Viña del Mar, Jan 13th of 2017

REF. MS No.: os-2016-42

Dr. Mario Hoppema
Topic Editor
Ocean Science Discussion

Dear Dr. Hoppemai,

Here we present the revised version of the manuscript “Seiche excitation in a highly stratified fjord of southern Chile: the Reloncaví fjord” (MS). Below you find out, in bold text the Reviewer observations following with our answer 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.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Manuel I. Castillo (MIC)

on behalf of myself and my coauthors

Reviewer 1

In their manuscript entitled “Seiche excitation in a highly stratified fjord of southern Chile: the Reloncavi fjord”, the authors present a detailed observational dataset spanning three months (August-November 2008) to study the variability in the Reloncavi fjord, Chile. Combining in-situ data (ADCP and temperature on three mooring lines, CTD casts) with meteorological and sea level monitoring data, the authors are able to analyze the variability of currents in the fjord. Their analysis demonstrates in particular the presence of internal seiches of period ∼ 3 days excited by the wind stress. They are able to infer a damping time of~9 days. This study is interesting as it provides a thorough analysis of the flow variability in a fjord using detailed observations. The interpretation of the results is based on simple and robust theoretical frameworks, and the conclusions are convincingly drawn. I therefore recommend this manuscript for publication, pending some minor revisions that I list below.

Minor comments:
1) Lines should be numbered continuously throughout the entire document.

Answer
We continuously number the lines of the manuscript (MS).

2) Line 9, p4: avoid repetition of the word “forcing”

Answer
The word was deleted on line 93.

3) Line 23, p8: You refer to a mean wave speed, but Equ. (1) defines a time. Can you clarify?

Answer
The eq. 1, define the fundamental period of oscillation of the basin which is a better way to estimate the oscillation period of a basin. The phase speed is related with the period based on the linear theory. The scope of the manuscript is based on the period of oscillation of the fjord because appear a marked spectral peak on one characteristic frequency (period) band, the three days. That is based on ***effective phase speed*** which take into account the changes of depth and lengths of every sub-basin you must notice that the period is related with the phase velocity (c) in the form showed on the eq. 1. Thus imply that, there is an effective period for the

entire basin. We incorporated the terms effective phase speed in the MS on lines 234-237.

4) Line 11, p14: Change the sentence after the parenthesis.

Answer
The sentence was deleted on line 395.

5) Line 1-2, p15: I hardly understand this sentence.

Answer
Here we describe the percentage of variability explained by the first barotropic mode (known as mode 0), and then for the first three baroclinic modes (modes 1-3). Here the intention is remarks that the nature of the 3 days oscillations is baroclinic. We indicated that the percentage of variance explained in the 3 days band by the mode 0 is only 5% thus the nature of the oscillations is baroclinic. We finally decide delete the paragraph (line 413) which distract for the main idea of the MS which is the presence and structure of the 3 days oscillation.

6) Line 24, p15: remove fix this sentence.
Answer
The sentence was removed

7) Line 10-28, p17: Do you really mean Fig. 5, or rather Fig. 4 in this paragraph?
Answer
Thanks, we corrected the sentence on line 549.

8) Line 1, p18: replace "perturb" with "perturbing"
Answer
The word was replaced on line 573.

9) Line 8, p19: "a way of estimating"
Answer
The sentence was changed on line 611.

10) Line 29 and Fig. 9: it would be very helpful if you would add the time evolution of W in Fig. 9, e.g. in the upper panel superimposed on the wind stress.
Answer
We deeply sorry here, because in the on line answer we don't understand that you refers about W or the vertical velocity. Now in the revised form we change the old Fig. 9 and include the time evolution of vertical velocity as arrows on the contours of the along-fjord currents and we made an interpretation of the results on lines 519-523.

11) Line 23, p20: What is the unit of k?

Answer

The damping coefficient (k) has unit of [s^{-1}] which is consistent with the dimensionless of the exponential and also with the argument of the cosine, here the units of x(t) it is given by the amplitude (A). We include an explination of that on lines 656-657.

12) Line 6-9, p22: Restate this sentence.

Answer

The sentence was deleted

Reviewer 2

General comment this is an interesting paper which describes the internal seiches in a Chilean fjord on the basis of a data set extending over three months. The analysis follows standard procedures, is competently executed and the results are clearly presented. As far as I can see, there are no arresting, novel results but given the sparsity of observations of internal oscillations in fjords, especially in the extensive fjords of the Chile coast, there would seem to be a fair case for publication in Ocean Science. I sense that, be for publication, there are a number of aspects, detailed below, in which the analysis and presentation of the results could be improved and the interpretation enhanced.

1) My main concern about the paper is that it does not clearly identify the relative importance of the seiche in the overall dynamics and mixing processes in the fjord. There is a strong barotropic tidal forcing which, flowing over the sills, will tend to induce a small (?) M2 internal tide. As the authors indicate, there is also an energetic Estuarine Circulation in response to the considerable freshwater input to the fjord as well as wind-driven motions, notably at the diurnal frequency. In this situation it would be good to know the contribution of the internal seiches in relation to the other components of flow. This might be done by including a plots over time of the kinetic energy in each component (as in fig 7 but for all components).

Answer

The paper was focused on the seiche presence because the subtidal dynamics has been studied by the authors in others works (Castillo et al., 2012, 2016). The estuarine circulation is the main characteristic of the upper circulation (layer between 0 to 30 m) within the fjord. The deep circulation presents the influence of tides on the variability in contrast to the upper layer where the tide represents less than 20% of the variability. The peaks of the semi-diurnal is large en evident on the spectrum of the along-fjord currents (Fig. 4) but you must take into account is that the energy is related to the integral of the curve. Although in the first part of the MS we shows the total variability of the time series. The scope of this study is explain the persistent and notorious accumulation of energy centered at the 3 day band which explained a similar amount of energy than the tidal (semi-diurnal + diurnal) components (see Fig. 7). We compares the kinetic energy (K_E) of the tidal, the 3 days band and the modal components of the flow to shows and remarks the relatively importance of the 3 days band which is the band related with the internal seiche oscillation. We believe that the internal oscillation of the basin must be include in future estimations of the mixing or carrying capacity of the fjord. See our new explanation of the contribution of the tidal variability on lines 430-443.

2) The log-log plots of spectral energy density are not suitable for comparison of the relative variance contribution and could, with advantage, be replaced by "equal variance plots" in which you plot P(f) x f versus log f which do demonstrate the relative magnitude of the energy in different peaks.

Answer
Thanks for your help, and as you indicated the equally variance plots helps to identify the main peaks of energy, but less energetic peaks, but notorious, vanishing with this technique (see Figure included).

We think that the log-log spectrum provide us a detailed description of the different kind of oscillations present on the time-series, we are aware about the fact that there are some of those oscillations more energetic than others but even that, the less energetic oscillation like the 1.3h peak in the sealevel is extremely consistent with the presence of a barotropic seiche in the fjord which is not possible to observe using the equal variance spectrum.

3) Differences in the spectral peaks at ~12h (fig 4) suggest that there is a significant internal tidal response as has been observed in other fjords (e.g.Allen and Simpson, Winant 2010). You could isolate this component either by projecting on to the modes or by cross-spectral analysis of flow in the upper and lower layers.

