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0830h**OS51A-02**[From El Nino to La Nina in the Gulf of the Farallones](#)**\* Ralston, S***Steve.Ralston@noaa.gov**National Marine Fisheries Service, 3150 Paradise Drive, Tiburon, CA 94920 United States***Roberts, D***Dale.Roberts@noaa.gov**National Marine Fisheries Service, 3150 Paradise Drive, Tiburon, CA 94920 United States***Sakuma, K M***Keith.Sakuma@noaa.gov**National Marine Fisheries Service, 3150 Paradise Drive, Tiburon, CA 94920 United States***Woodbury, D P***David.Woodbury@noaa.gov**National Marine Fisheries Service, 3150 Paradise Drive, Tiburon, CA 94920 United States*

Ocean conditions off the US west coast changed dramatically from 1997-99. During that time period the coastal ocean environment experienced one of the strongest "El Nino" events in recent history (1998), which was immediately followed by a major "La Nina" in 1999. We compare and contrast ocean conditions in and around the Gulf of the Farallones during these years, based on a variety of shipboard observations collected aboard the NOAA R/V David Starr Jordan during annual May-June surveys conducted off the central California coast. In particular, we analyze spatial patterns in data from CTD casts, a temperature-salinity surface profiler, and an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP). Results show marked differences in the hydrography of the Gulf of the Farallones between these two years.

4223 Descriptive and regional oceanography

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