

# Wind-induced upwelling in the Kerguelen Plateau Region

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## Abstract

In contrast to most of the Southern Ocean, the Kerguelen Plateau supports an unusually strong spring chlorophyll (Chl-a) bloom, likely because the euphotic zone in the region is supplied with higher iron concentrations. This study uses satellite wind, sea surface temperature (SST), and ocean color data to explore the impact of wind-driven processes on upwelling of cold (presumably iron-rich) water to the euphotic zone. Results show that in the Kerguelen region, cold SSTs correlate with high wind speeds, implying that wind-mixing leads to enhanced vertical mixing. Cold SSTs also correlate with negative wind-stress curl, implying that Ekman pumping can further enhance upwelling. In the moderate to high EKE regions surrounding Kerguelen we find evidence of coupling between winds and SST gradients associated with mesoscale eddies, which can locally modulate the wind-stress curl. This coupling introduces persistent wind-stress curl patterns and Ekman pumping around these long-lived eddies, which may modulate the evolution of Chl-a in the downstream plume far offshore. Close to the plateau, this eddy coupling breaks down. Kerguelen has a significant wind shadow on its downwind side, which changes position depending on the prevailing wind and which generates a wind-stress curl dipole that shifts location depending on wind direction. This leads to locally enhanced Ekman pumping for a few hundred kilometres downstream of the Kerguelen Plateau; Chl-a values tend to be more elevated in places where wind-stress curl induces Ekman upwelling than in locations of downwelling, although the estimated upwelling rates are too small for this relationship to derive from direct effects on upward iron supply, and thus other processes, which remain to be determined, must also be involved in the establishment of these correlations. During the October-November 2011 KEOPS-2 field program, wind conditions were fairly typical for the region, with enhanced Ekman upwelling expected to the north of the Kerguelen Islands.

## 1 Introduction

The Southern Ocean is characterized as a region of high macronutrients but low chlorophyll (HNLC), where low concentrations of dissolved iron inhibit growth of phytoplankton, despite

the presence of ample quantities of macronutrients (Martin et al., 1990; Boyd, 2002; de Baar et al., 2005; Hopkinson et al., 2007). Exceptions to the HNLC regime occur in a few limited areas, primarily near the Antarctic continental shelf (e.g., Moore and Abbott, 2000; Holm-Hansen et al., 2004; Kahru et al., 2007; Charette et al., 2007; Arrigo et al., 2008; Dulaiova et al., 2009; Frants et al., 2013) or near specific islands (e.g., Blain et al., 2007; Pollard et al., 2007; Planquette et al., 2007; Venables et al., 2007; Korb et al., 2008), where iron can be supplied to surface waters from lithogenic sources or from ocean sediments (e.g., Measures et al., 2012). The plateau surrounding the Kerguelen Islands supports a particularly strong bloom, which has been the target of two Kerguelen Ocean and Plateau compared Study (KEOPS) field campaigns (e.g., Blain et al., 2007, 2008; Park et al., 2008a,b, 2014b; van Beek et al., 2008; Sanial et al., 2014; Zhou et al., 2014; van der Merwe et al., 2014, and other papers in this volume). KEOPS results show evidence that in comparatively shallow water over the Kerguelen Plateau, bottom waters are enriched in dissolved iron and then advected horizontally by the Polar Front (Blain et al., 2008; van Beek et al., 2008; Sanial et al., 2014). Enhanced vertical mixing in the upper ocean may help to bring dissolved iron upwards into the euphotic zone (Park et al., 2008a).

In most of the Southern Ocean, wind forcing is thought to influence seasonal and interannual variations in biological productivity through several competing mechanisms. Strong winds can deepen the mixed layer, bringing up to the euphotic zone cold water that is rich in iron and macronutrients, and thus enhancing phytoplankton growth. In some places, and particularly in low-stratification environments such as commonly occur in the Southern Ocean, strong winds can also deepen the mixed layer enough to mix phytoplankton over large vertical distances, thus reducing average light levels and possibly limiting phytoplankton growth (e.g., Kahru et al., 2010; Fauchereau et al., 2011). Typically along the primary axis of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC), around 50°S in the Kerguelen region, mean wind stress is a maximum, and wind-stress curl is zero. Depending on the sign of the wind-stress curl, this may play a further role in biological productivity: south of the zero wind-stress curl line, Ekman pumping drives upwelling, which can bring iron and macronutrients upward from below the mixed layer, while to the north, Ekman pumping results in downwelling (Carranza and Gille, 2014). While wind mixing and Ekman pumping provide a basic framework for evaluating large-scale processes, at

any given location, local effects can significantly modify large-scale wind processes. At eddy-length scales, sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies can modify surface winds, which tend to accelerate over warm water and slow over cool water, resulting in local modifications to the wind-stress curl and divergence (e.g., O'Neill et al., 2003, 2005) and correspondingly to the local Ekman pumping velocity. In addition, eddies themselves influence local Chlorophyll-a (Chl-a) concentrations, and this may be associated both with horizontal advection induced by the eddies (e.g., Chelton et al., 2011), with eddy influences on upper ocean stratification (e.g., Mahadevan et al., 2012), or from strong vertical velocities induced within the filaments surrounding the eddies (e.g., Lévy et al., 2012).

While wind-driven upwelling appears to help determine variability in phytoplankton growth in regions of the Southern Ocean that are far from land (e.g. Kahru et al., 2010; Fauchereau et al., 2011; Carranza and Gille, 2014), the role of wind is less clear in areas near islands where phytoplankton blooms are stronger and more persistent and where a broader range of processes might be expected to control iron availability. These processes include oceanic transport processes, which might vary the sediment content of water advected away from the island shelf (e.g. Park et al., 2008b; van Beek et al., 2008; van der Merwe et al., 2014), and processes that influence lithogenic sources of iron from the Kerguelen Islands (e.g. Bucciarelli et al., 2001; Chever et al., 2010; Sanial et al., 2014), as well as local orographic influences on winds. For example, Kerguelen stands 1850 m tall and produces a substantial wind shadow, which in turn modifies the wind-stress curl (Chelton et al., 2004). The present study was thus carried out as a complement to the second Kerguelen Ocean and Plateau compared Study (KEOPS-2) field campaign, with the aim to assess the extent to which wind-driven upwelling mechanisms might contribute to the iron availability and biological productivity in the region around Kerguelen.

