover, the legend of this panel includes "Cochamo river" but this color (white) does not appear on the graph.

Ans.

Thanks for the comment about the grammar of the manuscript, after making the changes that the Reviewers suggest we will send the MS which was checked by AJE (<https://www.aje.com/>), and here we include as supporting material the certificate of revision. Captions were checked and changed accordingly to the suggestion.

The Fig. 2, contains the Cochamo discharge but is so small (ca. $20 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) that seems to be not included, we included on the caption a phrase which highlights that issue.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.ocean-sci-discuss.net/12/C1337/2015/osd-12-C1337-2015-supplement.pdf>

Ans.

Thanks for your supplementary material which was helpful to improve the manuscript.

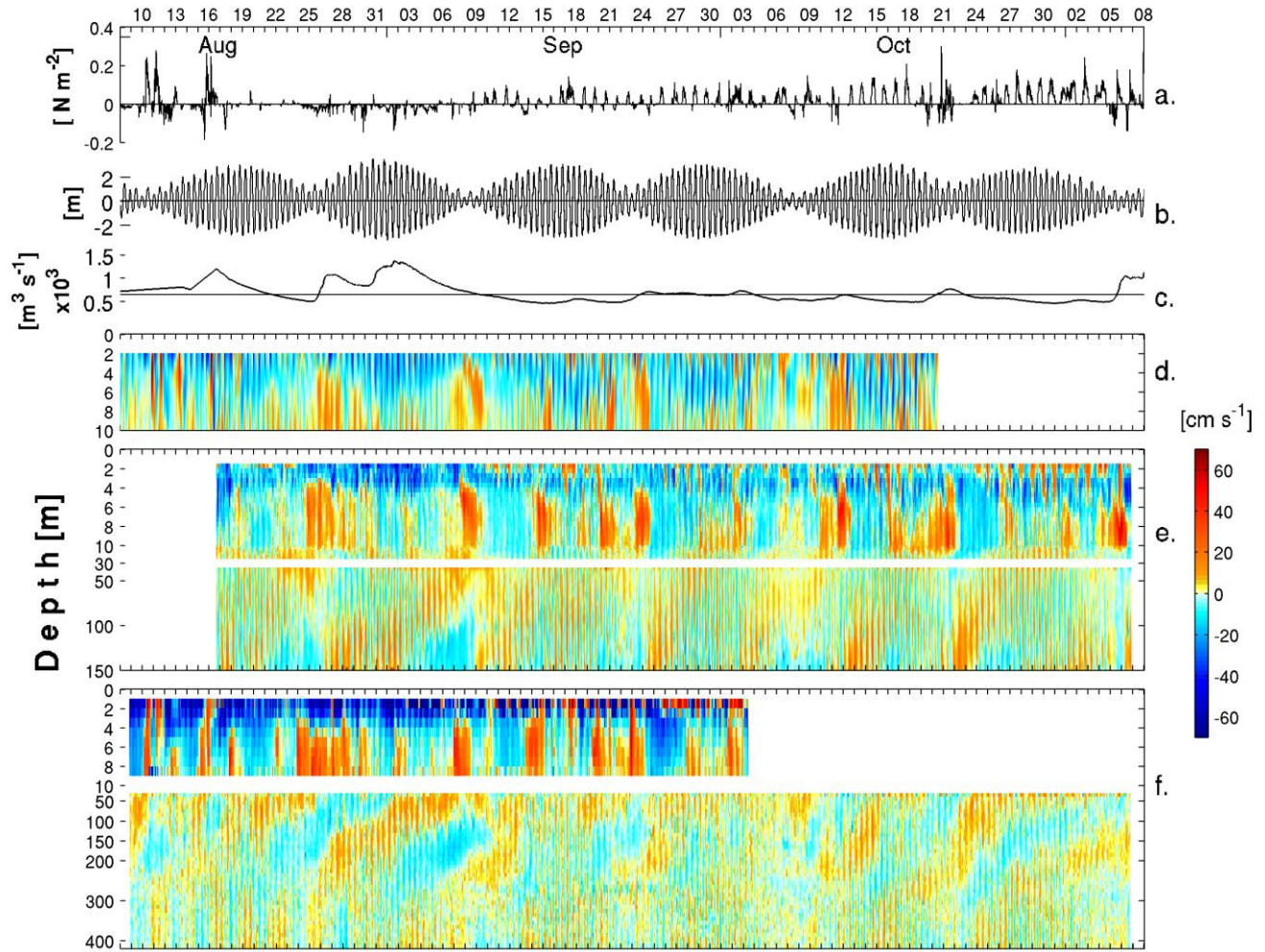


Fig. A1. Along-fjord wind stress, positive up-fjord (a), sealevel (b), Puelo river discharge here the straight line represents the long-term mean (c) and contours of along-fjord currents at Cochamo (d), at Puelo (e) and at the mouth (f). In the filled contours, the blue (red) colors indicate a net outflow (inflow).