Answer
Thanks for the suggestion, in fact the internal tides dynamics is the main topic of the ongoing manuscript from the same authors which take results not only from the Reloncavi fjord also to another fjord of the southern Patagonia. We think that the tidal variability is a different topic and out of the scopes of the manuscript. In the case of the internal tides, recently on the southern Patagonian fjords Ross et al (2014, 2015) showed the relatively importance of the internal tides in the high frequency dynamic of the fjords, indeed in the manuscripts they shows to different ways of forcing for the internal waves: GLOFS and low-frequency changes of barometric pressure. As part of a new project, the group involves in this manuscript is worried about the forcing for one hand tides inducing internal tides due to the

pycnocline interaction with the bathymetry for example, and for other hand winds could perturb the pycnocline inducing natural oscillations of the basin. We wants to maintain the manuscript scope on the 3 days oscillation which clearly is due to the natural internal oscillation of the Reloncavi fjord, this finding is extremely relevant for the region because is the first time that the process it is described for the southern Patagonian fjords.

References:

Ross, L., Pérez-Santos, I., Valle-Levinson, A., and Schneider, W. 2014. Semidiurnal internal tides in a Patagonian fjord. Progress in Oceanography, 129: 19-34.

Ross, L., Valle-Levinson, A., Pérez-Santos, I., Tapia, F. J., and Schneider, W. 2015. Baroclinic annular variability of internal motions in a Patagonian fjord. Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans, 120: 5668-5685.

4) The paper emphasizes the consistency of the density structure but it does vary somewhat (~20%) and it would be useful to relate this variation to the changes in stratification due to variations in freshwater input and surface heating/cooling. Presumably salinity is the main control on density but surface heat exchange may also be playing a role?

Answer

We think that the surface heat exchange may play a role in the upper column, in fact on the brackish water layer, were temperature could be more important to the density instead of salinity. We consider include a description of the relevance of the heating/cooling of the upper layer which has a marked seasonal cycle. You must notice that rivers on the region are colder in winter producing a clear thermal inversion (Castillo et al., 2016) while in summer the surface waters could reach until 18ºC probably by heat gained by the solar radiation. But the development of the pycnocline along the seasons is consistent with the freshwater input suggesting that the variability of the density in the upper layer is dominated by the freshwater input instead of the surface heating/cooling.

Reference:

Castillo, M.I., Cifuentes, U., Pizarro, O., Djurfeldt, L., Caceres, M., 2016. Seasonal hydrography and surface outflow in a fjord with a deep sill: the Reloncaví fjord, Chile. Ocean Sci. 12, 533-544.

5) I was surprised that there is not more evidence of the external seiche which was clearly represented in Gullmar fjord of (Arneborg and Liljebladh 2001) Presumably it is apparent in your results as a weak peak in the sea level spectra which scarcely shows in the velocity data. Is this because your noise level is rather high due to your long sampling interval of 20 minutes which doesn't allow averaging if you want to detect a 78 minute seiche?

Answer
As the reviewer indicated, the interval time is too long to properly evaluate the 1.3h barotropic seiche in the fjord but that oscillation was mainly observed on the sealevel spectra because on those instruments the interval was 10 minutes instead of the 20 minutes interval used on currents. In the fjord region of Chile the study of that dynamics has been scarcely studied and the main objective of the study was the 3 days band. Despite that we think that the lo-log spectrum of the sealevel it is a good way to observe insights of the internal seiche thus we decide to maintain the representation of the spectrum in loglog plots.

6) The paper is generally well written but the English, which is not always clear and idiomatic, needs some attention.

Answer
After make all the corrections indicated by the reviewers, we will send the manuscript to a native English spoken or we will use the American Journal Experts services (www.aje.com) to check the language of the manuscript.

References

Winant C.D. (2010): Two-Layer Tidal Circulation in a Frictional, Rotating Basin, JPO 40(6), 1390-1404.
Allen, G., and J. Simpson, 1998: Reflection of the internal tide in Upper Loch Linnhe, a Scottish fjord. Estuarine Coastal Shelf Sci., 46, 683–701.

Reviewer 3
The manuscript "Seiche excitation in a highly stratified fjord of southern Chile: the Reloncavi fjord" describe a project where harmonic oscillations in a semi-enclosed system is analyzed using observational data and an analytical model. I agree with the earlier reviewers. Both that the work is well done and worth publishing, and the suggestions for improvement. To that I would add two more:

1. It would be useful is the principles around fjord seiches is described in more detail, preferable with a conceptual cartoon. It would also be good if the theoretical calculation of expected oscillations were coupled to the cartoon.

Answer:
Thanks for the comment but the seiche (external and internal) are well known mechanism. We will work on a scheme of the dynamics but the manuscripts already have several figures and we still don’t be sure whether or not the scheme will be helpful to understand the dynamics involve.

2. Present the resulting harmonic frequencies better and discuss the relative contribution of different sources more clearly. You discuss the effect of tides etc but it’s not easy to contrast them to seiches. A table would be preferable.

Answer:
This is related with the observation 1 of the reviewer 2, we expect to show the different contribution of tides and internal seiche using the kinetic energy estimations. Those results will be inserts on the new Figure 7.

Seiche excitation in a highly stratified fjord of southern Chile: the Reloncaví fjord.

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Abstract

We describe a seiche process in a Chilean fjord, based on current, temperature and sealevel data obtained from the Reloncavi fjord (41.6° S, 72.5° W) in southern Chile. We combined four months of ADCP data with sealevel, temperature and wind time series to analyze the dynamics of low-frequency (periods > 1 day) internal oscillations in the fjord. Additionally, seasonal CTD data from 19 along-fjord stations were used to characterize the seasonality of the density field. The density profiles were used to estimate the internal long-wave phase speed (c) using two approximations: (1) a simple reduced gravity model (RGM) and (2) a continuously stratified model (CSM). No major seasonal changes in c were observed using either approximation (e.g., the CSM yielded $0.73 < c < 0.87$ m s^{-1} for mode 1). The natural internal periods (T_N) were estimated using Merians's formula for a simple fjord-like basin and the above phase speeds. Estimated values of T_N varied between 2.9 and 3.5 days and were highly consistent with spectral peaks observed in the along-fjord currents and temperature time series. We conclude that these oscillations were forced by the wind stress, despite the moderate wind energy. Wind conditions at the end of winter gave us an excellent opportunity to explore the damping process. The observed damping time (T_d) was relatively long (T_d= 9.1 days).

1 Introduction

Internal seiche oscillation has long been known in closed basin geometries (e.g. Watson 1904; Wedderburn 1907; Wedderburn and Young 1915). The first detailed description thereof was presented by Mortimer (1952). In these systems, wind is the main force affecting the surface and isotherms (Wiegand and Chamberlain, 1987), which produces a set of periodic oscillations and circulation cells throughout the water column that may contribute to internal mixing of the basin (Thorpe 1974; Monismith 1985; Wiegand and Chamberlain 1987; Munnich et al. 1992; Mans et al. 2011; Simpson et al. 2011).

Although external (barotropic) seiches are ubiquitous in closed basin geometries (Münnich et al. 1992), it is not theoretically evident that there are internal seiches (baroclinic) in a linearly stratified fluid (Maas and Lam 1995). It is possible to find resonant basin modes only in well-behaved geometries (Arneborg and Liljebladh, 2001a).. However, studies of lakes have yielded good results using layered models (e.g. Lemmin 1987), normal-mode approximations (e.g. Wiegand and Chamberlain 1987; Münnich et al. 1992) or numerical model simulations (e.g. Goudsmit et al. 2002). In fact, internal seiches have been observed in semi-enclosed systems such as fjords (e.g. Djurfeldt 1987; Pasmar and Stigebrandt 1997; Arneborg and Liljebladh, 2001a) with complex geometries and where linear stratification is rarely observed, and thus the only way to maintain consistency with the theory is that the oscillation on the pycnocline dominates the internal seiche oscillation (Arneborg and Liljebladh, 2001a). Early in the development of a seiche, its amplitude is related to the forcing intensity, and the standing oscillation then becomes free and requires no additional forcing. The frequencies are retained, but the amplitudes decays (damping) exponentially due to friction until the system comes to rest (Rabinovich 2010). The development of seiche oscillations depends of the forcing and damping mechanisms; with large damping, it is impossible to observe a seiche, whereas small damping of a seiche allows for several oscillations (Arneborg and Liljebladh, 2001a).

