

CHAPTER 7

Physical Oceanography

by

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This report summarizes the major objectives and findings of a study of the physical oceanographic conditions on the inner shelf of the eastern Beaufort Sea of Alaska. The program was part of an integrated investigation of physical and biological processes active within and between the nearshore and lagoon/barrier island systems of the region. The physical oceanography program was intended to identify the general types of lagoon/barrier island systems found along the eastern Alaskan Beaufort Sea coastline and compare relative flushing and exchange characteristics in relation to potential vulnerability to effects of oil and gas development.

Flushing efficiencies of pulsing and limited exchange lagoons found in the eastern Beaufort Sea are considerably lower than the open lagoons studied farther west (e.g. Simpson Lagoon) and may rely on extreme local wind events to effect rapid exchange of lagoon and nearshore waters. Implications for oil and gas development activities in the eastern Beaufort of Alaska include the lagoon systems' extreme sensitivity to the introduction of surface or subsurface pollutants into the nearshore region, i.e. substances can be rapidly interjected into the lagoon system via tidal pulsing but only very slowly ejected from the system via tidal mixing. For example, if flushing of a lagoon system is such that the lagoon retains only 5% of a tidally input pollutant from the nearshore during one tidal cycle, subsequent tidal cycles acting to remove that pollutant from the lagoon will also be only 5% efficient; 95% of the initial pollutant concentration will remain after each cycle.

The major driving mechanism for water exchange and transport on the inner shelf of the eastern Alaskan Beaufort Sea, including the nearshore and lagoon systems, is derived from atmospheric forcing. The windfield determines both the direction and the intensity of the longshore current, the retention or removal of warm nearshore waters from the coast, the vertical mixing and horizontal exchange of lagoons, and (probably most importantly) the movement of ice and water on and off the nearshore region. In the western Beaufort this implies that year-round mean conditions will be very similar with prevailing winds primarily from the east. In the eastern Beaufort, winds are bimodal with prevailing winds

from the west through the fall and winter and from the east in the spring and summer. Storms tend to produce winds from the northwest in both regions and can result in high longshore currents, especially in the fall when a large expanse of open water exists along the Beaufort coast.

Suggested future work includes an effort to obtain simultaneous current measurements on the inner shelf region of the eastern and western Alaskan Beaufort and an investigation into the dependency of flushing properties of pulsing and limited exchange lagoons on lagoon geometry and tidal and wind forcing.

INTRODUCTION

General Nature and Scope of Study

A physical oceanographic program was conducted to study circulation and exchange processes active within and between nearshore and lagoon regimes in the eastern Beaufort Sea. This program was part of an integrated investigation of physical and biological processes operating along the eastern Alaskan Beaufort coast which was intended to (1) describe the general types of lagoon/barrier island systems occurring in this section of the Beaufort Sea, (2) compare the observed lagoon types with the physical and ecological characterization already provided for areas farther west, e.g. the Simpson Lagoon-Jones Island system, (3) describe the overall biological production and processes in the nearshore region, and (4) identify those areas which might be especially sensitive to impact by oil and gas exploration. The goal of the physical oceanography program was to characterize the various types of lagoon/barrier island and nearshore regimes occurring along this part of the Beaufort Sea coastline and to determine the oceanographic processes which control the manner and rates of water exchange within and between these regimes. We conducted both a literature review of previous measurement programs in the region and a field measurement program in the eastern Beaufort Sea.

The general geographic region considered in this study included lagoon and nearshore regimes extending from Pt. Barrow eastward to the Canadian borders with emphasis on eastern areas. New field measurements

were collected in a study area between Barter Island and Demarcation Bay (Fig. 7-1).

Specific Objectives

Within the overall task discussed above, specific program objectives of the physical oceanography program were:

1. To obtain field data sufficient to describe the major oceanographic processes occurring in pulsing and other limited exchange lagoons which affect hydrographic properties, flushing, and exchange rates with nearshore waters.
2. To obtain field data sufficient to describe the circulation patterns, hydrographic properties, and exchange rates on the eastern Beaufort nearshore shelf region.
3. To delineate and characterize the various types of lagoon and nearshore systems occurring along the Beaufort Sea coast of Alaska.
4. To compare the relative vulnerability of the various lagoon and nearshore regimes to possible effects of OCS oil and gas development.