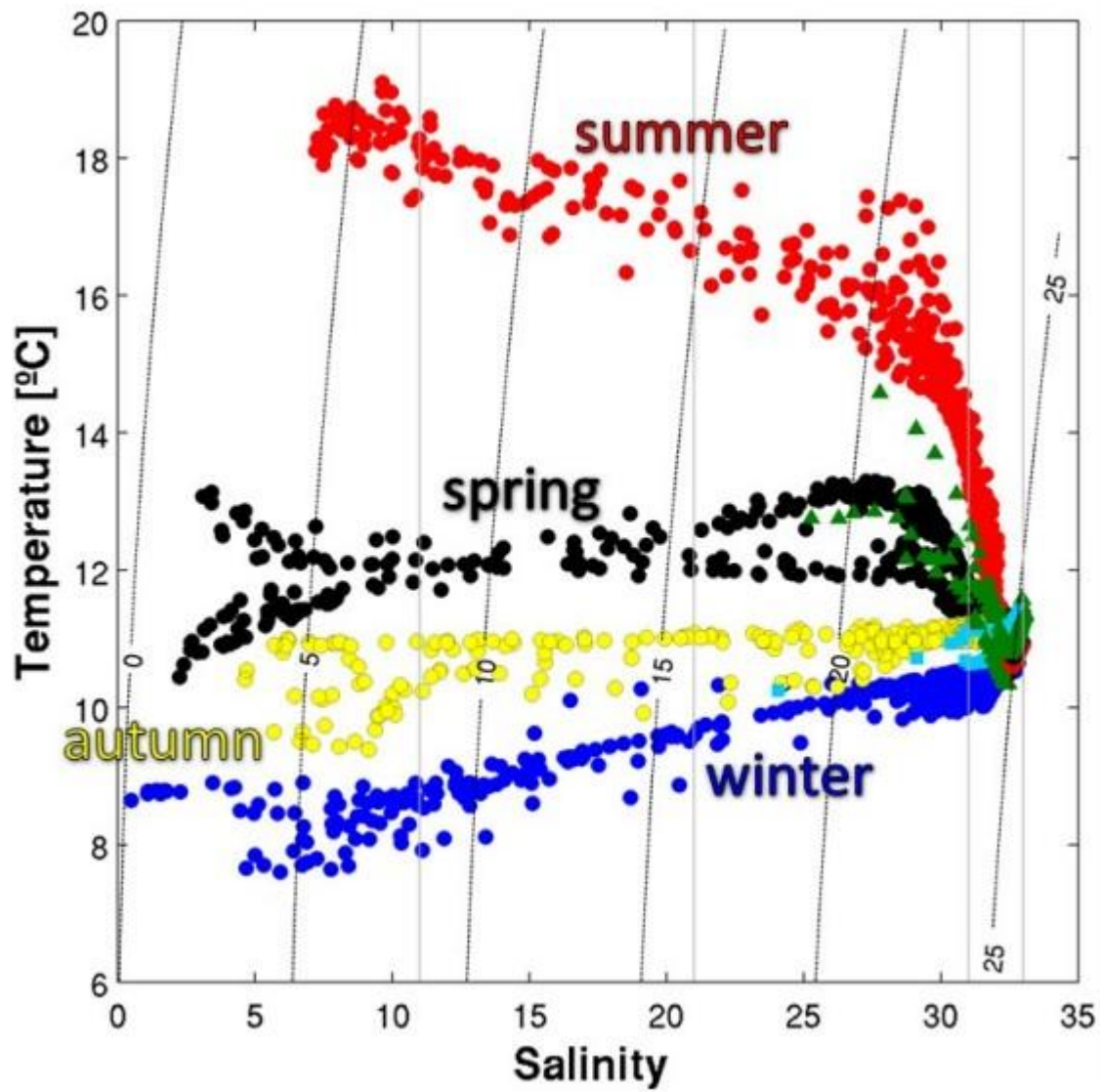


Fig A2. Temperature vs Salinity diagram for the whole set of measurements taken on the Reloncavi fjord during winter (blue dots), autumn (yellow dots), spring (black dots) and summer (red dots).

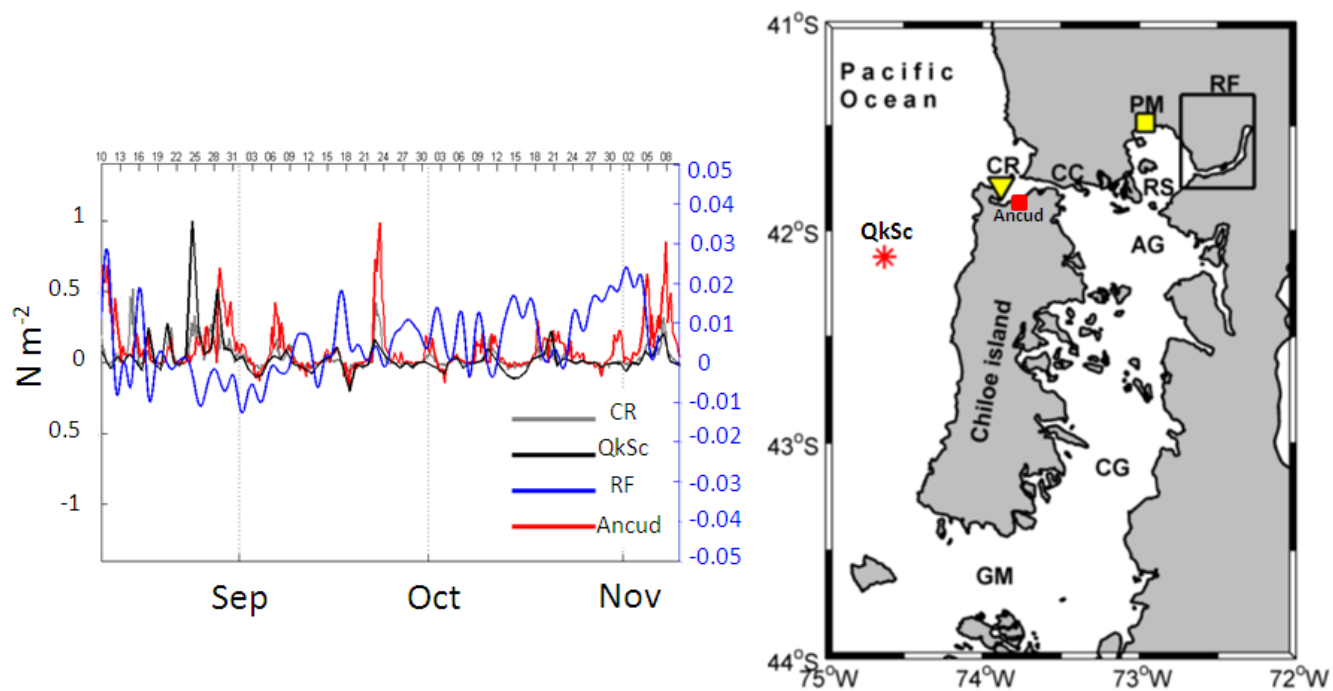


Figure A3. Comparison between the regional along-fjord winds stress from different sources: QuickScat (black), Corona (gray), Ancud (red) and RF (blue).

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Seasonal hydrography and surface outflow in a fjord with deep sill: the Reloncavi fjord, Chile.

Eliminado: a

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Abstract

Seasonal ~~data on~~ temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen (DO) and chlorophyll, combined with meteorological and river discharge time series, were used to describe the oceanographic conditions ~~of~~ the Reloncavi fjord (41°35'S; 72°20'W). The winds in the fjord valley ~~mainly~~ blow ~~down-fjord~~ during ~~the~~ winter, reinforcing the upper layer outflow, ~~whereas the~~ winds ~~blow~~ predominantly up-fjord ~~during the spring and summer~~, contrary to ~~the~~ upper layer outflow. The fjord, with a deep sill at the mouth, was well stratified year-round and ~~featured~~ a thin surface layer of brackish water with mean salinities between 10.4 ± 1.4 (spring) and 13.2 ± 2.5 (autumn). The depth of the upper layer changed slightly ~~among~~ the different studied seasons ~~but remained~~ at 4.5 m near the mouth. This upper layer presented a mean outflow (Q_1) of 3185 ± 223 m³ s⁻¹, which ~~implies~~ a flushing time of 3 days ~~for~~ this layer. The vertical salt flux was ~37 tons of salt per second, similar to the horizontal salt flux observed in the upper layer. These estimates ~~es~~ will contribute to better management of the aquaculture ~~in~~ this region.