In fjords with shallow sills, the interaction between the sill and the barotropic tide generates internal tides that are more energetic than other internal oscillations and are the focus of most studies regarding mixing and internal oscillations based on internal tides (e.g. Stigebrandt 1980; Stigebrandt and Aure 1989; Inall and Rippeth 2002; Ross et al. 2014). In the case of fjords with a deep sill and low tidal energy, the breaking of the internal seiche oscillations at the boundaries could be an important contributor to the internal mixing, promoting the spreading of properties within the fjord, particularly in deep waters (Stigebrandt and Aure 1989; Münnich et al. 1992; Arneborg and Liljebladh 2001b). Additionally, there are evidences that vertical isopycnal displacements in fjords could be generated by similar displacements outside the fjord (e.g. Svensen 1980; Djurfeldt 1987). These remotely generated oscillations could enhance the mixing and ventilation in deep fjords.

There is still only limited understanding of the main oceanographic processes occurring in the fjord region of southern Chile, although there has been local research during the previous few decades. Since early studies of the hydrography by Pickard (1971), a systematic measurement program in the fjord region has been maintained since 1995 (Palma and Silva 2008; Pantoja et al. 2011; Iriarte et al. 2014), although only a small number of studies have focused on the physical dynamics. Most studies have been conducted over short time spans (e.g. Cáceres et al. 2004; Valle-Levinson et al. 2007), and only a few studies have been based on more than one month of data (e.g. Valle-Levinson and Blanco 2007; Letelier et al. 2011; Castillo et al. 2012; Schneider et al. 2014), thereby limiting our understanding of sub-inertial variability. In the Reloncavi fjord, time series of approximately 4 months have shown evidence that 3-day oscillations of currents could be produced by internal seiche oscillations (Castillo et al., 2012) but lack on the forcing to describe the forcing mechanism and the seasonal modulation.

Eliminado: forcing

This study presents the first evidence of internal seiche oscillations in a fjord in southern Chile. The objective of this study was to address the following questions: How do these oscillations affect the temporal and spatial dynamics of currents and temperature? How are these oscillations forced?

2 Study area

The Reloncavi fjord (41.5ºS, 72.5ºW) is the northern most fjords on the coast of Chile (Fig. 1). This "J" shaped fjord is 55 km long and has a width that varies from 3 km near the mouth to 1 km near the head. There is a deep sill (~ 200 m depth) located 15 km inland although it does not appear to be a barrier to the exchange of properties between the adjacent basins. Based on bathymetric features and the coastline morphology, this fjord can be separated into four sub-basins displaying the characteristics presented in Table 1 and figure 2.

The main river discharge is provided by the Puelo River (at the middle of the fjord), which produces a mean annual discharge of 650 m^3s^{-1}.The Petrohue River (at the head of the fjord) has an mean annual discharge of 255 m^3s^{-1}, and there are additional freshwater inputs of minor importance compared with the Cochamo river (mean annual discharge of 20 m^3s^{-1}) and Canutillar hydroelectrical plant (mean annual discharge 75.5 m^3s^{-1}) (Niemeyer and Cereceda, 1984). The freshwater input to the fjord due to direct precipitation is only approximately 2% of the main river discharge (León-Muñoz, 2013), and its contribution may be in balance with evaporation (Castillo et al., 2016). The freshwater input creates a marked along-fjord pycnocline that is deeper at the head (~8 m) and shallower at the mouth (~3 m) (Fig. 2).

During the winter, the mean wind stress (τ) is low due to calms winds (< 10^{-3} N m^{-2}). During storm events in winter, τ can reach values as high as 0.4 N m^{-2} (winds of > 10 m s^{-1}), and the wind tends to blow out of the fjord, thereby reinforcing the upper outflow of brackish water. In contrast, during the spring/summer, the winds exhibit a marked diurnal cycle, and τ can reach values as high as those observed in the winter, whereas the wind blows landward, i.e., toward the fjord's head and against the upper flow. Tides in the Reloncavi fjord are predominantly semi-diurnal, and during spring tidal range never exceed 6 m, whereas the neap tidal range is about 2 m. The tidal current is relatively weak in the upper layer, which is dominated by gravitational circulation (Valle-Levinson et al., 2007; Montero et al., 2011; Castillo et al. 2012).

3 Data and Methods

3.1 Field Observations

Current measurements were obtained using Teledyne RD Instruments Acoustic Doppler Currentmeter Profilers (ADCPs) in three subsurface mooring systems. These subsurface systems were located near the fjord mouth, near the Puelo River and between the Cochamo and Petrohue Rivers (Fig. 1). The longest time series spanned the period of August through November 2008 (Fig. 1 and Table 1). At the mouth, two upper-looking ADCPs were positioned at nominal depths of 10 m (300 kHz) and 450 m (75 kHz). The Puelo mooring held two ADCPs, one facing-up at a depth of 30 m (600 kHz) and one facing downward at a depth of 35 m (300 kHz). The Cochamo mooring held one facing-up ADCP at a depth of 11 m (300 kHz). Note that due to the large tidal range, the depths of the ADCPs significantly changed with the tides. These effects — along with small vertical deviations of the ADCPs related to the line movements — were corrected using the ADCPs pressure sensors, and all of the bin depths were referenced to the water surface level. The mooring systems were designed to obtain the best vertical resolution available with emphasis on the upper layer. The ADCP cell sizes were 0.5 m (600 kHz), 1 m (300 kHz) and 4 m (75 kHz), and the data-acquisition time intervals were 10 minutes in most of the ADCPs, with the exception of the deepest ADCP, which was set to acquire data at an interval of 20 minutes. All the ADCPs configurations maintain a standard deviation< 2 cm s^{-1} (details in supporting information S2).

The morphology of the fjord exhibits a sharp bend in the middle, and thus the x and y-components of the currents were rotated to the local orientation of the along-fjord axis (Fig. 1 and Table 1). A right-handed coordinate system with a positive-up z-axis and an along-fjord y-axis (positive toward the fjord head) was used. Consequently, the cross-fjord x-component was positive toward the south (east) near the fjord mouth (head). To assess the contribution of the tides to the currents, the amplitudes and phases of several tidal components were calculated at all of the moored ADCPs using a standard harmonic analysis from Pawlowicz et al. (2002).

The vertical structure of the temperature was obtained from Onset HOBO-U22 temperature sensors installed in three mooring systems along the fjord (Fig. 1). These moorings held surface buoys supporting the thermistor chains with an anchor located at a 25 m depth to maintain their nominal depths (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 20 m) from the surface independent of tidal fluctuations. Temperature data were collected every 10 minutes at all locations.

A Davis Vantage Pro2 meteorological station was installed south of the Puelo River (see Fig. 1). This station held sensors for measuring the wind direction and velocity, solar radiation, rain, and air temperature. The wind magnitude and direction sensors were installed 10 m above sealevel and were set to collect data every 10 minutes from 12 June 2008 to 30 March 2011. Gaps in the time series represented only 0.04% of the total data. The wind stress (τ) was calculated using a drag coefficient dependent on the magnitude (see Large and Pond, 1981) and a constant air density of 1.2 kgm^{-3}.

The salinity and temperature profiles were obtained seasonally using a CTD SeaBird SBE 25 at 19 stations in the along-fjord transect shown on Figure 1. The data were processed following the standard protocol suggested by the manufacturer and were averaged in vertical intervals of 0.5 m. Due to large salinity changes in the upper layer, the instrument pump was set to a time interval of 1 minute. After the start of the pumping, the instrument was maintained near the surface until the sensors stabilization. Then, the CTD was lowered to the maximum depth of the station (Table 2). The along-fjord transects typically required 12 to 24 hours to complete, depending on local weather conditions. Due to technical limitations, the winter transect was performed to a maximum depth of 50 m.