Relevance to Problems of Petroleum Development

This study addressed two distinct environmental problems which might accompany OCS oil and gas development: (1) transport of oil products resulting in chronic leakage or catastrophic spills, and (2) adverse modification of the complex physical and biological ecosystems which support biological production and sustain standing populations. Study of the circulation and exchange processes within the region is significant in addressing the first problem since the specific areas affected by spilled petroleum products are dependent on their trajectories, rate of transport, and diffusion en route. This program therefore provided data on water circulation patterns and rates of longshore transport and lagoon/nearshore

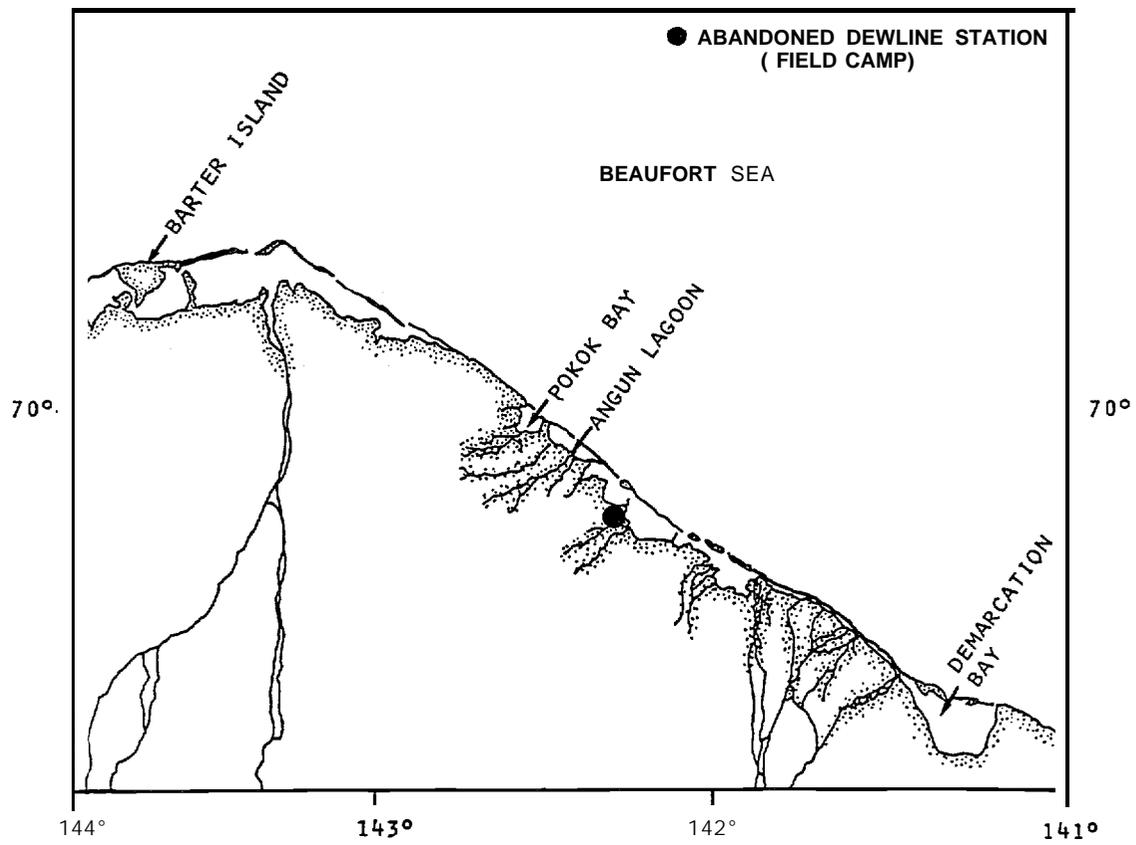


Figure 7-1. Map showing geographical location of the study area.

exchange, to be used in assessing the study **area's** vulnerability to OCS oil and gas development.

In addition, the data provided information relevant to concern over the second potential problem. That is, the physical processes which control the hydrographic properties, coastal circulation and exchange properties are important to the biological communities because they control the physical environments characteristic of the region and can either sustain or limit biological utilization in the region. The data obtained here will be of value in assessing impacts of OCS development.

Addressing both of these potential problem areas requires an understanding of the physical processes characteristic of the study region including **the** ocean circulation patterns, longshore currents, lagoon/nearshore exchange, flushing rates, and the driving mechanisms **which** result in the observed physical environment. The objective of this program, therefore, was to obtain the physical data required for this understanding.

CURRENT STATE OF **KNOWLEDGE**

Prior to this study, little oceanographic work had been accomplished in the nearshore region east of Barter Island or in limited exchange lagoon systems found in the eastern Beaufort. Considerable work, however, has been done on the shelf, nearshore, and lagoon systems in the central and western Beaufort and many of the characteristics of these areas may be applied in the eastern Beaufort.

Beaufort Shelf Characteristics

The physical setting of the Beaufort Sea **is** such that the **Beaufort** shelf is virtually completely covered by ice for all but two to three months of the year. The ice cover tends to insulate the underlying waters from both the atmospheric temperature and wind **fields** and to provide a source of dense brine **in** the winter and fresh **meltwater in** the spring and summer. Spring melting of the sea ice coincides with a massive influx of freshwater run-off from the land, both of which tend to stabilize the upper surface water, retain solar heat, and further enhance sea ice

melting. Depending on the wind field for a particular year, the open water lead along the coastline may be as wide as **100-200 km** and extend the entire length of the Beaufort Sea. The wind field in the western **Beaufort** is typically dominated year-round by easterly or northeasterly winds, whereas the eastern Beaufort exhibits dominant easterly and northeasterly winds in the summer and westerly and southwesterly winds in the winter. This wind pattern in the eastern Beaufort tends to move surface waters and **ice** offshore **in** the summer and onshore in the winter.