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1 Introduction

Fjords are narrow, ~~generally deep~~ coastal inlets ~~associated with the~~ advance and ~~retreat~~ of glaciers (Stigebrandt, 2012). ~~Studies~~ of these areas ~~have~~ been widely reported for Scandinavian and ~~north~~east Pacific fjords (Farmer and Freeland, 1983; Inall and Gillibrand, 2010), but little is known about the physical dynamics of one of world's most extensive fjords region: the austral Chilean fjords (Silva and Palma, 2008; Pantoja et al., 2011; Iriarte et al., 2014).

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The austral Chilean fjord area ~~extends~~ from 41.5°S to 55.9°S, ~~a length of~~ 1700 km (~40% of the total length of Chile) ~~and~~ an area ~~of~~ 2.4 × 10⁵ km² (Silva et al., 2011). Since early ~~eighties~~, the region ~~from~~ 41.5°S – 42°S, has been intensively used for fish, shellfish and seaweed production. ~~Recently~~, the southern limit of the aquaculture is 46°S, and there are plans to ~~expand to~~ 55°S in 2015 (<http://www.subpesca.cl>). Most of the Chilean aquaculture production comes from salmon farms, which has become the fourth largest economic

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activity in Chile (Buschman et al., 2009). Despite the high utilization of fjords, knowledge of the physical dynamics remains limited. In fact, in the Chilean fjord region, only limited environmental data are available in both space and time (e.g., Silva and Palma 2008). As an example, there are only preliminary studies (e.g., Davila et al. 2002) on the impact of the freshwater supply on Chilean Patagonia circulation in regions with high river discharge (Niemeyer and Cereceda, 1984).

One of the first fjords used for salmon aquaculture in Chile was the Reloncavi fjord (centered at 41.5°S, 72.5°W). Although this is one of the most studied fjords in southern Chile, oceanographic information is relatively scarce, and several questions regarding its natural and anthropogenic variability remain unanswered. Soto and Norambuena (2004) noted the concern about the impact of the aquaculture on the system. As an example, Valle-Levinson et al. (2007) found lower (but still above critical levels) dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations ($> 2 \text{ mL L}^{-1}$) near the head of the fjord, but its variability and impact on the biology in different seasons remain unknown. In addition, in this region León-Muñoz et al. (2013) indicated the existence a significant association between the increase of surface salinity and low DO concentrations, but the variability and relationship between these parameters below 2 m depth remain unknown. Montero et al., (2011) made along-fjord observations that focused on seasonal variability of primary production. They did not observe DO as low as Valle-Levinson et al., (2007); thus, a detailed DO description is needed.

The mean circulation in the Reloncavi fjord suggests that the along-fjord currents have a three-layer vertical pattern: a thin ($< 5 \text{ m}$) outflow upper layer, a thick intermediate inflow layer ($> 5 \text{ m}$ and $< 100 \text{ m}$) and a weak deep ($> 100 \text{ m}$) outflow layer (Valle-Levinson et al., 2007; Castillo et al., 2012). This 3-layer pattern could be an important structure but has only been sporadically observed because it can be masked by wind forcing, remote forcing and freshwater pulses (Valle-Levinson et al., 2014).

Despite the diverse studies made in the Reloncavi fjord, many questions remain unanswered regarding its hydrographic conditions and circulation, such as the seasonal

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variability of the salinity and the exchanges with the area outside the fjord. Here, we present a study of the hydrographic seasonality and salinity fluxes using an extensive and high-quality data set.

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2 Study area

The Reloncavi fjord has an overall length is 55 km and the averaged width of 2.8 km (Table 1). It connects directly to Reloncavi sound and indirectly to Ancud gulf, which is connected to Pacific Ocean through the Chacao channel (to the north of Chiloe island) and by the Corcovado gulf (Fig. 1). There is a deep sill (~ 200 m depth) located 15 km from the mouth, but this structure does not seem to be a barrier to the exchange of properties with external waters. The fjord has four sub-basins: I) mouth-Marimeli, II) Marimeli-Puelo, III) Puelo-Cochamo and IV) Cochamo-Petrohue. The mean depths of the sub-basins are 440 m, 250 m, 200 m and 82 m, respectively (Fig. 1).

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The main fresh water input to the fjord is through the Puelo River, which enters at the center of the fjord and delivers an annual mean discharge of $650 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$. Another important freshwater supply (annual mean discharge of $255 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) is the Petrohue River (located at the head). Minor freshwater inputs are associated with the Cochamo River (annual mean of $20 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) (Niemeyer and Cereceda, 1984) and the Canutillar hydroelectric plant ($75.5 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ annual mean) (Fig. 1). The fresh water input due to direct precipitation on the fjord represents only 2% of the river discharge (León-Muñoz, 2013), and for the water and salt balances made in this study, its contribution was considered to be balanced by evaporation.

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Winds in the region exhibited large seasonal variability. North and northwest winds predominate during autumn and winter, while south and southwest winds predominate during spring and summer (Saavedra et al., 2010). The seasonal changes in the wind pattern were associated with an abrupt austral winter-spring transition observed in the temperature of the surface layer in the Reloncavi fjord (Montero et al., 2010). During winter, the along-fjord wind stress (τ_y) is mainly directed out of the fjord, with intensities of $< 0.2 \text{ N m}^{-2}$. In summer, τ_y is directed into the fjord, opposing the surface outflow, with intensities between

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0.1 and 0.3 N m⁻². Additionally, during this season τ_y had a clear diurnal cycle (Montero et al., 2011) probably related to the radiational tide effect (Farmer and Freeland, 1983; Rabinovich and Medvedev, 2015).

The currents near the mouth have a 3-layer pattern. The thin upper outflow was relatively fast, reaching 30 cm s⁻¹ near the surface. Below the upper layer, the intermediate inflow never exceeds 10 cm s⁻¹. The deep layer is thick and weak (~1 cm s⁻¹). This third layer has been suggested to be a consequence of tidal rectification of the flow (Valle-Levinson et al., 2007) and recently has been studied in detail in different fjords in southern Chile (Valle-Levinson et al., 2014). This pattern could change seasonally between a 2-layered structure during winter and a 3-layered structure during spring and summer.