The sealevel was recorded every 10 minutes using two pressure sensors moored over the seabed. At Cochamo, the pressure sensor was an Onset HOBO-U20, whereas a SeaBird wave-tide gauge SBE-26 was installed near the fjord’s mouth (Fig. 1). Subsurface pressure data were corrected for air pressure and converted to an adjusted sealevel.

Discharge data were provided by Dirección General de Aguas, Chile (Dirección General de Aguas, 2016). These data are regularly collected at a station located 12 km upstream of the Puelo River’s mouth (Fig. 1). The time series extended from January 2003 to December 2011, and data gaps represented only 2% of the total.

3.2 Time series analysis

Previous findings (Castillo et al., 2012) have shown an important oscillation with a period of approximately 3 days (72 h).To focus the study on these perturbations, we used a cosine-Lanczos band-pass filter with half amplitudes at 60 h and 100 h (see results for the justification of the selected band). As part of the results, the band-passed time series of the current and temperature data are shown (COPAS-SUR Austral, 2012).

Spectral analyses of the current, wind stress, sealevel and temperature time series were performed using Welch's modified average periodograms (Emery and Thomson 1998). To achieve statistical reliability of the spectral estimations, each time series was divided into non-overlapping segments to generate spectral estimates. In the case of the current time series, the spectra were (additionally) averaged among depth layers to obtain 12, 24 and 48 degrees of freedom, depending on the frequency (see Fig. 3). In addition, to evaluate the consistency of the periodicity between the time series, we calculate a Morlet cross-wavelet analysis following wavelet methods explained by (Torrence and Compo, 1998) and (Grinsted et al., 2004).

The phase velocity (*c*) was estimated using two models that took into account the fjord stratification: (1) a simple reduced-gravity model (RGM) and (2) a continuously stratified model (CSM).

The reduced-gravity model was developed using the typical density profiles in each sub-basin. Here, the base of the upper layer was estimated from the pycnocline depth (Fig. 2), which in the Reloncavi fjord is well represented by the depth of the 24 isohaline (h_1) (Castillo et al., 2016), considering that h_1 is the pycnocline depth and H is the deepest CTD cast (mostly near to the sub-basins maximum depths). The mean density of the upper layer (ρ_1) was estimated from depths between the surface to h_1, whereas the mean density for the deep layer (ρ_2) was estimated for depths between h_1 and H. These estimations were made for each sub-basins, and seasons (Table 2).

Using both densities, ρ_1 and ρ_2, the reduced gravity ($g' = g(\rho_2 - \rho_1)/\rho_2$) was obtained, here g is the acceleration of gravity. The internal phase velocity of each sub-basin, $c_i = (g' \ h_{1i})^{1/2}$, where i =1 to 4 and h_{1i} represents the mean depth of the upper layer in the sub-basin “*i*” was used to estimate the effective phase speed in the entire fjord (eq. 1) ,

Eliminado: a

Eliminado: mean wave speed

$$T = \frac{L}{c} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{L_i}{c_i} \qquad (1)$$

where L_i is the *i* sub-basin length and L is the fjord length. This takes into account the changes of depth and lengths of fjord’s sub-basins.

The continuously stratified model (CSM) was developed using the normal mode analysis, which introduced the stratification as $N^2 = -(g/\rho)(\partial\rho/\partial z)$, which is the buoyancy frequency, in the Sturm-Liuoville expression

$$\frac{d}{dz}\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\frac{d\psi_n}{dz}\right) + \frac{1}{c_n^2}\psi_n = 0 \qquad (2)$$

where $\psi_n(z)$ is the vertical structure of the horizontal velocity for the mode n. Here c_n represents the n mode speed (see Gill, 1982) and differs significantly from phase speed if rotation plays a role (van der Lee and Umlauf, 2011).

Independent of the model used to obtain the phase speed (RGM or CSM), the natural oscillation period (T_N) was determined using Merian's formula for a semi-enclosed basin, as suggested by Ravinovich (2010), $T_N = 4\ T$.

The modal decomposition was used to obtain the contribution of each mode in the currents variability (e.g. Emery and Thomson, 1998; Gill, 1982; van der Lee and Umlauf, 2011). The along- and cross-fjord band-pass currents [u_{bp}, v_{bp}] could be described by the vertical modes by (3),

$$[u_{bp}, v_{bp}](z,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [u_{pj}, v_{pj}](t)\ \psi_n(z) \qquad (3)$$

The along- and cross-fjord currents projected (u_{pj}, v_{bp}) on the vertical modal structure (ψ_n) was obtained by eq. (4),

$$[u_{pj}, v_{pj}](t) = \frac{1}{H}\int_{-H}^{0} [u_{bp}, v_{bp}](z,t)\ \psi_n(z)\ dz \qquad (4)$$

4. Results

4.1 Density structure

As a result of abundant freshwater input to the fjord, there were marked differences in density between the upper and lower layers along the fjord and small changes in stratification among seasons, particularly near the mouth of the fjord (Fig. 2). One important characteristic of the upper layer is its high and persistent stratification from the surface to the base of the pycnocline (Fig. 2). Along the fjord, the pycnocline depth exhibited clear deepening from 2.3 ± 0.1 m at the mouth to 6.1 ± 0.3 m near the head. The pycnocline depth exhibited greater seasonal variability near the head of the fjord (Fig. 2).

4.2 Winds, sealevel and freshwater discharge

The along-fjord wind stress (τ) displayed two patterns during the transition from winter to spring. During the winter, τ was generally out of the fjord ($-0.4 \pm 3 \times 10^{-2}$ N m^{-2}) and displayed oscillations with a period longer than 1 day. There were also strong events (> 0.2 N m^{-2}) during the first half of August 2008 that could be associated with the end of winter storms in the region. This winter pattern drastically changed during the early spring (first week of September 2008) and was maintained throughout the rest of the season. Changes were evident in a marked daily cycle and in switches from down- to up-fjord (average of $1.6 \pm 3 \times 10^{-2}$ N m^{-2}), against the upper layer outflow (Fig. 3a).

The sealevel was measured at the mouth and near Cochamo (Fig. 1). At both stations, the form factor was 0.12, which indicates that semi-diurnal tides dominate in the region. In fact, the M_2 amplitude was 1.89 ± 0.06 m at the mouth and 1.91 ± 0.06 m near Cochamo. The mouth-to-head phase difference in this harmonic was negative (-2.4º), indicating propagation toward the head with a lag of approximately 5 minutes. The maximum tidal range during spring tides was approximately 6 m and less than 1 m during neap tides (Fig. 3b). Similar ranges have been observed outside the fjord in the Reloncavi sound (Aiken, 2008).

Discharge was greatest (approximately 1413 $m^3 s^{-1}$) at the end of August 2008 (winter) and lowers (approximately 459 $m^3 s^{-1}$) at the end of October (spring). In the winter, the historical mean of 650 $m^3 s^{-1}$ (Niemeyer and Cereceda 1984; Leon et al 2013) was exceeded 86% of the time, whereas during the spring, this exceedance occurred only 18% of the time. In fact, only a small variability around the mean was observed during the spring (Fig. 3c).

4.3 Along-fjord currents

The along-fjord currents were one order of magnitude larger than the cross-fjord currents (in this study we focused on the along-fjord component). At the three measurements sites at Cochamo (Fig. 3d), Puelo (Fig. 3e) and the mouth (Fig. 3f), the along-fjord currents displayed certain common features: (1) semi-diurnal oscillations attributed to tidal effect, (2) a two layered structure with persistent outflow above the pycnocline and an intermittent lower inflow layer beneath, and (3) several low-frequency (period > 1 day) oscillations were present in the time series.