The entire Beaufort coast in general experiences relatively small changes in sea level due to astronomical tides (approximately 10-30 cm); however, meteorologically induced variations may range from as much as +3.0 m to -0.9 m (**Schaeffer** 1966; Matthews, unpublished data). The largest setup typically occurs in the **fall** when long stretches of open water are common and the winds have become predominantly westerly, driving water onto the shelf.

The shelf in the central and western Beaufort is relatively narrow with the shelfbreak typically occurring 80-90 km offshore. Lagoon systems which characterize this region of the Beaufort coastline have been termed 'open" lagoons, open to the wind-driven **longshore** transport and to onshore/offshore transport due to numerous large openings in their offshore barrier island systems.

In the eastern Beaufort the shelf is slightly more narrow (approximately 40-60 km). The barrier island systems tend to be closer to the coastline, more extensive, and closed to direct flowthrough by the **longshore** current, thus limiting the exchange of water between the longshore currents and the lagoons to a small number of openings in the barrier island system (limited exchange lagoons). In many of these limited exchange lagoons, the exchange of water is restricted to one or two major entrances. These lagoons, which typically have *very* narrow entrances, exhibit highly localized current jets at the entrances *in* response to periodic tidal forcing and have been termed 'pulsing" lagoons.

Patterns of water movement on the shelf tend to exhibit strong continuity in the **longshelf** direction (paralleling **isobaths**) and large **zonal** variability in the cross-shelf sense (crossing **isobaths**). Following **Aagaard** (1981), the region of the shelf landward of the 40-m isobath which exhibits one set of characteristics will be referred to as the 'inner"

shelf; the region seaward of the 40-m isobath will be termed the 'outer' shelf. That area of the inner shelf landward of the 20-m isobath with activity marked by the **ice** and/or surface **waves**, and which exhibits higher summer temperatures and lower salinities than the water between 20 and 40 m, **will** be referred to as 'nearshore' following Truett (1981).

An excellent discussion of hydrographic properties and circulation patterns in the entire Beaufort inner and outer shelf **is** presented by **Aagaard** (1981). A general summary of that discussion and the results of other researchers is given here.

Outer Shelf

The most prominent hydrographic feature on the outer Beaufort shelf is the summer subsurface temperature maximum typically observed at or seaward of the 40-m isobath. This temperature maximum is associated with an eastward flowing core of water originating in the Bering Sea as observed by Mountain (1974a,b) and others. The flow is actually composed of two distinct water masses referred to as Alaskan coastal water and Bering Seawater (Mountain 1974a). The Alaskan coastal water is formed along the Bering and **Chukchi** Sea nearshore region from a combination of warmed Bering Sea water and low salinity coastal runoff. The colder and more saline Bering Sea water moves below the Alaskan coastal waters and at a slightly slower velocity (**Mountain 1974b**). Alaskan coastal water signatures can typically be seen as far east as **150°W** longitude where it mixes with local surface water, whereas the Bering Sea water has been observed as far east as Barter Island. This Bering Sea water follows the **40- to 50-m isobaths** throughout the American sector of the **Beaufort** Sea during the summer months and provides a good demarcation **zone** for separating the inner and outer shelf regimes.

The mean circulation pattern of subsurface waters on the outer shelf is predominantly eastward paralleling the **isobaths**. **Aagaard (1981)** and others have suggested that this mean flow, observed during both summer and winter months, is driven by the difference in sea level between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and extends across the entire **Beaufort** shelf, possibly as far east as **Baffin** Bay. There is some evidence that surface waters above this eastward flow may have mean westward motion although no

direct current measurements confirming this hypothesis have been made. Currents **in** both the surface and subsurface waters can be affected by periodic meteorological forcing with typical periods on the order of 3-10 days and may show reversals in the mean eastward flow which are in turn correlated with deep **upwelling** events on the outer shelf.

Inner Shelf

Although current measurements on the inner shelf are extremely sparse due to the difficulty of maintaining moorings **in** the presence of sea ice, recent drifter data reported by Matthews (1982) and current meter measurements made by Aagaard (1981) give some **indication** of both open water and ice-covered water movements. It has been **generally** agreed that water movement on the Beaufort inner shelf **is** wind-driven. This hypothesis is further supported by Matthews' drifter data which suggest that the motion of all recovered drifters resulted from prevailing **wind-driven** currents, both for open water and under-ice releases. Drifter **travel** times and computed current speeds were consistent with values of approximately **3-4%** of the wind transport for the same periods with **under-ice** motion being significantly less. Aagaard (1981), in direct winter current measurements on the inner **shelf** near Narwhal Island, also reports that the under-ice water movement was quite slow but that the observed (0.1-0.3 cm/s) net movement was observed to be redirected toward the west consistent with the mean wind direction. Daily current speeds and directions, however, were observed to be as high as 5-10 cm/s and closely followed the variability of local wind patterns.