Additionally, there is evidence of an internal oscillation with a period of 3 days (Castillo et al., 2012). One of the most recent studies on this region (León et al., 2013) found a significant association between the temporal increase in near-surface (1.5 m depth) salinity with lower surface DO concentrations; however, their observations did not describe the vertical structure or distribution of each parameters within the fjord. The objectives of this study were to examine and describe the seasonality of the hydrography of the Reloncavi fjord and to estimate the upper flow to obtain reliable flushing time estimations.

3 Data and Methods

3.1. Discharge, meteorological, hydrographic (CTD) and current (ADCP) measurements

Except for the ADCP current time series, most data were registered in all seasons. The representative months for each season used in this study were September to November for spring, December to February for summer, March to May for autumn and June to August for winter. A right-handed coordinate system was used for currents and surface wind stress vectors, where z is positive upward and the along-fjord y-component was positive toward

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the fjord head. Consequently, the cross-fjord x-component was positive toward the east at the head and toward the south at the mouth.

The Puelo river discharge data were provided by Direccion General de Aguas, Chile (www.dga.cl). The data are regularly collected at a station located 12 km up-stream of the mouth of the Puelo river (Fig. 1) and extended from January 2003 to December 2011. In this data set, gaps represented ~2% of the total. Although the discharge of the Petrohue river (RPt) was not directly measured, an estimate of its runoff was obtained using the Puelo river (RP) discharge via a linear regression between both annual cycles. The annual cycle of the RP was estimated with data from 1975-1981, and the annual cycle of the RPt was estimated with data from 1941-1982 (Niemeyer and Cereceda, 1984). Both annual cycles were highly correlated ($R^2 = 0.88$), and $RPt = 0.519 * RP - 68.173$. Due to the lack of data during the study period, the discharges of the Cochamo river ($20 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) and the Canutillar hydroelectric ($75.5 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) were considered to be constant (Niemeyer and Cereceda, 1984; Sistema Interconectado Central, Chile, www.cdec-sic.cl).

A meteorological station was installed near the Puelo River mouth (see Fig. 1). The station included sensors for wind direction and magnitude (here, wind directions are referred to by the direction from which the wind comes according to meteorological convention), solar radiation, rain and air temperature. The wind magnitude and direction sensors were installed 10 m above sea level and were set to collect data every 10 minutes from June 12th 2008 to March 30th 2011. In this data set, gaps represented only 0.04%. Wind stress (τ) was calculated using a drag coefficient that is dependent on the magnitude (see Large and Pond, 1981) and a constant air density of 1.2 kg m^{-3} .

The hydrographic data were collected using a SeaBird 25 CTD equipped with a SeaBird 43 dissolved oxygen sensor and a Wet-Lab/Wet-Star fluorometer (ECO-AFL). The concentration of chlorophyll-a (mg m^{-3}) from fluorescence was estimated according to the relationship provided by the CTD manufacturer. The CTD-Oxygen/Fluorometer (CTDOF) measurements were conducted at 19 along-fjord stations (Fig. 1). The CTD measurements were conducted in transects that took between 12 and 18 hours on August 7th 2008

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(winter), November 9th, 2008 (spring), February 6th, 2009 (summer) and June 9th, 2009 (autumn). The winter measurements only reached a depth of ~50 m due to problems with the oceanographic winch. During those casts, the CTD was not equipped with oxygen sensor.

Current measurements were made using Acoustic Doppler Current meter Profilers (ADCPs). Near the mouth of the fjord, a mooring with two ADCPs was installed. The mooring included a 75 kHz ADCP located near the bottom (450 m depth) and a 300 kHz ADCP located at 10 m depth. Another mooring with a 300 kHz at 15 m depth was installed near Cochamo. The objective for installing the 300 kHz ADCP at ~10 m depth was to obtain good velocity measurements near the surface. The instruments in both systems were programmed to measure every 10 minutes in depth cells of 1 m. The reference depth for the velocity profiles was the surface. Currents were decomposed into along-fjord (v) and cross-fjord (u) components using the right-handed coordinate system mentioned above. To focus on the sub-tidal and sub-inertial variability, the along-fjord wind stress (τ_y) and currents (u , v) were filtered using a Cosine-Lanczos low-pass filter with a half-amplitude of 40 h.

The upper volume flux (Q_1) was estimated using the velocity profiles at the mouth and Cochamo (Fig. 1). The Q_1 was estimated according to the relationship,

$$Q_1 = b \int_{z=0}^{z=v_0} v dz \quad (1)$$

where b is the fjord width near the surface at the mooring location (b was considered constant, despite changes in sea level of approximately 6 m during spring tides) and v is the along-fjord velocity, which changes with depth z . The integration was made between the surface ($z=0$) and the depth at which v is zero ($z=v_0$). The use of up-looking ADCPs implies a lack of approximately 6% (1 m for both ADCPs) of range due to side lobe effect. To estimate v up to the surface, two methods of extrapolation were used: a linear method and a nearest method, similar to that used by Kirincich et al. (2005). Note that negative (positive) values of τ_y and v indicate out of (into) the fjord directions. Similar interpretations must be performed for Q_1 .

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Based on the estimation of Q_1 , it is possible to obtain the flushing time of the upper layer (F_{t1}) if the total volume of the upper layer (V_1) is introduced. Thus, $F_{t1} = V_1 Q_1^{-1}$. Additionally, if the upper mean salinity (S_1) is considered, it is possible to estimate the horizontal salt flux: $F_{sh} = Q_1 S_1$.

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The F_{sh} was compared with the total vertical salt flux (F_{st}) at the base of the surface layer. To obtain F_{st} , it is necessary obtain the vertical salt flux (F_{sv}), which was estimated using $F_{sv} = \kappa_z \partial S / \partial z$. Here, the eddy diffusivity (κ_z) was estimated using the eddy viscosity (A_z) based on the relation suggested by Pacanowski and Philander (1981), where $A_z = 0.01 (1 + 5 Ri)^{-2} + 10^{-4}$ and $\kappa_z = A_z (1 + 5 Ri)^{-1} + 10^{-5}$. Here, $Ri = N^2 / (\partial v / \partial z)^2$ is the Richardson number that was obtained from direct measurements of the buoyancy frequency (N^2) and the vertical shear of the along-fjord currents ($\partial v / \partial z$). F_{st} was estimated by introducing the surface horizontal area (A_h) at the mean depth of the upper layer: $F_{st} = F_{sv} A_h$.