In this study we focus on two key issues. First for the region around Kerguelen, we evaluate the extent to which the wind-stress and wind-stress curl driven mechanisms control SST (and by extension iron, macronutrients and Chl-a, as shown in Figure 1). This is examined both on the regional scale and also for wind-eddy coupling associated with mesoscale motions. As part of this analysis, we specifically consider the role that the Kerguelen wind shadow could play in modifying wind-driven upwelling. Second, we evaluate whether wind-driven processes

play a significant role in the region around Kerguelen where a large bloom is present. SST will serve as a proxy for iron and macronutrients for much of this analysis. Chl-a is more difficult to interpret than SST because satellite-derived Chl-a estimates are only available in cloud-free conditions, which are comparatively rare in the Southern Ocean, and because phytoplankton require time to grow after they are first exposed to optimal iron, macronutrient and light levels, and thus Chl-a concentrations can lag physical parameters by an increment of time that has not been determined precisely. SST and Chl-a can also differ in fundamental ways: SST anomalies can influence wind, inducing a coupled air-sea interaction, whereas Chl-a concentrations do not influence wind. Section 2 discusses the range of satellite data and reanalysis products that we consider for this analysis, section 3 briefly summarizes the computational methodology, section 4 presents the results, and section 5 provides a summary and conclusions.

## 2 Data

Vector wind data were derived from scatterometer measurements obtained by the Quick Scatterometer (QuikSCAT) satellite, which operated from June 1999 through November 2009 (Freilich et al., 1994). We made use of daily and weekly averages of the QuikSCAT Level 4 Gridded Mean Wind Fields produced by L’Institut Français de Recherche pour l’Exploitation de la Mer’s Center for Satellite Exploitation and Research (Ifremer/CERSAT). Data are released on a  $0.5^\circ$  regular grid (cersat.ifremer.fr). Since QuikSCAT failed in 2009, for the time period corresponding to the KEOPS-2 field program, we use Cross-Calibrated Multi-Platform (CCMP) winds (Atlas et al., 2008, 2009), which our tests show to be effective at capturing wind variability on time scales as short as the diurnal cycle (Carranza and Gille, 2014).

SST data were obtained from the Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer for the Earth Observing System (AMSR-E), which operated from June 2002 through early October 2011 (Chelton and Wentz, 2005). We use version 3 of the objectively interpolated fields distributed by Remote Sensing Systems (RSS). (The SST data fields formally merge measurements from 3 microwave sensors, TMI, AMSR-E, and WindSat, but we consider a latitude range and time period when the fields should be determined only by AMSR-E.) The data are daily averages

on a  $0.25^\circ$  grid. Microwave SST data have the advantage of being available in almost all non-precipitating weather conditions, in contrast with infrared SST data, which offer higher spatial resolution but do not return data in cloudy conditions. Clouds are prevalent about 70% of the time in the mid-latitude regions such as the Southern Ocean (Chelton and Wentz, 2005). For this study, data were analyzed for a 7-year time period from 1 November 2002 through 31 October 2009, chosen to represent an integer number of years and to have both QuikSCAT winds and AMSR-E SSTs available. From this time period, we have omitted 5 isolated days for which wind data were missing from the CERSAT records. Unless otherwise stated, all analyses in this paper were carried out for this full time interval. Figure 1d shows climatological mean SST for spring, and Figure 1e shows summer SST. For October-November 2011, when the KEOPS-2 field program took place, SSTs from WindSat are used (Figure 1f).

Sea surface geostrophic velocity anomalies (relative to a temporal mean from 1992-1999) were produced by the SSALTO/DUACS project, based on a multi-satellite altimeter product (Le Traon et al., 1998; Ducet et al., 2000; Dibarboure et al., 2011). These data, which are distributed by AVISO, are released at weekly intervals, and each map uses roughly a two-week window of satellite observations, mapped on a regular Mercator grid with a grid spacing of  $0.33^\circ$  longitude by roughly  $0.2^\circ$  latitude. Eddy kinetic energy (EKE) was computed by first removing the mean for the analysis time period, in order to obtain velocity anomalies  $u'$  and  $v'$ , and then computing  $EKE = (u'^2 + v'^2)/2$ .

We use net surface heat fluxes from NCEP Climate Forecast System Reanalysis (NCEP/CFSR, Saha et al., 2010). This is a high resolution coupled-global reanalysis that incorporates satellite measurements. Net surface-heat-flux accuracy increases over time in NCEP/CFSR and shows smaller biases than the NCEP/NCAR reanalysis (Saha et al., 2010; Xue et al., 2010). They are available at 1 hour and  $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ , and we spatially interpolated and averaged in time to match the resolution of satellite fields.

Finally, we considered ocean color data as a proxy for Chl-a concentration at the ocean surface. Figure 1a shows climatological spring, and Figure 1b shows summer Chl-a distributions for the Kerguelen region. We use a weight-averaged merged product that is determined using the bio-optical model described by Maritorena and Siegel (2005). Data are distributed by the

GlobColour project from the European Space Agency (<http://hermes.acri.fr>). The merged product is available on a  $0.25^\circ$  by  $0.25^\circ$  grid at daily and weekly (i.e. 8-day) time intervals, and it minimizes data gaps due to persistent cloud cover and low sun angles. These Chl-a distributions illustrate the persistent high productivity that occurs on the Kerguelen Plateau and just to its east. Distributions during the KEOPS-2 cruise time period (Figure 1c) are fairly typical of spring Chl-a blooms shown in Figure 1a.

### 3 Methodology

In this study, we examine both the large-scale patterns of correlation between daily wind forcing and SST and also the longer-time-scale local, mesoscale modifications to these patterns, specifically focusing on the broad region surrounding the Kerguelen Plateau. Several analyses have demonstrated a clear relationship between mesoscale SST features and surface winds (e.g., O'Neill et al., 2003, 2005). For example, O'Neill et al. (2003) showed that throughout the Southern Ocean, large SST gradients associated with narrow frontal features (with spatial scales of 10-100 km) have a significant impact on the overlying winds. The atmospheric boundary layer is less stable over warm water than cold water, and this induces greater vertical mixing of momentum and correspondingly higher surface winds over warm water than over cold water. O'Neill et al. (2003) showed that SST gradients thus induce cross-isotherm gradients in wind speed. For wind directed along isotherms, this leads to a non-zero wind-stress curl, which through Ekman pumping can drive localized vertical velocities,  $w = \text{curl}(\tau)/\rho f$ , where  $\tau$  is wind-stress,  $\rho$  is density and  $f$  is the Coriolis parameter. In the Southern Hemisphere, negative wind-stress curl induces upward Ekman pumping velocities (i.e.  $w > 0$ ). For winds directed across isotherms, SST-induced modifications of the atmospheric boundary layer can induce a non-zero divergence of the wind stress. We hypothesize that far from Kerguelen, mesoscale SST should influence wind-stress curl or divergence, but that close to Kerguelen this mechanism might break down.

Our approach follows that of O'Neill et al. (2003, 2005). In order to minimize the impact of synoptic-scale storms, for some aspects of this analysis, data were averaged over three-month

periods, corresponding to the typical decorrelation time-scales for oceanic eddies (Phillips and Rintoul, 2000). Wind speed, wind-stress curl, and SST all have large-scale meridional gradients, with significant gradients across the ACC fronts. For the three-month averaged data, a spatial filter was applied to remove scales larger than  $10^\circ$  latitude by  $30^\circ$  longitude from the data, in order to retain only mesoscale disturbances.