If these conditions can be extrapolated to the eastern Beaufort Sea then current patterns on the inner eastern shelf would be expected to show a more even distribution of both easterly and westerly currents. As discussed previously, prevailing winds along the central and western Beaufort are from the ENE during **all** seasons. However, in the eastern Beaufort the distribution of winds is more **bimodal**. At Barter Island, for example, the average winds are from the **ENE** to E for **35%** of the time and from the **WSW** to W for 25% of the time (Searby and Hunter 1971) with winds predominantly from the west during the winter and from the east during the open water season (Brewer et al. 1977). If the inner shelf waters in the

eastern Beaufort follow the local wind patterns one could expect to observe mean current patterns to the east **in** the winter and to the west in the summer following **local** wind patterns.

Transverse circulation on the **inner** shelf may result from one of several possible driving mechanisms. Dense brine formation occurs in the winter during the freezing process in the inner shelf. This dense water flows offshore along the bottom under the influence of gravity and is most **likely** accompanied by an onshore return flow in the upper layers. While this mechanism is probably more important during the **early** portions of freeze-up, especially in the more shallow nearshore waters, it probably continues throughout the winter months to some degree.

The second effective mechanism for inducing cross-shelf circulation results from the presence of large amounts of warm fresher water in the nearshore during spring and summer months. In this case, the less dense nearshore waters move offshore driven both by the accumulation of runoff in the nearshore and the lateral spreading effect induced by gravity. This offshore surface flow (and most likely accompanying onshore bottom flow) is similar to estuarine flow except that the effect **is** observed along the entire coastline. Later in the summer, when freshwater input is reduced, the warmer and less dense nearshore water **may** still respond to the effects of lateral spreading and continue the process although to a lesser degree.

The third mechanism for inducing cross-shelf circulation is **wind-driven** currents. In the western Beaufort this effect would be predominantly offshore **in** the upper layers and onshore in the lower layers due to the predominantly **ENE** winds. However, in the eastern **Beaufort** the effect would be similar to **the** western Beaufort pattern during easterly wind events and in the opposite sense (onshore flow in the upper waters and offshore in the lower layers) during westerly wind events. **Seasonal** variability would therefore show a net offshore transport of surface waters in the summer and onshore transport in the winter. This effect also has implications for the presence of nearshore ice in the eastern Beaufort during the summer months and for nearshore water available for the exchange with local lagoon systems.

Nearshore and Lagoons

Considerable research has been accomplished in the central and western Beaufort nearshore and lagoon regions. Results of one such program are **summarized** in Matthews (1979). **Results of this** multi-Year field measurement program *in the* central Beaufort between **Flaxman** Island on the east and **Oliktok** Point are consistent with present understanding of lagoon and nearshore **flow**. Winter conditions find dense brine (more than 40 ppt) collected in Simpson Lagoon waters deeper than 2 m with temperatures near -20C, moving **slowly** in response to **tidal** forcing. Complete flushing of the lagoon occurs during river overflow **in** early June (6-8 June yearly average). Maximum runoff lasts for approximately 10 days and freshwater conditions persist for perhaps one month, depending on wind conditions. Following this, saline water appears again in the **lagoon** and high **solar** radiation heats bottom waters to as high as **10-12°C**. Matthews notes that the month of August is marked by the appearance of **cold** and saline frontal systems moving through Simpson Lagoon and alternating with warmer brackish water. The presence of storms vertically mixes the shallow nearshore and lagoon waters but the frontal systems continually **re-establish** themselves throughout the summer months.

Observed currents in the lagoons and nearshore appear to be predominantly wind-driven with current speeds approximately **3-4%** of the **wind** speed. Superimposed *on* these mean wind-driven currents are **short-term** effects of storm passages and tidal effects which are dominated by diurnal **M2** forcing. Current speeds are such that flushing rates in **open-type** lagoons similar to Simpson Lagoon may be on the order of 3-4 days with mean easterly winds.

STUDY AREA

The **"PREFACE"** to this volume gives a general description of the overall study area. However, Figures 7-1 to 7-3, Figure 7-5, and Figure 7-17 **in** this Chapter on 'Physical Oceanography'ⁿ gives specific locations of field sampling efforts associated with this part of the project.

METHODS AND RATIONALE FOR DATA COLLECTION

A field sampling program to assess the physical processes occurring in pulsing-type lagoons and the nearshore shelf region of the eastern Beaufort Sea (Fig. 7-1) was conducted in two phases intended to coincide with early summer and fall conditions in the Beaufort Sea lagoon systems. Early summer conditions are characterized by an abundance of heat and freshwater input to the nearshore region, whereas fall conditions are characterized by cooling and a lack of freshwater. In addition, the two periods generally have dissimilar meteorological conditions, with easterly winds typically dominating in the early summer and westerly winds dominating in the fall. Nearshore circulation patterns were expected to differ during these times since they are largely driven by the area's meteorology and since storms through the area increase in frequency as fall approaches, therefore increasing the storm-surge-induced movement of offshore water to the nearshore and lagoon regions. The physical oceanography field measurement program was designed to address these differences between the two periods and to characterize the influence of the lagoons on the biological processes in the nearshore shelf regions.