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4. Results

4.1. Meteorological conditions and fresh water supply

The winds were dominantly (up to 20%) from the southeast and south during spring, summer and autumn. In contrast, northerly winds were dominant (ca. 30%) during winter. The strongest winds ($> 10 \text{ m s}^{-1}$) were southerly and southeasterly during spring and summer (Fig. 2).

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The seasonal variations in the daily cycle (in local time) of the air temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), solar radiation (W m^{-2}), wind stress (N m^{-2}) and wind vector (m s^{-1}) were also analyzed (Fig. 3). The amplitudes of the daily cycles for all the variables were smaller during the winter (Jun-Sep) and larger during the spring and summer (Nov-Feb). The air temperature exhibited a narrower range (between $6\text{--}8^{\circ}\text{C}$) in winter compared with summer ($12\text{--}18^{\circ}\text{C}$). The solar radiation was clearly related to the variations in daylight (longer in summer than winter). Similar patterns were observed for air temperature and wind stress (τ) magnitude. In winter,

the amplitude of the daily cycle of τ was nearly zero, while during spring and summer, the maximum values of τ were observed between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. local time.

The freshwater supply due to river discharges in the Reloncavi fjord peaked during June (winter), when the mean discharge was $1400 \pm 400 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ (hereafter, the symbol, ' $\pm$ ' indicates the standard deviation). In this region, rivers typically have a secondary discharge peak associated with spring-summer snow melt, which was observed in November ($1300 \pm 300 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$). Lower river discharges were observed during late summer (February-March) and were lower than the annual mean of the Puelo River ($< 650 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$).

4.2. Seasonal hydrography: along-fjord CTD measurements

Based on the depth of the 24 and 31 isohalines, three layers were defined to describe the hydrographic conditions in the Reloncavi fjord. The upper layer was defined between the surface and the depth of the 24 isohaline (ih24), which coincides with the depth of the maximum gradient in along-fjord salinity. The rate of increasing density with depth throughout this upper layer was rather constant, and the upper layer lacked a clear mixing layer. The mean temperature in this layer was $8.68 \pm 0.32 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ during winter and $17.79 \pm 0.37 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ during summer. Furthermore, the mean salinity was 10.43 ± 1.36 during spring and 13.18 ± 2.47 during autumn. Additionally, the pycnocline depth at the mouth of the fjord was observed at 1.7 m during winter and at 2.9 m during summer. Near the head of the fjord, the pycnocline reached a maximum depth of 8 m during winter. Seasonal changes in the mean depth of the pycnocline for the entire fjord were small; it changed from $4.05 \pm 0.41 \text{ m}$ in autumn to $4.79 \pm 0.53 \text{ m}$ during spring (Table 2). This suggests that the fjord maintains upper-layer stratification throughout the different seasons, even with significant changes in the river discharges and winds (Figs. 4 and 6).

The 31 isohaline (ih31) represents the upper limit for the Modified Subantarctic Water (MSAAW) located in the inland sea outside the RF (Silva and Palma, 2008). The intermediate layer (at depths between the ih24 and ih31) had mean temperatures ranging from $10.22 \pm 0.14 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in winter to $15.29 \pm 0.48 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in summer, which are consistent with the

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high degree of radiation in summer. The mean salinities ranged from 28.98 ± 0.46 in autumn to 29.61 ± 0.37 in winter. In addition, the mean depth of the ih31 shoaled from 10.97 ± 2.49 m in spring to 7.96 ± 0.84 m in autumn, suggesting that the water was more saline in autumn than in the other seasons (Fig. 4).

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Slight changes in both temperature and salinity were observed in the deep layer (at depths > ih32). The observed temperatures ranged from 10.61 ± 0.05 °C (winter) to 10.96 ± 0.12 °C (autumn), and the salinities ranged from 32.27 ± 0.16 (winter) to 32.68 ± 0.16 (autumn). This pattern is consistent with the presence of more saline waters during autumn.

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In general, surface waters in the Reloncavi fjord are oversaturated with respect to oxygen ($DO > 6$ mL L⁻¹) during spring and summer but feature lower DO values in autumn and winter. Oversaturated waters were observed between 1 m and 15 m depth in spring and between 2 m and 10 m depth during summer. The DO values were as high as 10 mL L⁻¹ in the sub-basins III and IV near of the head (Fig. 5). In addition, waters with DO values of < 3 mL L⁻¹ (~50% saturation, estimated from in situ measurements) were observed near the bottom in sub-basin III during spring. These waters occupied a more extended area in the fjord basin during summer and autumn. Waters with DO values of < 2.5 mL L⁻¹ were observed near the bottom of sub-basins III and IV during summer and autumn.

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The surface concentration of chlorophyll-a (Chl-a) was extremely low during winter (slightly greater than 0 mg m⁻³), and no major changes occur among the seasons. In general, water in the fjord yielded Chl-a values of < 6 mg m⁻³ during winter, spring and autumn, with especially low Chl-a values (~1 mg m⁻³) during winter. The exception was observed during summer in water at depths between 3 m and 12 m, where Chl-a was as high as 25 mg m⁻³ along the entire fjord. An interesting feature was observed at the entrance of sub-basin IV: this high concentration was disrupted, likely due to changes in depth and width of the fjord in this region (Fig. 5).

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4.3. Variability of the upper flow

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It is interesting to compare the winter and spring conditions using the mean velocity profiles and flows for each period. During the end of winter, winds were out of fjord (mean wind stress of $-0.3 \pm 7 \times 10^{-2} \text{ N m}^{-2}$) in the same direction as the upper current with intensities larger than 50 cm s^{-1} . Under these conditions, Q_1 had a mean depth of 5.31 m. During the winter, the mean Q_1 was as high as $-4045 \pm 283 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ (outflow), which was ~ 3 times larger than the input of fresh water (R) into the fjord (Fig. 7a).

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In early spring, τ_y was oriented in an opposite (on average) direction to the upper currents (i.e., into the fjord) with a mean intensity of $1.1 \pm 5 \times 10^{-2} \text{ N m}^{-2}$, which was approximately 4 times greater than in winter. These opposing winds likely reduced the surface outflow, which never exceeded 30 cm s^{-1} during this period. In addition, during spring, the outflow was approximately half ($-2050 \pm 143 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) the outflow observed in winter and nearly twice as large as R (Fig. 7b).

