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Department of Marine Sciences
Presents a Seminar by

Emily Lemagie
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

How is the coastal ocean temperature moderated on the west coast?

Inner shelf temperatures on the west coast of the United States are more moderate in summertime than predicted by surface heat flux alone. Without advection, the cumulative surface heat flux at a 15-meter mooring near Newport, Oregon would lead to warming over the water column of 48 +/- 7 degrees Celsius from May to September. The interannual climatology over these 5 months is a roughly constant depth-average temperature of around 10 +/- 2 degrees Celsius, with no significant trend (warming or cooling) over the summer season. Previous research indicates that advective processes likely have a buffering effect on temperature variability. Using 16 years of observations we construct a local heat budget to understand the processes that buffer the coastal water temperatures. A clear understanding of the mechanisms controlling temperature variability would allow some predictive capacity for the potential changes in both ecologically and commercially important coastal marine species in future climate scenarios.

Host: Molly James

Time & Date: 11:00 am, Friday, November 1, 2019

Place: Marine Sciences Building, Seminar Room 103

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