The planned measurement program was based on a series of lagoonal, nearshore and mid-shelf current meter moorings. Measurements from these moorings were to be supplemented by a CTD survey, intended to define the distribution of water types found in the region, and a series of bottom and surface drifter deployments and recoveries intended to indicate the trajectories of the nearshore surface and subsurface waters. Vessel support for the Phase I field program was provided by OCSEAP using the M/V HOOD and NOAA helicopters. The second phase of the field program was conducted by using Zodiac rubber boats.

Phase I: 21 July-8 August 1982

Current meter moorings were planned for the Angun Lagoon entrance and the 20- and 40-m depth contours in a line extending from the Angun Lagoon entrance toward 350 True North. The mooring in the Angun Lagoon entrance consisted of a Neil Brown acoustic current meter and an Aanderaa water level recorder. The two offshore moorings were cancelled due to ice

conditions during the first phase of the program, and two current meters with temperature and conductivity sensors were instead deployed in the interior of **Angun** Lagoon and **Pokok** Bay to monitor the time rate of change of water properties in the two basins. Another planned mooring in the **Pokok** Bay entrance was not deployed due to the large ice blocks moving into the lagoon through the entrance at the planned time of deployment.

Sets of surface and bottom drifters were deployed along the lagoon barrier islands and were recovered during the *several* days following each deployment. The inferred trajectories from this quite successful program were examined in light of concurrent meteorological and current measurements in the **area**. The planned CTD survey of the offshore area was not conducted due to lack of ship support early in the field program and severe ice conditions which later developed.

Phase 11: 7 September-15 September 1982

Phase II of the **field** program was intended to observe the properties of the lagoon/nearshore exchange during periods of low or no freshwater input to the system and of decreased surface warming.

The principal activities planned for this phase of the sampling program were recovery of the current meter moorings, CTD surveys, and surface and bottom drifter deployments/recoveries. Current meter moorings deployed in **Angun** Lagoon and **Pokok** Bay during Phase I were recovered during this second phase. Because the MV HOOD was not available for Phase II, the CTD survey was conducted from a Zodiac on an A-frame especially constructed to both recover the current meter moorings and perform CTD tasks. The CTD survey was somewhat limited due to lack of navigation equipment on the Zodiac and heavy concentration of nearshore ice; in addition, the CTD batteries could not be recharged after their initial use in the lagoon survey due to power failure at the base camp, thus preventing much of the planned lagoon CTD work. The Phase II surface and bottom drifter deployments/recoveries also were **cancelled** due to heavy concentrations of sea ice along the outside of the barrier islands in the region.

RESULTS

Results of the field sampling program are presented separately for current and hydrography measurements. Some measurements are **also** presented from the concurrent meteorological and primary productivity programs.

Current Measurement Program

Current measurements were collected in the study area using both **Lagrangian** and **Eulerian** techniques. **Lagrangian** techniques consisted of deployment and recovery of surface and bottom drifters in the nearshore region and lagoons; Eulerian techniques consisted of current meter moorings in the entrances and interiors of Angun Lagoon and **Pokok** Bay.

Drifter Study

During the first phase of the field program, five deployments of seabed drifters and eight deployments of surface drifters were performed between 26-29 July 1982. The seabed drifters consisted of a hemispherical head of 18-cm diameter, attached to a weighted tail-like shaft 50 cm long; the surface drifters were yellow polypropylene 2-1/2" by 3-1/2" in size. The seabed drifters were deployed in groups of 25 and the surface drifters in groups of 50, marked to identify their original deployment site. Scheduled recovery of the drifters by oceanography program personnel were planned at low tide for two days following deployment and on opportunistic helicopter and Zodiac trips in the study area during the remainder of the field program. Table 7-1 lists the times of each of these deployments and the number of drifters deployed. Figure 7--2 indicates the place of deployment for each drifter type. Of 400 surface drifters deployed only 33 were ever recovered; of the 125 seabed drifters which were deployed, 20 were recovered.

Seabed and surface drifters were deployed to estimate the **longshore** water trajectories and maximum observed current velocities in the study region. The longshore or littoral current is directly linked to the intensity and direction of the wind. During the 24-hour period following

Table 7-1. Drifter deployments.