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Combining the observed Q_1 and typical salinity of the upper layer during winter and spring, it was possible to obtain the horizontal salt flux associated with the upper layer (F_{sh}). In winter, Q_1 was $4045 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$, the mean salinity (S_1) was 12.9 kg of salt per cubic meter (kg salt m^{-3}), and a mean density (ρ_1) of 1009.7 kg m^{-3} was assumed for the upper layer. Thus, the total supply of salt associated with the upper layer during this season was $F_{sh} = 52.3$ tons of salt per second (tons of salt s^{-1}). During spring, the upper layer salinity was $10.5 \text{ kg salt m}^{-3}$ ($\rho_1 = 1007.6 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$), and Q_1 was $2050 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$, which implies a total salt supply of $F_{sh} = 21.5$ tons of salt s^{-1} during this season. The relatively minor F_{sh} during the spring (compared with winter) was related to the high outflow and discharge differences between the seasons. A representative mean of F_{sh} for the entire period can be obtained from the F_{sh} average for winter and spring: 36.9 tons of salt s^{-1} .

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To estimate the vertical salt flux (F_{sv}), the maximum N^2 and maximum $\partial v / \partial z$ were considered. In winter, Ri was 4.0 ($\kappa_z = 1.6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$), whereas in spring, Ri was 36.2 ($\kappa_z = 1.1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$). In addition, the maximum $\partial S / \partial z$ values were $17.4 \text{ kg of salt m}^{-4}$ in winter and $18.2 \text{ kg of salt m}^{-4}$ in spring. The vertical salt flux (F_{sv}) was $2.8 \times 10^{-4} \text{ kg of salt}$

$\text{m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ during winter and $1.9 \times 10^{-4} \text{ kg of salt m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ during spring. Thus, the average salt flux is $2.3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ kg of salt m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. The total salt flux (F_{sT}) to the upper layer could be estimated assuming that F_{sV} is maintained over the horizontal area (A_h) at 5 m depth (which is the deeper limit for the outflow, see Fig. 7). Here, $A_h = 1.59 \times 10^8 \text{ m}^2$; thus, $F_{sT} = 3.7 \times 10^4 \text{ kg of salt s}^{-1}$, or 37 tons of salt s^{-1} .

5. Discussion

A particular feature of the Reloncavi fjord is the deep sill located at 3 km from the mouth (Fig. 1d). Usually, in fjords with no or deep sills, the interior density distribution and variability is closely related to the external stratification (e.g., Pedersen, 1978). The earliest efforts to describe the Reloncavi fjord were summarized by Basten and Clement (1999), but their results are based on relatively few and sparse observations that preclude an adequate description of the seasonal variability.

5.1. Seasonality of the hydrography and freshwater inputs

To describe the seasonal conditions observed in the Reloncavi fjord, it is necessary describe the external conditions in the region. In the Pacific Ocean in front of Chile island ($\sim 42.5^\circ\text{S}$, 74°W), the water mass distribution indicates the presence of Subantarctic Water (SAAW) in the upper 100 m (salinity > 33) at the coast and farther offshore (2000 km). Below the SAAW and near the shore ($> 10 \text{ km}$), the Equatorial Subsurface Water (ESSW) is perceptible to a depth of 350 m (Silva et al., 2009). Only these water masses could penetrate the Guafo mouth and occupy the inland sea of Chile (Fig. 1). Here, the presence of several islands, sills and constrictions between the Corcovado and Ancud gulfs enhance turbulent mixing in the region. The mixing between SAAW and freshwater produces a water mass with a salinity between 31 and 33 and is known as the Modified Subantarctic Water (MSAAW) (Silva and Palma, 2008). The MSAAW occupies most of the interior basins of the Chilean fjord region (Perez-Santos et al., 2014). In summer, when river discharge is limited, surface salinities greater than 33 are present off the Guafo channel

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(Palma et al., 2011). In winter, the coastal temperature and salinity in the Chilean fjord region appear to be controlled by the freshwater inputs (Davila et al., 2002).

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The seasonal variability in the wind in the Reloncavi fjord valley was consistent with the regional pattern observed in the south-central Chilean coast, with southerly winds during spring and summer and northerly winds during autumn and winter (e.g., Saavedra et al., 2010). During spring and summer, the alongshore wind stress promotes upwelling near the coast (Strub et al. 1998; Sobarzo et al., 2007). This process allows saltier deep water to reach the upper layer, thereby changing the near-shore hydrography.

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This is also true for the Reloncavi fjord, which featured lower salinity values and temperatures during the winter (Fig. 4), when discharge presented a relatively long-term mean (eight years) of $1300 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ (Fig. 2). It is worth noting that the highest salinities (> 33) in the Reloncavi fjord were observed during autumn at the bottom of sub-basin I. In addition, these waters present relatively high temperatures ($\sim 11^\circ\text{C}$) and low DO (Figs. 4 and 5). These results suggest that denser ocean waters may reach the Reloncavi sound in fall. Nevertheless, based on the limited spatial and temporal distribution of the data used in this study, it is not possible to know if this is a typical feature of the seasonal cycle.

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In terms of DO, the volume of near-hypoxic waters ($2 - 3 \text{ mL L}^{-1}$) increased from spring to autumn. In autumn, more than one third of the fjord volume exhibited near-hypoxic conditions, whereas in the spring, the fjord basin waters were oxygenated, with DO values of $> 3 \text{ mL L}^{-1}$ (Fig. 5). In addition, these low-oxygen conditions increased toward the head of the fjord. In fact, sub-basins III and IV are dominated by waters with DO values of $< 3 \text{ mL L}^{-1}$ during summer and autumn. The low-oxygen water near the head of the fjord is a condition observed in several continental fjords that are similar to the Reloncavi fjord, and these conditions are produced by the respiration of autochthonous particulate matter (Silva and Vargas, 2014). This typical low-DO trough the head of the fjord has not be taken into account as selection criteria for the location of the marine concessions in the region. In the upper layer (at depths of $< 20 \text{ m}$), the high DO ($> 6 \text{ mL L}^{-1}$) and Chl-a ($> 16 \text{ mg m}^{-3}$) values in summer suggest in situ productivity, in contrast, the high DO ($> 6 \text{ mL L}^{-1}$) during spring

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were related with Chl-a concentrations of $\sim 1 \text{ mg m}^{-3}$. This pattern could be due to a difference in the phytoplankton communities, which are dominated by dinoflagellates in the summer and diatoms in the spring (Montero et al., 2011). Another possibility is the advection of water with high DO values during spring, but it is not possible to address this hypothesis in this study. The relatively well-ventilated (greater than hypoxic levels) deep water observed in the Reloncavi fjord seems to be a characteristic of the southern Patagonian deep fjords of Chile (Silva and Vargas, 2014). Similar characteristics have been observed in Bradshaw and Doubtful sounds in New Zealand (Stanton and Pickard, 1981). In contrast, Scandinavian fjords commonly feature shallow sills at the mouths of the fjords, which tend to isolate the deep water and promote anoxia (Stigebrandt, 2012). As an example, the By fjord required forced oxygenation of the deep water to reduce the eutrophication of the waters (see Stigebrandt et al. 2014).

