

In the manuscript authors describe surface and sub-surface current along 8°N off east coast of Sri Lanka. They use observational data from CTD, ARGOS and gliders and the HYCOM and POP model outputs to describe the current structure at seasonal scales.

Comments

The literature review of the authors is inadequate. Many of the papers which talk about under currents around Sri Lanka are not mentioned.

For example, Schott et al., JGR, 1994 which talks about opposite directions of surface and sub-surface currents. K1 mooring at 5.5N shows opposite currents during July-Aug.

Wijesekera et al., JPO 2016 uses ADCP data to describe the surface and sub-surface currents at 5-8°N off east coast of Sri Lanka.

Shankar et al., 2002 PIO is not mentioned, which talks about currents at 8N.

Page No. 4 lines 23-25: The surface current reverses its direction four times a year

Comment: I do not think it is a correct statement. Shetye et al., 1996 talks about EICC during northeast monsoon. McCreary et al., 1996 talks about two times change in EICC direction, Durand et al., 2009 does not mention about four times change in the current direction.

It would be better if authors can draw a schematic diagram to represent the EICC directions as studied by the aforementioned papers and compare it with present study.

Page No. 6 lines 22, 27: A westward -propagating southward current....
The westward propagating northward and southward flows...

Comment: What do authors means by that? It is totally confusing. A similar Hovmoller diagram is shown in Shankar et al., 2002. Authors can read that and describe this figure in a better way.

Page 6 Lines 6-8: The undercurrent potentially plays an important role in salt and mass exchange between the AS and the BoB..

Comment: But the movie shows that the dominant source of saline water is from eastern BoB. Very little contribution is from AS

Page 6 Lines 30-35: The stratified linear model study (McCreary et al., 1996) also indicates the role of ekman pumping

Comment: In McCreary et al., 1996 paper, at 8N, Equatorial forcing and Ekman pumping both look important for currents below 200m, though the current magnitude is very weak in both cases. The authors only say that Ekman pumping is important without a convincing argument.

Page 6 Lines 30-35: The last paragraph of the discussion section, deals with currents in Pacific Ocean.

Comment: This seems completely out of context.

Authors' knowledge of the dynamics of EICC is not convincing in this manuscript. The manuscript reads patchy and like a collection of bits and pieces.

This manuscript needs a major revision and I do not recommend for publication in the present form.