Type	Group	Deployment Date/Time	No. of Drifters Deployed	Wind Speed	Wind Direction
Seabed	1	7/26/82 12:25	25	7.3 m/s	205 °T
Surface	A	7/26/82 12:25	50	7.3 m/s	205 °T
Surface	B	7/26/83 12:45	50	7.3 m/s	205 °T
Seabed	2	7/26/82 12:55	25	7.3 m/s	205 °T
Surface	C	7/26/82 2:55	50	7.3 m/s	205 °T
Seabed	3	7/26/82 3:15	25	7.3 m/s	205 °T
Surface	D	7/26/82 3:15	50	7.3 m/s	205 °T
Seabed	4	7/29/82 2:45	25	6.3 m/s	65 °T
Surface	E	7/29/82 2:45	50	6.3 m/s	65 °T
Seabed	5	7/29/82 14:00	25	6.6 m/s	69 °T
Surface	F	7/29/82 14:00	50	6.6 m/s	69 °T
Surface	G	7/29/82 14:00	50	6.6 m/s	69 °T
Surface	H	7/29/82 14:00	50	6.6 m/s	69 °T

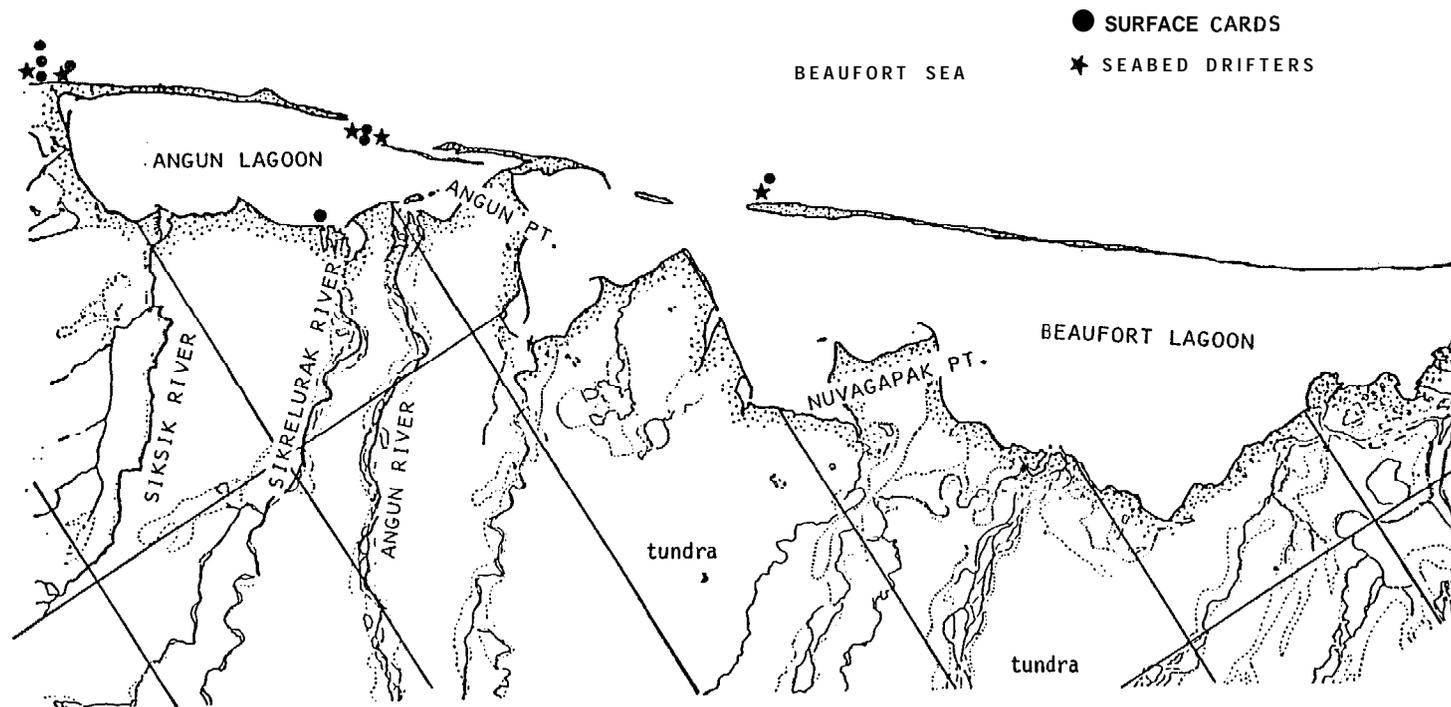


Figure. 7-2. Sites of surface and seabed drifter releases on 26 and 29 July 1982.

the release of the drifters on 26 July, wind speeds and directions varied from 2.7-1 **2.7** m/s and **145-295°T** with a mean of 7.3 m/s from **205°T**. The end of the period, however, was dominated by a storm with 12-hour average winds of 11.4 m/s from the WNW. These winds approximately paralleled the coastline in the study area and **to** a large extent determined the fate of the drifter motion.

Figure 7-3 shows the sites for the seabed drifters deployed **on 26** July during dominant westerly winds. If Matthews' criteria (nearshore transport approximately 3-4% of the wind) is employed, then drifters not **beached on** the first low tide (approximately **24:00** 26 July) should have been swept completely from the study area to the east by the second **low** tide (approximately **23:00** on 27 July). With these **'criteria**, the highest seabed drifter speeds observed ranged between 0.17-0.22 m/s for four recoveries on 26 July following the low tide. Some further longshore transport also probably occurred after beaching on the subsequent high tide prior to recovery but this amount should be minimal having occurred on the beach. Average wind speeds measured at Beaufort Lagoon during this period were 5.3 m/s. Although this is a very crude approximation, water velocities appear to be **a few percent** (approximately 3-4%) of the wind speed, **which** is consistent with Matthews' observations.