Currents in the upper outflow layer displayed a mean velocity of 66 cm s^{-1} at the mouth and 45 cm s^{-1} at Cochamo, indicating that the outflow increased through the mouth. Additionally, the upper layer was deeper at Cochamo (Fig. 3d) than at the mouth (Fig. 3f), which is consistent with the along-fjord pycnocline depth (Fig. 2). Below the upper layer, a sub-surface layer displayed intermittent inflow (see Fig. 3d, 3e and 3f) with a maximum (> 20 cm s^{-1}) centered at the ~ 6 m depth.

This two-layered pattern was clearly observed in the upper 10-15 m and is consistent with a gravitational circulation due to the along-fjord pressure gradient. This pressure gradient is also consistent with the observed along-fjord pycnocline tilt (Fig. 2). At depths > 20 m, the along-fjord currents at Puelo and at the mouth exhibited an important influence (> 40% of the variability) of a semi-diurnal component of the tide. In addition, in this layer, low-frequency (periods > 7 days) oscillations suggest a bottom-to-surface propagation that was more intense from the end of August to the beginning of September during a period of high discharge (> 650 m^3 s^{-1}). This layer on average exhibited a weak outflow (~ 1 cm s^{-1}) at the mouth, which in turn implies a 3-layer pattern of the residual flow near the mouth.

4.4 Spectral characteristics of currents, temperature, sealevel and winds

To obtain better statistic reliability, the spectra of the along-fjord currents were depth-averaged. The upper layer was defined until the pycnocline depth ($z \leq h_1$), whereas the deep layer contains $z > h_1$ (Fig. 4).

All of the spectra displayed an energetic peak at the semi-diurnal frequency (M_2), and this peak was greater in the deep layer (Fig. 4). In the diurnal band, the spectra at Puelo and at the mouth presented a clear (and highly energetic) peak in the surface layers. This diurnal peak is likely due to the influence of wind stress (see Fig. S1), which displayed a marked diurnal cycle during the late winter (end of August) and spring (Fig. 3a). An important peak (10^4 cm^2 s^{-2} cph^{-1}) was observed only at Cochamo in the 6 hour band (M_4), suggesting an increase in the importance of non-linear interaction between M_2 and the bathymetry in this sub-basin. The spectra in the upper layer displayed an important accumulation of energy in the band centered on the 3days period. The band was wider (between 2 and 7 days) at the mouth and Puelo and narrower (between 1.5 and 4 days) at Cochamo. At the mouth, the maximum spectral density was in the 3 days band (> 10^5 cm^2 s^{-2} cph^{-1}) and was one order greater than the maximum spectral density observed at Cochamo (~10^4 cm^2 s^{-2} cph^{-1}). Another important accumulation of energy in the along-fjord currents was centered on the 15 days period. One characteristic of the 15 days band is the influence on the entire water column at Puelo and the mouth (Fig. 4).

The sealevels at Cochamo (η_C) and at the mouth (η_m) were similar at frequencies less than 0.165 cph (periods longer than 6 h). The spectra displayed an important accumulation in the synoptic band (10 days). Both locations exhibited the same energy at the diurnal (K_1) semidiurnal (M_2) frequencies, although M_2 was clearly the dominant harmonic in the fjord. The spectral energy was one order of magnitude higher than the diurnal (K_1) harmonics and three orders of magnitude higher than the quarter-diurnal (M_4) harmonics. The spectra exhibited no accumulation of energy in the 3days band, although at high frequencies (> 0.5 cph), an important accumulation of energy was observed in the 1.3h band (between 1.16 h and 1.56 h) at η_C (Fig. 4).

The wind stress (τ) indicated that the along-fjord wind stress was significantly higher than the cross-fjord component. The spectra displayed a marked peak (particularly in the along-fjord component) in the diurnal band, which is likely due to the sea-breeze phenomenon. Another interesting feature of the spectrum was the peak in the semi-diurnal frequency, which was observed in both components. At longer periods (> 1day), the along-fjord wind stress displayed an important but not statistically significant peak at 2.8 days, which is highly consistent with the currents (Fig. 4).

4.5 Seasonality of the internal oscillations

The density structure on the fjord does not show an upper mixing layer along the seasons; indeed a continuously stratified upper layer is present along the seasons (Fig. 5). The along-fjord mean of the pycnocline depth (h_1), which was estimated based on salinity/density gradient, was used to estimate the internal phase velocity (c) and the internal period (T_N). Seasonally, h_1 does not change significantly during winter, spring and summer (between 4.6 and 4.8 m) but was shallower during autumn (~ 4.1 m) (Table 2). In addition, the density structure showed a condition of continuous stratification in the upper layer along the seasons (Fig. 5).

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In the case of the RGM approximation, internal phase velocities (c) were highest during spring and summer (> 0.83 m s^{-1}) whereas in winter and autumn the intensities were < 0.76 m s^{-1}, thus we obtain internal periods between 2.9 and 3.4 days (70 and 82 hours) (Table 2).

The horizontal velocity structure (ψ_n) profile of the first 3 internal modes obtained from the CSM, showed high consistency along the fjord (in each sub-basin) and through the seasons (Fig 5). The mode 1 was highly baroclinic changing of sign nearly of 10 m (sub-basin I) and 15 m (sub-basin IV). In the case of mode 2 and 3, relatively high variability along the seasons was observed specially at the sub-basins I and IV above of 20 m depth. For depths > 30 m (not shown) the internal modes do not show significant variability (Fig. 5). The modal speeds for the first 3 modes described above were relatively high during spring and summer (c_1 was > 0.84 m s^{-1}) and lower during winter and autumn (here c_1 was < 0.77 m s^{-1}). These results were highly consistent with the internal speeds obtained by RGM (Table 2).

As the internal speeds (c), the natural internal period (T_N) obtained by RGM with the mode 1 of CSM were highly consistent. For comparison, we take into account T_N obtained from the mode 1 of the CSM which ranged between 2.9 days (spring) and 3.5 days (winter). The estimations of T_N with RGM showed speeds between 2.9 days (spring) and 3.4 days (winter and autumn), indicating that oscillations between these periods are dominated by mode 1 internal seiche oscillation.

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To focus on these internal seiche oscillations, we filtered the along-fjord currents with a 70h to 90h cosine-Lanczos band-pass filter. Additionally, mode 1 of the internal seiche was associated with the pycnocline depth, which is restricted to the upper 8 m (Fig. 2). Therefore, we describe the along-fjord currents in the upper 10 m (Fig. 6).

Vertical pattern at the three locations shows inflow/outflow intermittence along the whole time series, also mostly of these along-fjord structures seems to develop an inclination which suggest the baroclinic nature of this pattern. The band-pass along-fjord currents were intense at the mouth (> 15 cm s^{-1}) but diminish toward the head. Intense perturbations oscillations were observed near the surface between 10 and 20 August 2008 at the mouth and Cochamo, internal intensification (between 4 m and 10 m depths) of the inflow/outflow pattern was clear at Puelo and Cochamo at the ends of September. To confirm whether the nature of the along-fjord currents pattern was baroclinic or barotropic we used $\psi_n(z)$ to project the band-pass currents (eq. 3 and 4), similar to van der Lee and Umlauf (2011).

The adjustment between the 3 days band-pass and the projected along-fjord currents at the mouth it is showed on Fig. 7. Here, using only the first three modes were possible of explain more than 70% of the band-pass variability, changes in the outflow/inflow were highly

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consistent and the intensifications at the surface was clearly showed by the projected modes. In addition, the vertical structures of the outflow/inflow were well defined by the projections. To make an approximation of the relative importance of the currents variability we estimated kinetic energy ($K_E = (u^2 + v^2)/2$) of i) the projected modes 1-3, ii) the 3 days band-pass and iii) the semi-diurnal (12h) + diurnal band pass (1d) along-fjord currents at the mouth.