The variables analyzed in this study are interdependent. For example, SST and wind are both influenced by air-sea buoyancy fluxes, because of processes occurring in the atmospheric boundary layer that are not expected to influence iron or nutrient upwelling. Thus for some components of this study we use partial correlations, which provide a formal mechanism to compute a correlation coefficient while controlling for the influence of additional variables (e.g., Prokhorov, 2001; Baba et al., 2004). In essence, to compute the partial correlation of wind speed ( $W$ ) and SST, controlled for air-sea flux ( $Q_{net}$ ), we first remove the component of the  $W$ , SST correlation that could be explained because both  $W$  and SST are individually correlated with  $Q_{net}$ . Here partial correlations are applied to the unfiltered data.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Assessing SST-wind relationships

We correlate wind speed and SST (Figure 2a), using the method of partial correlations to control for the impact of  $Q_{net}$  (Baba et al., 2004). Through most of the Southern Ocean, in year-round data high wind speeds are associated with cold SSTs, implying that wind-induced mixing deepens the mixed layer and brings cold water, iron and macronutrients to the surface (Kahru et al., 2010), and during spring and summer this can promote phytoplankton growth (Carranza and Gille, 2014). (In winter and early spring when stratification is low, high winds can deepen the mixed layer and move phytoplankton out of the euphotic zone, resulting in low Chl-a (Kahru et al., 2010), but the focus of this study is on spring and summer.) As hypothesized, wind speed and SST are negatively correlated (blue) almost everywhere, except in some locations to the



north of Kerguelen. Positive correlations (red) fall along the Subantarctic Front and Polar Front of the ACC, which represent the primary axes of the current; here changes in SST can feed-back on the winds. This positive correlation associated with the mesoscale vanishes when we high-pass filter the data to consider synoptic storm effects (Carranza and Gille, 2014), implying that large-scale storms suppress eddy feedback effects. Due east of Kerguelen, in the Kerguelen wind shadow region, high winds correlate with cold SSTs (Figure 2a), but not necessarily with high Chl-a (not shown), implying that iron and macronutrient sources are somewhat different near the Kerguelen Plateau than they are in the open ocean.

Wind-stress curl correlations with SST (Figure 2b) differ on either side of the zero wind-stress curl line. To the south of the zero wind-stress curl line, where negative wind-stress curl prevails (implying mean upward Ekman pumping), wind-stress curl is positively correlated with SST (red in Figure 2b), implying that in most regions typical of Kerguelen, positive Ekman pumping (upwelling) events bring colder (and perhaps more iron-rich) waters to the ocean surface. To the north of the zero wind-stress curl line, negative correlations suggest that downwelling is associated with warm SST, but along the axis of the ACC, Figure 2b shows patches of positive correlation, suggesting that SST impacts on wind may influence the correlation (even in this case, in which partial correlations have been used to control for  $Q_{net}$ .)

Next we filter to consider the impact of mesoscale eddies (Figure 3) following the approach of O'Neill et al. (2003).. As an example for the time period corresponding to the KEOPS-1 field work, from December 2004 to February 2005, Figure 3a shows the wind-stress curl and Figure 3c shows the associated cross-wind component of the SST gradient. Figure 3b shows the wind-stress divergence, and Figure 3d shows the down-wind component of the SST gradient. The wind-stress curl has elongated zonal structures, aligned along the main Southern Ocean fronts, which are reflected in the large spatial patterns of Figure 3c, while the wind-stress divergence has isolated anomalies, generated around the large stationary meanders of the Southern Ocean fronts, which are reflected in the smaller-scale structure of the temperature gradient in Figure 3d. Areas where the two components of the SST gradient are strongest, between  $1.5 \times 10^{-2}$  and  $4 \times 10^{-2} \text{ } ^\circ\text{C m}^{-1}$ , correspond to the region of strong SST gradient and high EKE, calculated

from geostrophic velocities from satellite altimetry, as shown in Figure 3e. This occurs along the axis of the ACC, north and west of Kerguelen.

In general the coupling between wind-stress curl and SST gradient is clearest in regions where EKE is greatest, and is less strong in regions of less intense EKE, close to Kerguelen.

Figure 3f shows the zero-lag correlation coefficient between wind-stress curl and the cross-wind component of the SST gradient for the time period from 1 November 2002 through 31 October 2009. For Figure 3f, 3-month time periods are used, and consecutive time windows overlap by 3 months, resulting in a total of 42 3-month periods. Because of the overlap, we assume the number of statistically independent samples to be two-thirds of 42, the 95% significance level is 0.37, and correlation coefficients less than 0.37 appear white or pale gray. The correlation coefficient is positive (red) and statistically significant for most of the region surrounding Kerguelen, in agreement with the relationships between wind-stress curl and SST identified by O'Neill et al. (2003, 2005). Areas with high EKE in Figure 3e, generally have statistically significant positive correlations in Figure 3f, implying that the wind-stress-curl/SST relationship is present within the ACC, where EKE is moderate to high.

Figure 3f also indicates that this mesoscale wind coupling occurs in waters deeper than 2000 m, including in the deeper basin to the east of Kerguelen, within the extended Chl-a bloom shown in Figs 1a-c, where KEOPS-2 observations were made. In this deep basin, the wind-induced coupling drives persistent zones of Ekman-driven upwelling and downwelling that are generated around the long-lived (order 3 month) mesoscale eddies and meanders. As Gaube et al. (2013) demonstrated in the eastern Indian Ocean, eddy-scale processes can modulate Chl-a in a manner consistent with eddy-induced Ekman upwelling; assuming similar processes occur in the KEOPS-2 region, they could be responsible for exchanging macronutrients, iron, and even Chl-a, between subsurface and surface layers.

Perhaps more surprising is that the coupling between wind-stress curl and the SST gradient is low on the Kerguelen Plateau and due east of Kerguelen (around 48°S, 75°E), where SST gradients are nonetheless strong (Figure 3c), and where we would normally expect to find high correlations. In these regions we hypothesize that the orography of Kerguelen itself may influence the wind-stress curl, and this topic will be addressed in the next section.

## 4.2 Impact of the Kerguelen wind-shadow

The 1850-m maximum elevation of the Kerguelen Islands is sufficient to generate a substantial wind shadow (Chelton et al., 2004). Downstream of Kerguelen, the wind shadow induces positive wind-stress curl (downwelling) to the south of the wind shadow and negative wind-stress curl (upwelling) to the north. Chelton et al. (2004) showed the structure of the wind shadow in the case of zonal winds. In reality in the Kerguelen region, wind direction is not strictly zonal, as illustrated in Figure 4, which shows a probability density function of daily wind stress directions observed from the analysis period at 49.25°S, 71.25°E. (For these calculations, the unfiltered daily Ifremer/CERSAT stress fields were used.) Percentages in Figure 4 indicate the fraction of the total days when wind was in the most frequent 30° sectors, with uncertainties computed as two standard deviations of 100 realizations of a bootstrap procedure with resampling. For example,  $25\% \pm 2\%$  of the time, winds were within  $\pm 15^\circ$  of due east.