Surface drifter recovery from the 26 July deployment was far less successful with **only** 16 recoveries out of 200 drifters deployed. No recoveries were made from one set of 50 drifters deployed off the barrier island at **Nuvagapak** Point in Beaufort Lagoon. Figure 7-4 shows the sites of surface drifter recoveries (as stated above, any drifters not recovered prior to the low tide on 26 July were probably swept from the area). No attempt to calculate surface drifter velocities was made because all drifter recoveries were made 3-7 days after deployment rather than within 1-2 days following deployment, as was the case of the seabed drifters.

Wind conditions for the **second** drifter deployments on 29 July were nominally 6.5 m/s from the ENE during the 24-hour period following deployment. These conditions are considerably different from those experienced during the first deployment and more closely characterize summer conditions in the eastern Beaufort Sea. Figures 7-3 and 7-4 show **the** sites for seabed and surface drifter recoveries for the 29 July

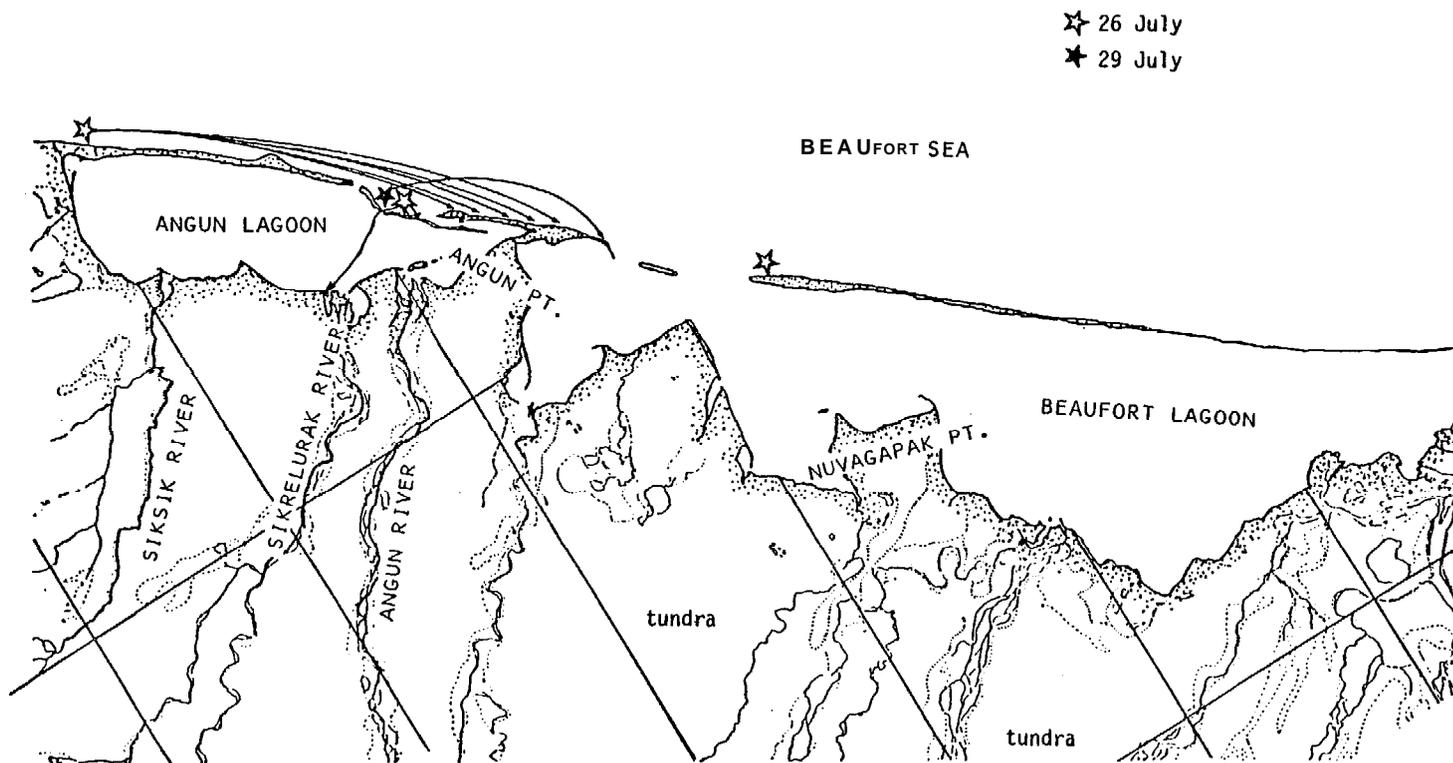


Figure 7-3. Trajectories of seabed drifters deployed 26 and 29 July 1982.