The vertical averaged K_E shows that 3 days band-pass was higher than the other the components (modes 1-3), maximum was observed at between August 9 to 18 (Fig. 7), dates which were consistent with the wind-stress intensification (Fig. 3a). During this period, the modal K_E was one third of the 3 days band-pass kinetic energy, this ratio enhanced during September, were the projected currents were c.a. 50% of the 3 days band-pass currents. The relatively importance of the tides at the mouth was estimated summing the K_E of the diurnal and semi-diurnal currents. In terms of energy, the K_E contribution of tides was similar to the modal currents (Fig. 7).

Along-currents were highly coherent at 3 days band which is the period of the first mode of the internal seiche (Table 2). To describe the variability of this high coherence along the time, we selected 3 m depth ADCP bins (on the upper layer) from the mouth, Puelo and Cochamo to make a Morlet cross-wavelet analysis and to estimate the squared coherence (only refer as coherence hereafter) and phase spectrums for the relations mouth/Puelo (MP) (Fig. 8b, 8c) and Puelo/Cochamo (PC) (Fig. 8d, 8e). Both relations showed high coherence in the semi-diurnal and diurnal band especially during spring-tides.

A low coherence (< 0.6) was observed during the opposite winds (Fig. 8a and 8b). Similarly, the coherence for the PC relation was high along the 3 days band except during the change of the wind direction described above (Fig. 8d). The associated phase spectra (only the significant coherence) at the 3 days band was ~ 0º indicating that the oscillation is in phase along the fjord (Fig. 8c and 8e).

At the beginning of the time series, intense fluctuations were observed at Cochamo and at the mouth (Fig. 6). To explore their relationship with the wind forcing, a detailed view of the

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$$K_E = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{n=1}^{m}(u_n^2 + v_n^2)$$

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At the 3 day band, the MP relation shows significant coherence during into the fjord winds whereas l

period between 8 and 31 August 2008, is presented in Fig. 9. During this period, the along-fjord wind stress (not filtered) displayed three different states: (a) strong (> 0.2 N m^{-2}) up to the fjord winds, (b) weak (< 0.1 N m^{-2}) or nearly calm winds and (c) moderate (~ - 0.1 N m^{-2}) down to the fjord winds. During (c), the winds displayed an apparent diurnal cycle (e.g., Fig. 3a).

Although density is dominated by salinity, here we used temperature moorings to emphasize that the internal oscillation reported here had an expression in other properties of the water within the fjord. In addition, the band-pass temperature time series and the along-fjord currents shows consistent oscillations pattern (Fig. 9). During (a), the upper outflows weakened due to the opposing winds at the surface. This change reached depths consistent with the pycnocline (Fig. 2), caused a disruption and subsequently forced the internal oscillations observed in the currents and temperature fields (Fig. 9). Here, intense perturbations were observed that weakened the surface outflow and introduced the colder water of the upper layer to depths > 2 m at Cochamo and Puelo. During (b), the upper outflow displayed minimum perturbations in both the currents and temperature. In (c), perturbations in the currents and temperature were evident at Cochamo and at the mouth with no major oscillations at Puelo (Fig. 9). In addition, 3 days band-pass vertical velocities (*w*) were included as arrows on the contours of the along-fjord currents in Fig. 9. The maximum *w* were 1 cm/s at the mouth, outflow (inflow) was related with downward (upward) circulation in the entire fjord. This imply that the oscillation observed on the along-fjord currents also was consistent with the vertical velocities pattern.

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5 Discussion

We used data from one of the most extensive study ever conducted in a Chilean fjord. The data included currents (ADCPs) and temperatures from moored instruments, seasonal CTD information and times series of winds and sealevel to study the dynamics of the internal seiche oscillations in the Reloncavi fjord.

In fjords with shallow sills such as the Gullmar fjord in Sweden (Arneborg and Liljebladh, 2001a), the Knight Inlet in Canada (Farmer and Freeland, 1983) and the Aysen fjord in Chile (Cáceres et al., 2002), internal tide oscillations may play a key role in the internal mixing (e.g. Stigebrandt 1976; Farmer and Smith 1980). In lakes, large internal seiche oscillations significantly contribute to the mixing of the entire basin (Cossu and Wells, 2013), and these oscillations could also be important in fjords where the relative importance of internal tides may be less than the internal seiche oscillations (Arneborg and Liljebladh, 2001b).

In this study, we demonstrate the presence (and persistence) of seiches in a Chilean fjord based on the sealevel slope (barotropic seiche), currents and temperatures (internal seiche). We also studied the main processes forcing the natural oscillation of the pycnocline.

At high frequencies, the tidal spectrum (Fig. 4) displayed a clear accumulation of energy centered at a period of 1.3 h. This frequency is not related to any tidal harmonic interactions (Pawlowicz et al., 2002), and the shape of the spectrum (it is not a peak) suggests resonance in this frequency band. We explored the effect of the natural oscillation of the basin in this pattern using the barotropic phase velocity (c) for a shallow water wave $c = (gh)^{1/2}$, where h is the mean depth of the fjord. If one assumes a mean fjord depth of h = 250 m (Table 1), then c = 49.5 m s^{-1}, and the natural period $T_N = 4L\,c^{-1}$ = 1.24 h. This period is lower than the observed period in Fig. 5 (1.3 h) because the mean depth takes into account the entire fjord bottom profile (Fig. 1), and thus the effective depth (up to Cochamo) was 233 m and it is closer to the 226 m necessary to obtain the observed period in Fig. 5. Winds in the region are moderate (see Fig. 3), but their intensity is sufficient to tilt the surface slope at Cochamo (Castillo et al., 2012), and thus the surface of the fjord oscillates with the natural period of the basin. Further evidence of this pattern is provided by the clear differences in amplitude of the sealevel spectrum at Cochamo (near the fjord's head) and at the mouth. This association is attributed to the dynamics of seiches in fjords, which tend to produce a node at the mouth and an anti-node at the head (Dyer, 1997). At the node, the sealevel amplitude must be zero, whereas near the head, it must be a maximum. This pattern is highly consistent with the observed spectra at 1.3 h (Fig. 5). Based on all of these results, we suggest that oscillations close to 1.3 h will resonate with the natural period along the fjord.

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Daily winds were highly coherent with surface along-fjord currents, especially on the brackish water layer (S1). During the spring, daily periodicity of winds was strong (Castillo et al., 2016) with intensities capable of perturbing the pycnocline and to induce the internal seiching process.

The surface slope indicates that the sealevel at Cochamo was 0.07 m higher than at the mouth, and this value can be taken as the amplitude of the surface seiche. According to the RGM, the pycnocline deviation (η_1) is related to the surface elevation (η_0) in the form $\eta_1 = -(\rho / \Delta\rho)\ \eta_0$, which implies that for a mean surface perturbation of 0.07 m and a typical $\Delta\rho$ of 15 kg m^{-3}, we obtain a mean η_1 of -4.8 m. This finding indicates that the water piles up at the head of the fjord, likely due to the predominant into the fjord winds in the region (Fig. 3a) and produces a pycnocline deepening of about 5 m (Fig. 2).