According to this classification, the waters in the Reloncavi fjord are dominated throughout the seasons by EW in the upper layer and MSAAW in the deep layer (Fig. 4). Recent studies have reported the presence of MSAAW in the Puyuhuapi fjord (44.6°S, 72.8°W) (Schneider et al., 2014) and in the Martinez channel (47.8°S, 73.7°W) in southern Patagonia (Perez-Santos et al., 2014).

In the Reloncavi fjord, there is an unique connection (at the mouth) with the outer conditions and its deep sill (at 12 km from the mouth) does not seem to be a barrier for the intrusion of MSAAW waters, which is greatest during autumn (Fig. 4 and 5). These conditions also contribute to the propagation of remote low-frequency oscillations to the interior of the Reloncavi fjord, which have been attributed to 15-day oscillations observed in deep along-fjord currents (Castillo et al., 2012).

5.2. Reloncavi fjord exchanges

One important parameter in estuarine environments is the renewal capacity of the system. Unfortunately, the ADCP measurements do not cover the entire depth range of the fjord basin, which would be necessary to obtain a complete profile of the exchanges at the

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mouth. However, using the shallower ADCPs, it was possible to obtain reliable estimates of the surface outflow in this location (Fig. 6).

The local winds of the Reloncavi fjord have been highly consistent with the regional pattern. The study of Montero et al. (2011) compares a pixel outside Chiloé island with the same meteorological data used here and found a significant correlation between the two data sets ($r = 0.44$, $p < 0.001$). Furthermore, the seasonal pattern of the region (Saavedra et al., 2010) coincides with the local pattern reported in this study (Fig. 3). In addition, the wind stress was highly correlated ($r^2 = 0.7$) with the outflow at the mouth. During winter, τ_y was negative, i.e., oriented in the same direction as the upper flow. Thus, τ_y may enhance the estuarine circulation.

The surface outflow estuarine circulation seems to be sustained even during the spring, when τ_y is directed against the upper flow. This differs from other estuarine system, such as the Juan de Fuca strait, where the estuarine flow tends to switch between estuarine and transient flows due to the local wind influence (Thomson et al., 2007). In the Reloncavi fjord, an along-fjord wind stress of $\geq 3 \times 10^{-2} \text{ N m}^{-2}$ is able to balance the typical along-fjord pressure gradient (Castillo et al., 2012) and produce the observed inflows in the upper layer (Figs. 6b, 6c).

The estimates of the volume fluxes could help to obtain a first approximation of the water exchanges in the Reloncavi fjord. In addition, the estimation of the vertical salt flux maxima might be useful to obtain upper limits on the vertical exchange of salt along the fjord. At the mouth, the average volume flux (Q_1) estimated from direct observations was $3185 \pm 223 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$. One interesting (operational) parameter is the flushing time of the upper layer (F_{t1}), which is determined by $F_{t1} = V_1 Q_1^{-1}$, where V_1 is the upper layer volume ($8.30 \times 10^8 \text{ m}^3$). The flushing time of the upper layer (F_{t1}) was 3 days, which is highly consistent with the period of the oscillations observed in the time series at the mouth and Cochamo (Fig. 6).

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A period of 3 days is also consistent with the natural period of oscillation in the fjord (internal seiche oscillations) reported by Castillo et al., (2012). These oscillations are mainly dominated by the first baroclinic mode (Castillo et al., in review). The oscillations likely play a role in the internal mixing of the fjord, similar to the Gullmard fjord (Arneborg and Liljebladh, 2001), where 36% of the mixing is caused by the internal seiche. Additionally, this flushing time is similar to the F_t estimated by Calvete and Sobarzo (2011) for the Aysen fjord ($45^{\circ}16'S$, $73^{\circ}18'W$), however their results were based on the fresh water fraction and a thick upper layer of 20 m for all the calculations, contrary to this study in which the upper layer depth was determined by the 24 isohaline depth (ih24). These flushing times estimations contrast with the 100 days estimated by Valle-Levinson et al. (2007) for the Reloncavi fjord basin, but those estimates were made based on cross-fjord transects (measured on 1 day) of a towed ADCP near of the Puelo River (in the center of the fjord). Here, time series of Q_1 consider two months of velocity profiles based on the first reliable estimations of the upper flow in the Reloncavi fjord. In any case, these estimates must be taken carefully, and to expand the results to the fjord basin, future modeling studies must be performed to obtain the residence times of any properties in the fjord. Additionally, to study the mixing variability, future studies might include along-fjord micro-profiler measurements.

The mean outflow at the mouth ($3185 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) was ~6 times the mean outflow at Cochamo ($583 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$). The outflow at Cochamo represents the volume flux of sub-basin IV (near the head of the fjord), which is dominated by the Petrohue river (Fig. 1). The Petrohue river discharge is estimated to be $318 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$. Thus, the ratio R/Q_1 was 0.55, which implies that the outflow at Cochamo is nearly twice the freshwater input in this sub-basin.

Another way to obtain estimates of the exchanges is use the Knudsen's relation for a two-layered model. This method has been used to estimate exchange flows in Chilean fjords (e.g., Valle-Levinson et al., 2007; Calvete and Sobarzo, 2011). However, the use of this relation requires the salinity to be in steady state, which is only valid for long time scales (Geyer, 2010). Therefore, the volume flux of the upper layer is defined by $Q_1 = R/f$. Here, $f = (S_2 - S_1)/S_2$ is the fraction of freshwater (e.g., Dyer, 1997) and R is the freshwater input to

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the fjord. In winter, f was 0.6, and in spring, f was 0.68. The outflow estimated using the Knudsen relation during winter (spring) at the mouth was $2293 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ($1403 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$). Notice that in both seasons the outflows were underestimated. These values were ~ 2 times smaller than the values obtained using the mean observed flow, and imply longer flushing times than observed at the mouth. In contrary, at Cochamo (sub-basin IV), the freshwater fraction ($f = R/Q_1$) was 0.58, similar to the observed fraction in sub-basin I.