In order to evaluate the impact of the wind shadow in the region immediately surrounding Kerguelen, we sorted wind-stress curl data into bins on the basis of the prevailing wind direction to produce conditionally sampled mean wind-stress curl estimates, as shown in Figure 5. The four panels of Figure 5 correspond to 30° wind directional sectors, and black arrows show the prevailing wind direction for each panel. Regardless of the prevailing wind direction, a wind-stress curl dipole is established. For roughly westerly winds, upwelling-favorable negative wind-stress curl develops to the north of the wind shadow region, and positive wind-stress curl to the south. This wind-shadow induced structure typically extends more than 200 km offshore from Kerguelen, extending across the Kerguelen Plateau. More than 50% of the time, winds are from the west or west-northwest (Figure 4), giving rise to the distinct pattern of negative wind-stress curl to the northeast of the Kerguelen Islands, and positive wind-stress curl to the southeast, discussed by Chelton et al. (2004). This pattern also occurs in the December 2004 to February 2005 period shown in Figure 3a.

Wind direction can shift rapidly, and many of the regions around Kerguelen are likely to experience both positive and negative wind-stress curl associated with the Kerguelen wind shadow.

For example, in Figure 5, the pixels at 49°S, 71°E, just to the east of Kerguelen, can have positive or negative wind-stress curl depending on the prevailing wind direction.

Negative wind-stress curl is predicted to induce upward vertical Ekman pumping velocities. While numerous factors influence Chl-a in addition to wind forcing, nonetheless Chl-a anomalies, sorted by prevailing wind direction (Figure 6), indicate higher Chl-a in the upwelling-favorable areas on the northern sides of the wind-stress curl dipoles shown in Figure 5. To the northeast of Kerguelen, a shallow plateau extends along 48°S in a region where the eddy coupling is weak (Figure 3f) but the Ekman pumping from the predominant winds is negative, leading to persistent upwelling (Figure 5c) and consistently high Chl-a blooms (Figure 1, Figure 6c). Southeast of Kerguelen, springtime Chl-a is on average lower (Figure 1a,c), coinciding with downward Ekman pumping with high variance in Figure 5b-c. Thus this is consistent with the hypothesis that orographic wind-stress curl effects can amplify upwelling (of iron, macronutrients, and also Chl-a itself), particularly in the upwelling-favorable portion of the wind-stress curl dipole.

KEOPS-1 observations indicate the presence of a sub-surface iron maximum at the depth of the shelf around 500 m (Blain et al., 2008). We suggest that the persistent wind-induced upwelling may carry sub-surface iron-rich water or may help retain water that is high in Chl-a at the ocean surface, particularly in the region of the shallower plateau to the northeast of Kerguelen. Lateral advection may then carry this iron-rich (and possibly Chl-a-rich) surface layer into the deeper regions downstream, along the northern flank of the Polar Front or within the surface Ekman layer. During KEOPS-2, no vertical iron profiles have been reported from the shallow plateau northeast of the Kerguelen Islands. However, KEOPS-2 iron profiles from the deep basin east of Kerguelen and south of the Polar Front showed a different pattern, with iron maxima at the surface and at depth ( $\approx 500$  m), with a minimum in the winter water layer around 100 to 200 m depth (van der Merwe et al., 2014). Our results indicate that during the KEOPS-2 period, regional Ekman pumping was downwelling favorable over this deep basin (Figure 7), and only the wind coupling over mesoscale eddies or meanders would have been expected to modulate upwelling processes. In this deep basin, numerous other processes may also influence biological productivity on and downstream of the Kerguelen Plateau, including

horizontal circulation coming from the sediment rich Kerguelen Plateau and eddy circulation associated with flow over and around the Plateau (see Park et al., 2014a; Zhou et al., 2014).

While the bulk of this analysis was carried out for the 2002-2009 time period when QuikSCAT winds and microwave SST are both available, we also evaluated the KEOPS-2 time period (see Figure 1c,f) to check whether it was distinctive in any way from the main analysis period. In general, October-November wind conditions during the 2011 KEOPS-2 expedition were typical for the region. Details of the winds and Chl-a differ from year to year, so that a formal statistical test, such as the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, indicates that neither wind speed nor Chl-a for any given year appears to be drawn from the same distribution as the climatology from all years combined together. Less stringent tests indicate that the October-November 2011 mean and standard deviation (for wind speed or for Chl-a) are not statistically different from the means and standard deviations of individual years between October-November 2003 and 2009. A rose histogram for wind direction for October-November, 2011 (Figure 7a) indicates that the prevailing wind directions during KEOPS-2 were consistent with prevailing wind directions shown in Figure 4 for the 2002-2009 time period. In 2011, the largest daily average winds were oriented in the direction of most prevalent winds. The time-mean wind-stress curl for October-November, 2011 (Figure 7b) is consistent with historical trends and indicates negative wind-stress curl, so upwelling favorable conditions, over the shallow plateau to the northeast of Kerguelen. For the KEOPS-2 time period, upwelling favorable conditions are slightly to the west of the maximum Chl-a (Figure 1c), suggesting that iron or macronutrients might be upwelled and then advected eastward by the prevailing winds or currents as the bloom develops.

## 5 Summary and Discussion

This study has examined the mechanisms by which wind forcing can influence SST, and by extension iron and macronutrient availability, in the region around Kerguelen, where the KEOPS-2 field campaign was carried out. Although SST and satellite wind data are more limited in October-November 2011 than they are in earlier years, Chl-a distributions in 2011 (Figure 1c)

are typical of climatological Chl-a distributions in the region, suggesting that KEOPS-2 is a fairly typical year.

The findings of this study show that to leading order the ocean response to wind in the Kerguelen region is characteristic of the large-scale Southern Ocean. High wind speeds correlate with cold SSTs (when controlled for air-sea fluxes using the method of partial correlation), implying that wind mixing of the upper ocean entrains cold water into the mixed layer and the euphotic zone, bringing with it iron or macronutrients. In typical spring and summer conditions, this is expected to support the development of a Chl-a bloom. On the large scale, negative wind-stress curl also correlates with cold SSTs, implying that upward Ekman pumping helps bring cold, iron-rich water to the surface. Air-sea feedbacks on the mesoscale modify these relationships, so that in most of the region around Kerguelen, we see evidence of a coupling between wind-stress curl and SST gradients, as O'Neill et al. (2003) described.

Exceptions to the expected relationships between wind-stress curl and SST gradients occur just to the east of Kerguelen, where the wind-stress curl is strongly influenced by the orographic wind shadow of Kerguelen's 1852 m summit. Persistent negative wind-stress curl just to the northeast of Kerguelen is expected to enhance upward Ekman pumping. Results show that the region of enhanced Ekman pumping coincides with the peak Chl-a to the east of Kerguelen.