At low frequencies (periods > 1 day), the along-fjord currents spectra displayed a marked peak in energy centered at 3 days. To explore the origin of this variability, we analyzed the density profiles along the fjord (Fig. 2) and applied two methods, the RGM and CSM. The internal phase velocities (c) obtained from both methods were similar, and ranged between 0.73 m s^{-1} and 0.87 m s^{-1} (taking into account the mode 1 of CSM for comparison). The high c value was obtained during the spring (November 2008), when the upper layer presented the lowest densities of the seasons, likely due to high discharge (> 1000 m^3 s^{-1}). Remarkably, the stratification is linked to the freshwater input despite no major observed changes in c (Fig. 6e-h). The high consistency between the CSM (mode 1) modal speeds and the phase speed obtained by RGM suggest that rotation do not play a significant role on the along-fjord dynamics of these oscillations (van der Lee and Umlauf, 2011). But cross-fjord, the dynamics has been nearly geostrophic, especially at the fjord's mouth (Castillo et al., 2012).

For longer periods (> 10 days), there are evidences of baroclinic oscillations clearly observed on the along-fjord time series (Fig. 3) and in the averaged spectra (Fig. 4). Recently, Ross et al. (2015), described a similar periodicity on currents of a southern Patagonian fjord of Chile associated to Baroclinic Annular variability, a regional feature on the air-pressure in the region. This mechanism of generation for the 10 days oscillations on the Reloncavi fjord needs to be verified on future studies.

The internal T_N of the entire fjord displayed periods between 2.9 and 3.5 days. These results suggest that the accumulation of energy observed in the along-fjord currents are due to the first mode of an internal seiche oscillation in the fjord. This result could be explained by the presence of a node at the mouth, where the sealevel amplitude is minimum (Fig. 5) but the currents are maxima (Figs. 3 and 6). This difference was also observed in the projected currents (u_{pj}, v_{pj}) supporting the idea of the presence stationary wave along the fjord. Additionally, the currents were highly coherent and in phase (Fig. 8) as we expected from a basin-scale seiche wave like. As a way of estimating the contribution of the internal seiche to the internal mixing the K_E was enhanced during the into the fjord winds (Figs. 3 and 7), which were periods when the internal seiche band (3 days) was highly coherent along the fjord (Fig. 8).

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The winds exhibited high coherence with the along-fjord currents until the pycnocline depths, at frequencies centered at 1 and 3 days (see Fig. S1). To study the extent to which the wind stress perturbs the pycnocline, we used the Wedderburn number, which is given by the equation $W = (h_1 / L)Ri$ (Thompson and Imberger, 1980; Monismith, 1986), where $Ri = g'(h_1 / u_*^2)$ represents the bulk Richardson number, an index of the stability of the upper layer (h_1). The frictional velocity (u_*) is obtained from the surface wind stress using the equation $u_*^2 = \tau / \rho_0$, which results in the equation,

$$W = \frac{h_1^2 \Delta\rho g}{L\tau} \qquad (5)$$

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According to Thompson and Imberger (1980), this value indicates the effect of the wind stress on local upwelling in a stratified fluid (i.e., perturbing the pycnocline). Under weak τ conditions (W>> 1), the wind energy is insufficient to tilt the interface. Under strong τ conditions (W<< 1), however, upwelling conditions dominate, there by tilting the interface, which produces conditions favorable to forcing of the internal seiche. The critical conditions

(W~ 1) indicate the beginning of upwelling (Thompson and Imberger, 1980; Stevens and Imberger, 1996), although the ideal transition point occurs at $W = 0.5$ (Monismith, 1986). All of these conditions were observed during the period of August 2008, as it is shown on Fig. 9. During strong τ (~0.3 N m^{-2}) conditions, $W = 0.27$ produced intense perturbation of the pycnocline (Fig. 9a). In contrast, during weak τ (~0.01 N m^{-2}) conditions, a value of $W = 8$ indicates that the wind was too weak to perturb the pycnocline, favoring a seiche damping process (Fig. 9b). Transition conditions occurred when $\tau \sim 0.1$ N m^{-2} and $W = 0.8$, indicating that the winds were strong enough to perturb the pycnocline and stop the damping process (Fig. 9c).

5.1 Internal seiche damping

The wind stress changed from a state where τ was strong enough to actively disturb the pycnocline ($W < 1$) to a period of nearly calm winds ($W > 1$) between the 16 and 24 August 2008 (Fig. 9). During this period, both the along-fjord currents and temperatures tended to decay, which is clearly evident in the isolines of these properties at the three sites (Fig. 9).

To study the damping process in detail, we selected the time series of the along-fjord currents at a depth of 3 m at Cochamo during the above period in August to span the period of forcing, damping and re-enforcing of the internal oscillation.

Typically, any real oscillations undergo damping, which is given by the equation,

$$x(t) = A\, e^{(-k\, t)} \cos(\omega\, t + \phi) \qquad (7)$$

where t is time and A is the initial amplitude, k is the damping coefficient which has units of [s^{-1}], $\omega = 2\pi/T_N$ and ϕ is the phase. In the case studied here, $\phi = 0$, A= 8 cms^{-1}, and $T_N = 2.5$ days, which was the internal period at Cochamo (Fig. 4). The best fit occurred when $k = 1/3$ (Fig. 10).

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The time for the initial amplitude A to decay to A~0 is the damping time (T_d). There was a good fit (Fig. 10) between the observed current and the curve adjusted with the damping effect. Here, T_d = 9.1 days, which is more than 3 times longer than the natural oscillation (T_N); more precisely, $T_d = 3.6\ T_N$ at this site. The observed internal oscillations of the currents were not completely damped because the winds increased from nearly calm ($W > 1$) to moderate conditions, which disturbed the pycnocline (W~1) and induced the intense oscillations during the spring (Fig. 6). In the spring, the winds displayed a marked diurnal cycle that remained during the spring and summer (Castillo et al., 2012). This finding suggests that the internal seiche (mode 1) process is active without damping because it is forced daily (Fig. 3). Our findings indicated that the internal seiche process is an active contributor for the mixing in the Reloncavi fjord, the magnitude of this contribution might be similar as the tidal forcing. The maximum amplitude of the tidal currents on the Reloncavi fjord is 10 cm s^{-1} (Valle-Levinson et al., 2007; Castillo et al., 2012), taken the eq. 7 to estimate the maximum contribution of the tide obtain 5 x 10^{-3} m^2 s^{-2} which is similar to the observed K_E at the mouth (Fig. 7). One example of the dissipation of the energy through this process was observed previous to 19 August 2008 (Fig. 10), on there the maximum currents were 0.7 m s^{-1} and through eq. 7, we obtain K_E= 7 x 10^{-3} m^2 s^{-2} great part of this energy might be dissipated within the Reloncavi fjord on 9 days. Future studies should focus on evaluating more precisely the available energy for the mixing process within the fjord and their effects on other water properties such as the salinity, oxygen or nutrients.

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6 Conclusions

The along-fjord seasonal density structure of the Reloncavi fjord showed small changes in the stratification. The upper layer presents a persistent stratification from the surface to the pycnocline base, the latter of which has a mean depth of 2 m near the mouth and 6 m near the head of the fjord.

The along-fjord sealevel signal showed a 1.3 h energetic peak not related with any tidal harmonics, additionally at this period the sealevel amplitude at the mouth was significantly higher than the sealevel at the head of the fjord. This pattern was consistent with the presence of a barotropic seiche on the Reloncavi fjord.

The local winds stress was able to perturb the along-fjord pycnocline and produce internal seiche oscillations. The period centered on 3 days was consistent with the first baroclinic oscillation mode. This mode explained 44% of the variability of the 3 days band. The oscillation was highly coherent along the fjord and with a phase nearly to 0º, consistent with a standing wave, like an internal siche, within the Reloncavi fjord.

The internal seiche could be high contributor to the internal mixing within the fjord, in fact the kinetic energy (K_E) associated to the internal seiche was similar to the maximum contribution of the tides in the along-fjord currents. During winter, the internal oscillations were present a relatively long period of time with nearly calm winds permit the estimation of the damping time of the internal seiche which was of 9 days, otherwise during the spring daily winds continuously forced the pycnocline.

