

Interactive comment on “On the Role of the North Equatorial Counter Current in Transporting Heat during a Strong El Niño” by David J. Webb

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Again I would like to thank the reviewer for reviewing the paper. This is often a thankless task but I hope that you gained something useful.

In response I agree with most of the comments. The only trouble is the time required and the size of the resulting document. In the present case I thought the work had reached a stage where something should be published, enough to let people know of the results and possibly encourage (goad?) them into testing the hypotheses in other models and with observational data, including the data you mention.

I was hoping to look at later periods and/or the couple model results in a paper next year but as a compromise I will include more results in the revised paper from the

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1993/94 El Nino. Neither this or any other period can prove the hypotheses but it may give confidence that they are less likely to be disproved.

For model data I really need a separate collaboration with an experimentalist. Again this can only give more confidence or disprove the hypotheses.

On the question of quantification I will have to think about what might be possible. On the question of heat transport, the transport itself is probably irrelevant as it is only water with temperatures above that required to start deep atmospheric convection (see response to Reviewer 1) that is of real interest. However I will bear the comments in mind.

Finally on writing style - I'll see what I can do!

Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/os-2017-99>, 2017.

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