The magnitude of this wind-induced upwelling remains weak, with wind-stress curl of 2 to  $5 \times 10^{-7} \text{ N m}^{-3}$  implying vertical Ekman pumping velocities  $w$  around  $2\text{--}4 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m s}^{-1}$  giving a change of the thermocline of only  $4\text{--}11 \text{ m month}^{-1}$ , which is too slow to bring iron-enriched water to the surface either from the shallow 200-m plateau or from the sub-surface iron maximum that occurs near 500 m depth (Blain et al., 2008; van der Merwe et al., 2014) but could help bring water to the surface from the base of the spring or summer mixed layer or could help to retain water high in Chl-a at the ocean surface. Individual storm events could permit stronger short-duration upwelling events. The specific mechanisms governing this will require further investigation. We note that the satellite-based wind fields have stronger amplitudes and variance than the global meteorological products (e.g. NCEP or ECMWF reanalysis winds). Even so, the gridded wind products we use may still be too smooth and may underestimate the effective wind-stress curl forcing in the region. In addition, we expect larger upwelling and

downwelling rates to be induced by the slope current's interaction with bathymetry, or within sub-mesoscale filaments generated by the turbulent flow.

The geographic co-location of the wind-induced upwelling in the Kerguelen wind shadow and the Chl-a blooms suggests that although wind effects are comparatively weak, the wind is able to precondition the background stratification by supporting a shallower thermocline or more upwelling within the mixed layer, allowing other processes to act more easily both to bring iron and macronutrients to the euphotic zone and also to retain Chl-a near the surface. Both horizontal advection (van Beek et al., 2008; Park et al., 2014a; Zhou et al., 2014; Sanial et al., 2014; van der Merwe et al., 2014) and turbulent diapycnal mixing (e.g. Park et al., 2008a, 2014b) are also expected to play key roles in controlling iron and macronutrient availability and biological productivity in the euphotic zone. While many factors contribute to temperature, iron and macronutrient upwelling in the Southern Ocean, the results of this study suggest that wind-induced properties should be assumed to be a contributing factor in the Kerguelen region, and that the orographically modified wind-stress curl has the potential to be an important factor in explaining the location of the strong Chl-a bloom to the east of Kerguelen.