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These results suggest that the estimates of the water renewal of the upper layer using Knudsen's relation are only valid in sub-basin IV (upper part of the fjord) and are not valid for the entire fjord. This could have significant implications for the management of the salmonid aquaculture in the region because the salmon cages generally occupy the upper 20 m of the water column (Oppedal et al., 2011).

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An interesting result was obtained from the estimates of the horizontal and vertical salt fluxes for the upper layer in the period between late winter and early spring (Fig. 6). The results indicate that ~ 37 tons of salt s^{-1} flows out from the upper layer and that the same amount of salt is supplied to the upper layer by the turbulent mixing (Fig. 7). These results suggest that the lower layer is able to sustain the output of salt from the upper layer, thereby maintaining a (nearly) steady state in terms of the amount of salt in the fjord. These results must be treated carefully and likely require more attention in future observational and numerical models studies on this region.

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6. Conclusions

Winds in the region were consistent with the seasonal regional pattern, Northerlies dominated during winter, and southerlies dominated during summer. The strongest winds ($> 10 \text{ m s}^{-1}$) were southerly and southeasterly in the afternoon of spring and summer. The freshwater supply had two peaks over the course of the year, the largest peak occurred in winter ($1400 \pm 400 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) during the pluvial season, and the secondary peak occurred in spring ($1300 \pm 300 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) due to snow melt.

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The pattern of the hydrography had marked seasonal changes. The water ~~was~~ colder ~~during~~ ~~winter~~ than ~~summer~~. In the upper 10 m, temperatures were nearly 8 °C ~~in winter and~~ 18 °C ~~in summer~~. The dissolved oxygen concentration (DO) of the Reloncavi fjord was higher than 2 mL L⁻¹ in all seasons. The lowest DO was present during spring and autumn in sub-basin IV near the ~~head of the~~ fjord.

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The upper layer salinities (S_1) and densities (ρ_1) were lower during spring and higher during autumn. The change ~~in~~ the along-fjord pycnocline depth was minimal, which suggests that stratification was maintained ~~throughout~~ the seasons. ~~The small increment of~~ salinity ~~of~~ the deep layer ~~was~~ consistent with the intrusion of Subantarctic waters modified by mixing processes outside the fjord ~~likely occurred~~.

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The mean Q_1 at the mouth was $3185 \pm 223 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$, which was ~6 times the outflow of Cochamo ($583 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$). At the mouth, the results showed ~~large~~ differences between the volume flux ~~estimated using~~ the Knudsen's relation and the observed outflow. ~~In contrast,~~ at Cochamo, the Knudsen's relation ~~appropriately~~ estimated the volume flux of sub-basin IV.

In the period between late winter and early spring, the upper layer had a flushing time of 3 days, ~~which is~~ highly consistent with the natural internal period of the fjord.

The horizontal and vertical salt fluxes were highly consistent in the period between late winter and early spring. An amount of ~37 tons of salt per second ~~was~~ supplied to the upper layer, ~~and~~ this amount of salt was ~~very similar to~~ the output of salt by the upper layer.

Acknowledgments

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Table 1. Topographic features of the sub-basins in the Reloncavi Fjord (RF). Here, b is the width, L is the length, and z is the depth.

Sub-basin	b (km)	L (km)	z (m)
I	2.2 - 4.5	14	400-460
II	2.3 - 4.2	15	140-280
III	3	16	180-200
IV	1.1 - 1.6	10	35-110
RF mean	2.8	55	250

Table 2. Seasonal statistics of the mean depth of the upper layer, and the densities of the upper and deep layers.

	h_1 [m]	ρ_1 [kg m ⁻³]	ρ_2 [kg m ⁻³]
Aug. (winter)	4.60 ± 0.60	1009.72± 4.32	1024.62 ± 0.74
Nov. (spring)	4.79 ± 0.53	1007.63± 5.32	1024.78 ± 0.62
Feb. (summer)	4.68 ± 0.26	1008.77± 3.26	1024.78 ± 0.63
Jun. (autumn)	4.05 ± 0.41	1009.90± 3.92	1024.95 ± 0.48

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Figure Captions

Figure 1: (a) The Reloncavi fjord region and location of the instruments. The upper left insert shows the general region. The ADCP moorings are near the mouth (ADCP). The black lines indicate the ADCP (BT ADCP) transects. On the right, the insets show the (b) Cochamo and (c) mouth regions. The lower inset (d) shows the along-fjord bathymetry, in which the segmented lines indicate the sub-basin limits: mouth-Marimeli (I), Marimeli-Puelo (II), Puelo-Cochamo (III) and Cochamo-Petrohue (IV). The diamonds represent the location and depths of the ADCP mooring showed in (c).

Figure 2: Seasonal variability of the wind vector in the Reloncavi fjord during the period June 2008 to March 2011. Frequency histograms of direction and magnitude for each season: a) spring, b) summer, c) autumn and d) winter. The annual cycle of the discharge into the Reloncavi fjord is shown in e). Notice that the Cochamo discharge is included but is low ($20 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) compared to the other sources.

Figure 3: Seasonal variability in the daily cycle of the meteorological variables: a) air temperature, b) solar radiation, c) wind stress magnitude and d) wind velocity (meteorological convention). The y-axis is the local hour to be consistent with the day-light hours.

Figure 4: Along-fjord seasonal distribution of temperature (above) and salinity (below) for winter, spring, summer and autumn. The figure includes the CTD station number in the top of each panel and the sub-basins numbers below.

Figure 5: Along-fjord seasonal distribution of dissolved oxygen (above) and chlorophyll (below) for winter, spring, summer and autumn. The figure includes the CTD station number in the top of each panel and the sub-basins numbers below. No DO measurements were obtained during winter.

Figure 6: Low-frequency time series of the Puelo river (a), along-fjord wind stress (b), and the volume flux of the upper layer at the mouth (c) and at Cochamo (d). Note the use of a different scale for the volume flux at each location. The segmented line indicates the seasonal shift in the pattern of winds between late winter and early spring.

Figure 7: Mean profiles of along-fjord currents (v) at the mouth for the periods of winter (a), spring (b) and for the entire period of measurement shown in Fig. 6. The blue line indicates the observed mean, which is lacking near the surface. The red and black lines indicate two different extrapolations to the surface: linear (red) and nearest (blue). The mean volume fluxes (Q_1) obtained using the two extrapolations are included. Additionally, the averages of τ_y for each period and the discharge (R) have been included.

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