Data availability

The installation of the moorings for measuring the current, temperature and sealevel in the region was approved by the Chilean Navy through permit DS711. No specific permits were required to install the meteorological station because the location is a publicly controlled site. This study also did not involve any endangerment to species in the region. The authors indicated that all data are available to download from a COPAS-SUR Austral website (http://www. reloncavi.udec.cl/, last access 6 June 2016).The discharge data from the rivers of Chile are available from the Dirección General del Aguas de Chile website (http://dgasatel.mop.cl/, last access 1 July 2016). Also, all data sets can be requested from the corresponding author (Manuel I. Castillo).

Acknowledgements

The authors thank the students (from Chile and Sweden) and technicians of the Physical Oceanography group of the Universidad de Concepcion who collaborated in performing the field measurements. This study is part of the COPAS-Sur Austral CONICYT PIA PFB31 and Centro de Investigación en Ecosistemas de la Patagonia by FIP2007-21. Manuel I.

Castillo was supported by FONDECYT grant no. 3130639 and by CONICYT-PAI no. 791220005.

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Figure captions

Figure 1: Study region and location of the measuring stations. Left insert shows the area of the Reloncavi fjord (A). The location of the Reloncavi sound (B) is also shown. The right insert shows the study area (close-up view of A) and the positions of all measurements. Numbers are CTD stations.

Figure 2: Seasonal profiles of density and bathymetry of the region. The upper inserts show the seasonal mean density profiles in each sub-basin of the fjord (a-d). In the insert below (e.), the along-fjord bathymetry and sub-basin nomenclature are shown. The black line represents the mean pycnocline depth, and corresponding standard deviations are represented by the gray shading.

Figure 3: a)Along-fjord wind stress, positive up to the fjord; (b) sealevel, (c)Puelo river discharge, where the straight line represents the long-term mean and contours of along-fjord currents at (d) Cochamo, (e) Puelo and (f) the mouth. In the filled contours, the blue (red) colors indicate a net outflow (inflow).

Figure 4: Spectra of along-fjord currents (above) at the mouth (a), Puelo (b) and Cochamo (c). Here black line indicate the averaged spectra for the upper layer (depths · h1) whereas gray lines showed spectra for currents at depths > h1. (d) sealevel spectra at the mouth (black line) and at Cochamo (gray). (e) wind stress spectra for their along-fjord (black) and cross-fjord (gray) components. At the bottom each panel the 95% of confidence intervals for 48, 24 and 12 degrees of freedom are shown.

Figure 5: The left insert shows mean density (σ_t) within the sub-basins. The pannels to the right of these show the first 3 baroclinic $\psi_n(z)$ modes and modal speeds obtained from the CSM analysis (normalized). Note that phase velocity is in [m s-1].

Figure 6. Band-passed along-fjord currents. Contours of band-passed (70-90 h) along-fjord currents. Negative (positive) currents in blue (in red) imply an outflow (inflow). Note the dotted square at the middle of August it is zooming on figure 9.

Figure 7. Projected along-fjord currents and kinetic energy (K_E). Here presented the 1 to 3 modal projections of the along-fjord band-passed (60-100 h) currents at the mouth. At the bottom, present the K_E estimated using the components projected using modes 1-3 (black), the 3 days band-pass (red), and the diurnal and semi-diurnal band-pass currents (blue).

Eliminado: **Figure 7.** Projected along-fjord currents and kinetic energy (K_E). Here presented the 1 to 3 modal projections of the along-fjord band-passed (60-100 h) currents at Cochamo and at the mouth. At the bottom, present the K_E estimated using the projected components at the mouth (red) and at the mouth (black).¶

Figure 8. Coherence and phase wavelet spectra. Time series of along fjord wind-stress (a), and coherence and phase wavelet spectra for the relation mouth/Puelo (b, c) and Puelo/Cochamo (d, e). In the contours, the thick black line indicates squared coherence ≥ 0.6, only the associated phases were present on the phase wavelet. The thick black curve is the influence cone for the wavelet estimations.

Figure 9. Time-series of along-fjord wind stress (τ) and contours of along-fjord Currents and Temperatures at Cochamo, Puelo and the mouth. There are three states of wind stress based on the Wedderburn number (*W*) with (a) strong $W< 1$, (b) weak $W> 1$ and moderate $W\sim 1$ winds. Note that contours of the Currents and Temperature for a given location are plotted together. The arrows represent the 3 days band-pass vertical velocities where the maximum was 1 cm s^{-1}.

Eliminado: **Figure 9.** Time-series of along-fjord wind stress (τ) and contours of along-fjord currents (V) and temperatures (T) at Cochamo, Puelo and the mouth. There are three states of wind stress based on the Wedderburn number (*W*) with (a) strong $W< 1$, (b) weak $W> 1$ and moderate $W\sim 1$ winds. Note that contours of the current (V) and temperature (T) for a given location are plotted together. ¶

Figure 10. Damping signal in currents. During a period of weak winds ($W>1$) at Cochamo (16 to 24 August 2008). The band-pass currents at the 3m depth (black line) was compared with a damping oscillatory curve $x(t)= A\, e^{(-kt)} \cos(\omega t + \phi)$ (gray line). The damping time (T_d) was 3.6 times longer than the fundamental internal period (T_N).

Table titles

Table 1: Characteristic of Reloncavi fjord. The name, mean depth (H) and length (L) of each sub-basin and for the entire fjord are presented.

Table 2: Seasonal statistics of the descriptive parameters of the fjord. Here we present the mean depth of the upper layer (h_1), and densities of the upper (ρ_1) and deep layers (ρ_2). In addition, the phase and modal velocities (c) and theirs periods (T) estimated using the Reduced Gravity and Continuously Stratified models are shown.

Table 1.

Sub-basin	Description	H [m]	L [km]
I	mouth–Marimeli	440	14.0
II	Marimeli – Puelo	250	13.0
III	Puelo–Cochamo	200	17.5
IV	Cochamo–head	82	10.5
Total	**mouth -head**	**250**	**55**

Table 2.

Reduced Gravity Model (RGM)

	h_1 [m]	ρ_1 [kg m^{-3}]	ρ_2 [kg m^{-3}]	c [m s^{-1}]	T [days]
Winter	4.60 ± 0.60	1009.72± 4.32	1024.62 ± 0.74	0.76 ± 0.01	3.37 ± 0.03
Spring	4.79 ± 0.53	1007.63± 5.32	1024.78 ± 0.62	0.87 ± 0.02	2.92 ± 0.03
Summer	4.68 ± 0.26	1008.77± 3.26	1024.78 ± 0.63	0.83 ± 0.01	3.07 ± 0.02
Autumn	4.05 ± 0.41	1009.90± 3.92	1024.95 ± 0.48	0.75 ± 0.01	3.38 ± 0.03

Continuous Stratified Model (CSM)

	c_1 [m s^{-1}]	c_2 [m s^{-1}]	c_3 [m s^{-1}]	T_1 [days]	T_2 [days]	T_3 [days]
Winter	0.73 ± 0.11	1.46 ± 0.21	2.18 ± 0.32	3.50 ± 0.25	1.75 ± 0.13	1.17 ± 0.08
Spring	0.87 ± 0.10	1.73 ± 0.21	2.59 ± 0.31	2.94 ± 0.18	1.47 ± 0.09	0.98 ± 0.06
Summer	0.84 ± 0.07	1.68 ± 0.13	2.52 ± 0.20	3.03 ± 0.12	1.51 ± 0.06	1.01 ± 0.04
Autumn	0.77 ± 0.08	1.54 ± 0.15	2.32 ± 0.23	3.30 ± 0.16	1.65 ± 0.08	1.10 ± 0.05