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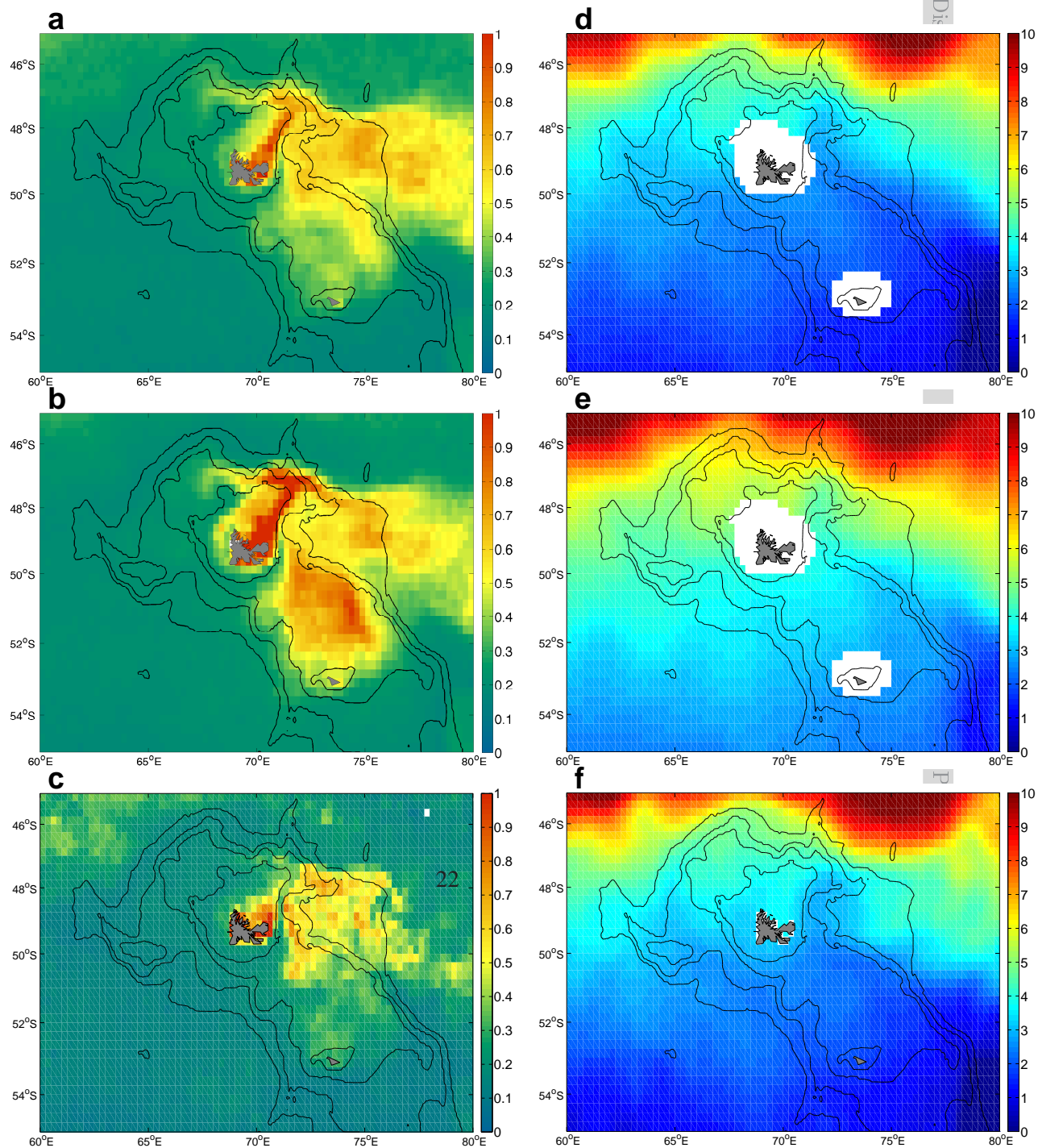
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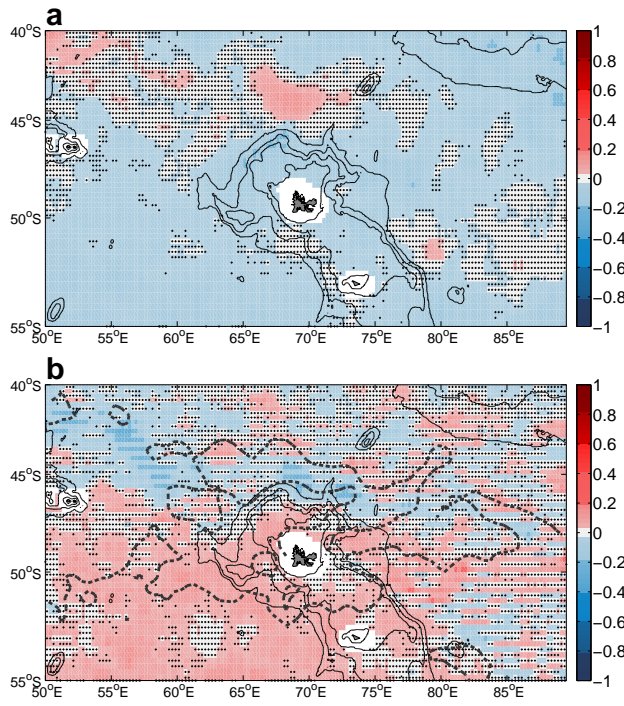
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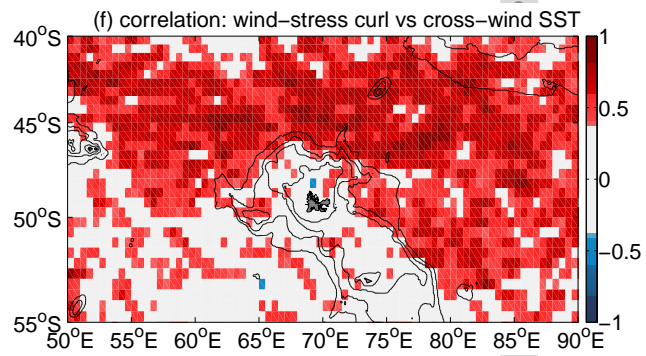
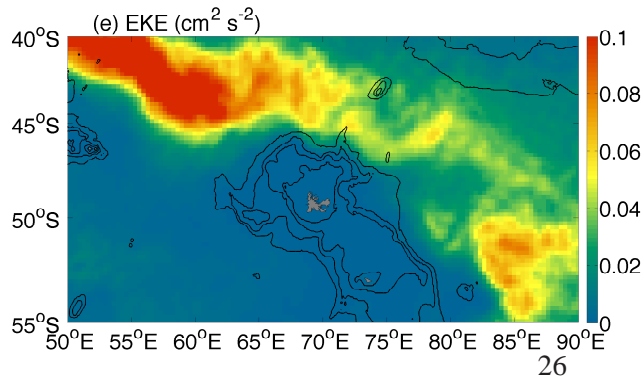
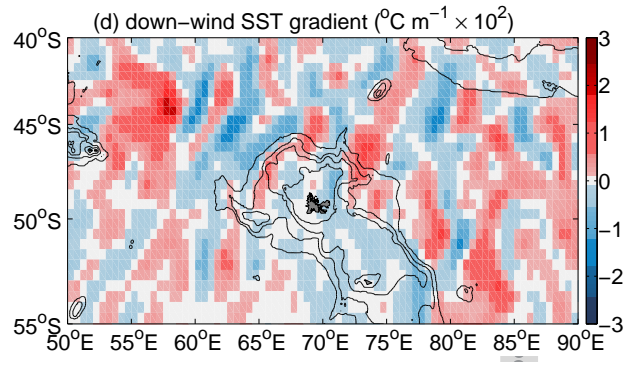
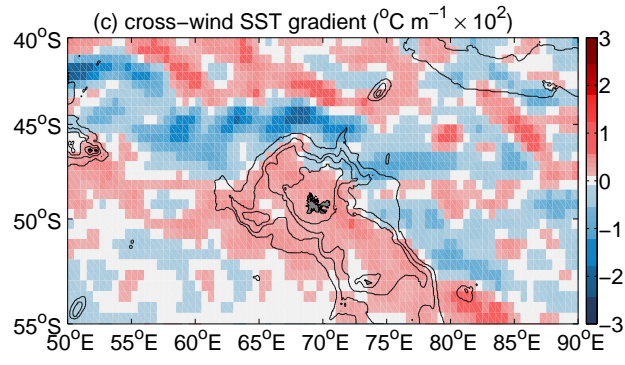
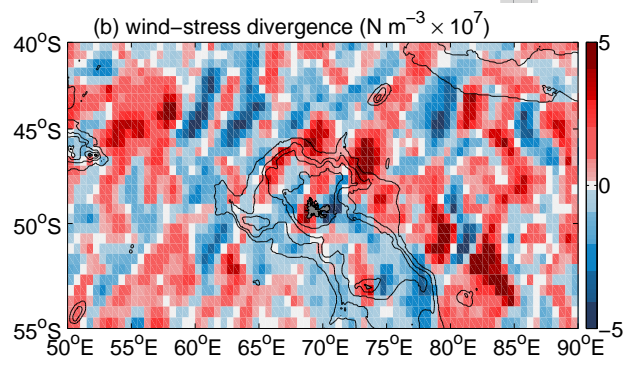
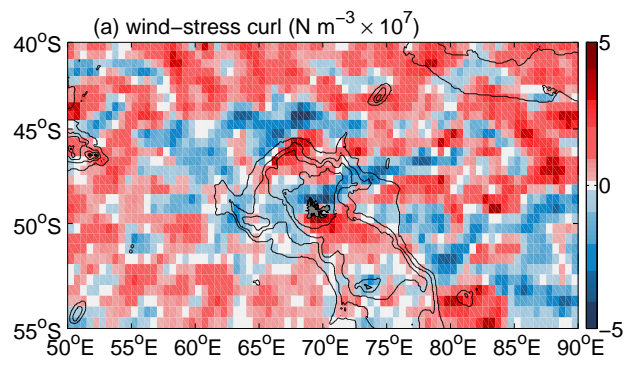
**Fig. 1.** (a-c) Mean Chl-a (in  $\text{mg m}^{-3}$ ) for the Kerguelen region. (a) climatological mean for the spring bloom, averaged over October, November, and December, 2000-2010. (b) climatological mean for the summer bloom (averaged over December, January, February, 2000-2010. (c) mean for the KEOPS-2 research cruise, averaged over October and November 2011. Because Chl-a is log-normally distributed, here the mean is computed as  $\exp(\text{mean}(\log(\text{Chl-a})))$ , where log refers to the natural log. (d-f) Mean SST (in  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) for the Kerguelen region. (d) for October, November, December, as in (a); (e) for December, January, February, as in (b); (f) for October-November 2011, as in (c). In this figure and subsequent figures, bathymetry is contoured at 3000, 2000, 1000, and 200 m depth.



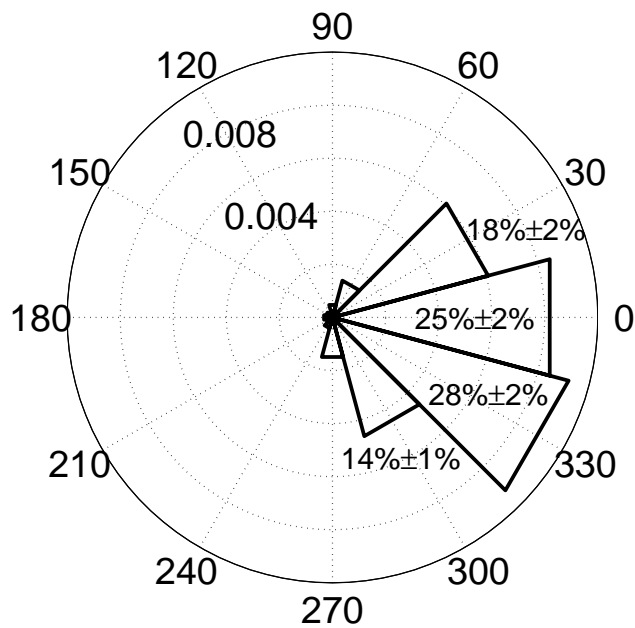
**Fig. 2.** Partial correlation coefficients for unfiltered daily anomalies of (a) wind speed vs SST and (b) wind-stress curl vs SST, in both cases controlled for NCEP/CFSR surface heat fluxes. Partial correlations are computed for the spring and summer growing season only, from September to February. In (a) blues indicate that positive wind anomalies are associated with cold SSTs, and in (b) reds in the region adjacent to Kerguelen indicate that negative wind-stress curl is linked to cold SSTs. Pixels are cross-hatched where the correlation coefficient is not statistically significant at the 95%. Black dashed line indicates the climatological mean zero-wind stress curl line; negative wind-stress curl occurs south of the zero-wind stress curl line (and within closed contours to the north) and corresponds to upward vertical Ekman pumping.



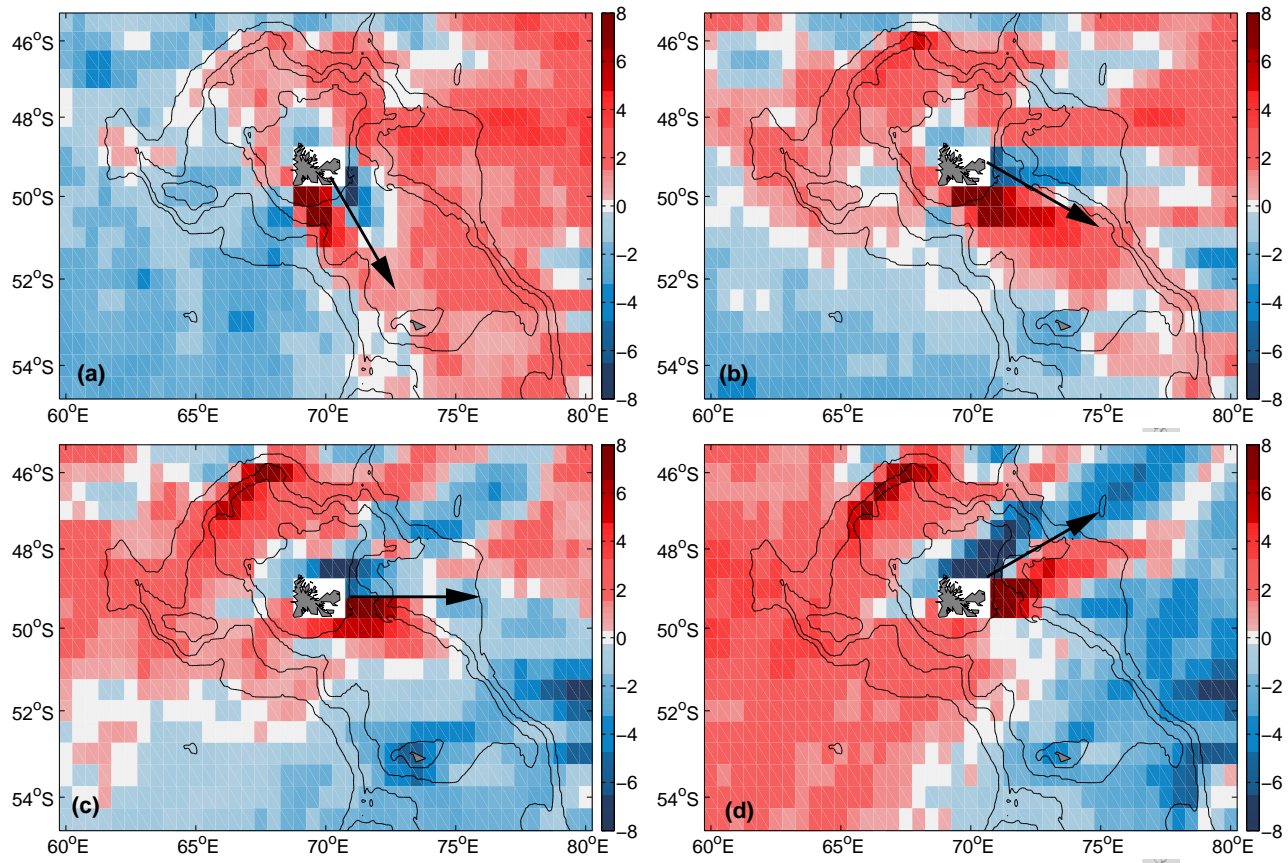




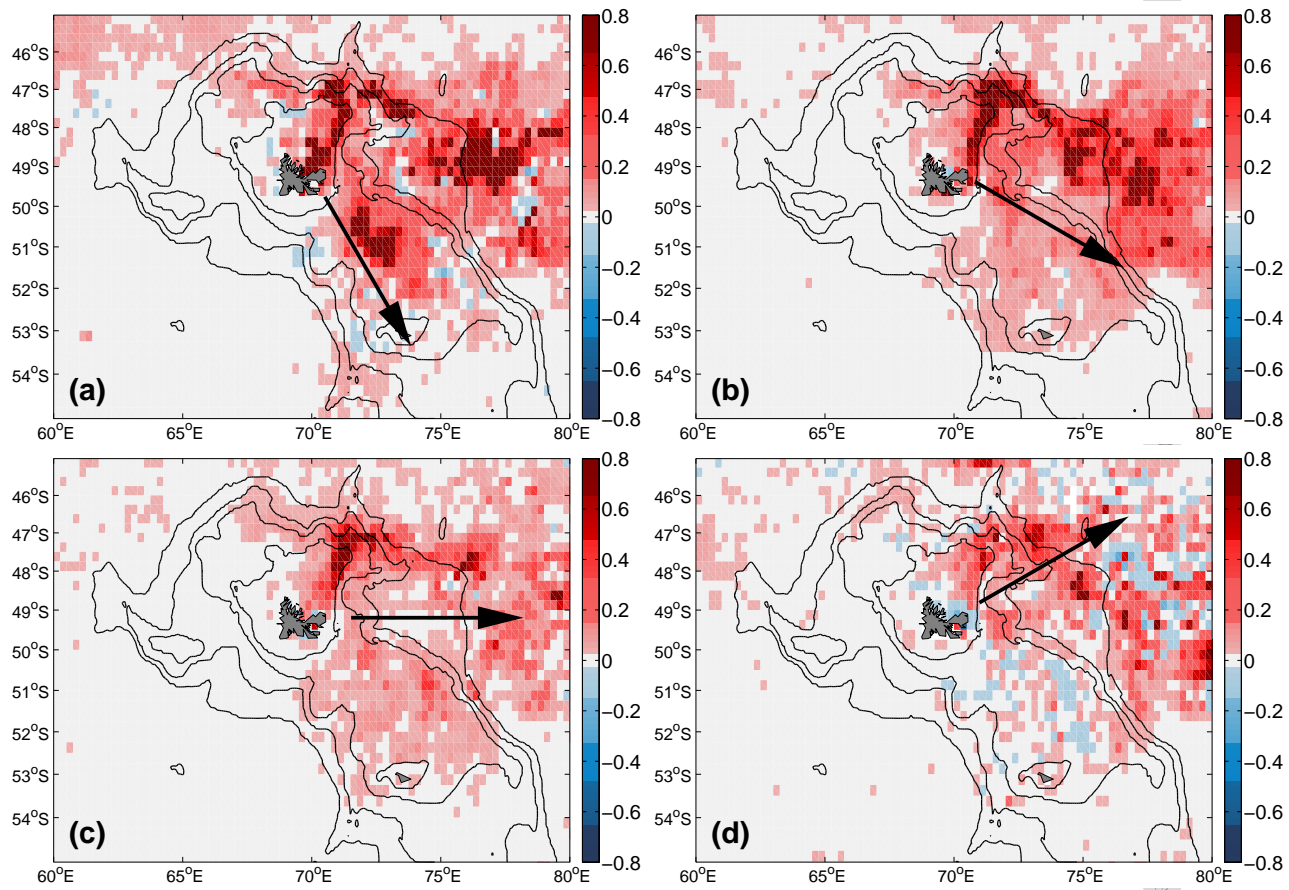
**Fig. 3.** (a) Wind-stress curl (in  $\text{N m}^{-3} \times 10^7$ ) for December 2004 to February 2005, spatially filtered to remove large-scale signal, as discussed in the text. (b) Wind-stress divergence (in  $\text{N m}^{-3} \times 10^7$ ) for the same time period, also spatially filtered. (c) Crosswind components of the SST gradient (in  $^{\circ}\text{C m}^{-1} \times 10^2$ ) derived from QuikSCAT wind data and AMSR-E microwave SST. SST gradients are filtered spatially using a  $10^{\circ} \times 30^{\circ}$  window, averaged over the period from December 2004 to February 2005. Isobaths are plotted at 200 m and at 1000 m intervals. (d) Downwind component of SST gradient (in  $^{\circ}\text{C m}^{-1} \times 10^2$ ), computed the same way as in panel c. (e) Eddy kinetic energy derived from satellite altimetry, showing high eddy kinetic energy to the north of Kerguelen, along the core of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current. (f) Correlation between wind-stress curl and the crosswind component of the SST gradient, computed using 42 3-month samples, with consecutive samples overlapping by one month. White areas are not statistically significant at the 95% level.



**Fig. 4.** Probability density function of wind direction at 49.25°S, 71.25°E, just to the east of Kerguelen. The pdf is represented as a rose histogram, appropriately normalized so that the representation is not dependent on bin width or sample size. A total of 2522 daily wind observations are used. Also indicated are the percentages of days in which winds fall into each of the four most common directional bins, with  $2\sigma$  uncertainties determined from a 100-realization bootstrap with resampling.

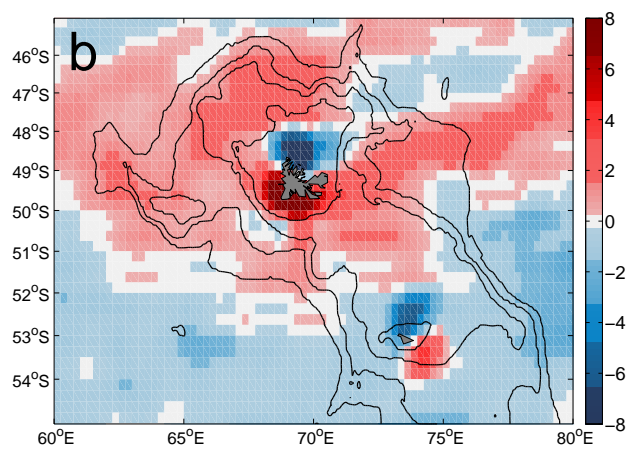
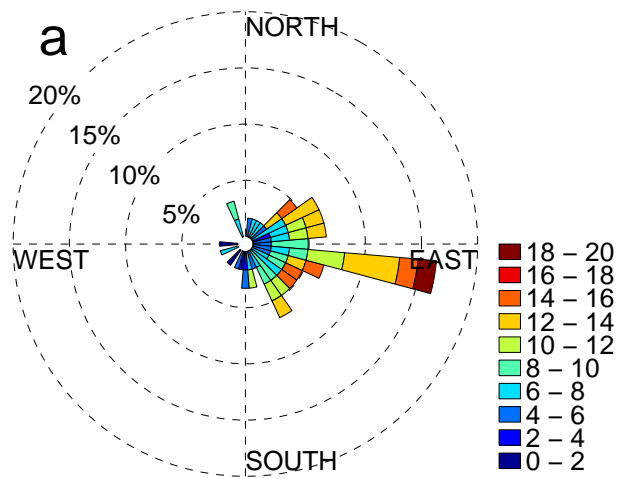


**Fig. 5.** Wind-stress curl (in  $10^{-7} \text{ N m}^{-3}$ ), sorted by prevailing wind direction for winds (a) from  $-75^\circ$  to  $-45^\circ$ , (b) from  $-45^\circ$  to  $-15^\circ$ , (c)  $-15^\circ$  to  $+15^\circ$ , and (d)  $+15^\circ$  to  $+45^\circ$ . Contours indicate the 200 m, 1000 m, 2000 m, and 3000 m isobaths. Black arrows indicate the prevailing wind direction for each panel. (The maps use Mercator projection so angles on the map correspond to geographic angles.)



**Fig. 6.** Chl-a anomalies in  $\text{mg m}^{-3}$  for the spring–summer growth season (from September through February), sorted as in Figure 5 by prevailing wind direction for winds (a) from  $-75^\circ$  to  $-45^\circ$ , (b) from  $-45^\circ$  to  $-15^\circ$ , (c)  $-15^\circ$  to  $+15^\circ$ , and (d)  $+15^\circ$  to  $+45^\circ$ . Fields are computed based on daily data, and Chl-a anomalies are computed relative to climatological monthly means.





**Fig. 7.** (a) Rose histogram for daily wind direction and speed (colors, in  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) in October and November 2011, during the KEOPS-2 expedition. (b) Wind-stress curl (in  $10^{-7} \text{ N m}^{-3}$ ) in October and November 2011. Winds are derived from the CCMP product.