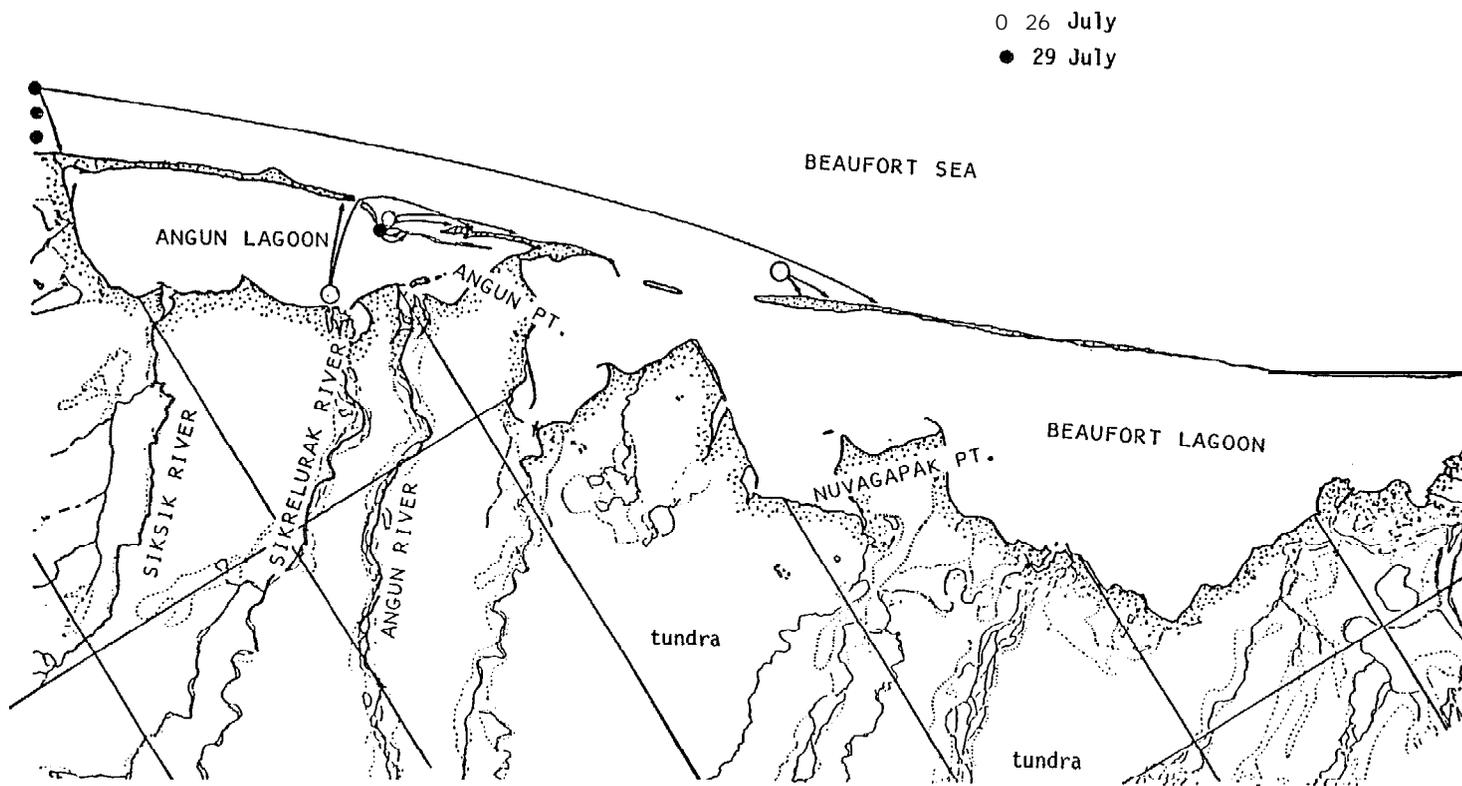


Figure 7-4. Trajectories of surface drifters deployed 26 and 29 July 1982.

deployments. **Note** that, although the winds were from the east for the **24-** hour period following deployment, all motion appears to remain predominantly to the east rather than the west, as would be anticipated given the dominant wind conditions. However, this conclusion is **biased** by eleven surface drifter recoveries accomplished 1.75 hours after deployment which showed eastward current speeds of **0.32** m/s. This speed was calculated from recoveries made **only** three hours after the winds had shifted from a three-day period of NW winds and a residual **longshore** current to **the** east could have been present when deployment occurred.

It is significant that no seabed drifters were recovered until **12** hours after the winds shifted from the ENE (**which** would tend to move the drifters offshore) to more than 6.0 kt from the **WNW** (which would tend to move the drifters back onshore) on 31 July. These **WNW** wind conditions then persisted for six days during which time all of the seabed drifters which were eventually recovered were found. Of the 200 surface drifters deployed during the ENE winds, only six were recovered after the first 11 deployed at Angun Entrance were picked up two hours after deployment. Results **of** the surface and bottom drifter studies substantiate the belief that westerly winds trap warm coastal water in the nearshore region and transport this water **along** the coast at from **3-4%** of the wind speed. Conversely, easterly winds move the warm nearshore waters offshore to be replaced by cooler water from the **midshelf** region.

Figures **7-3** and 7-4 also show the bottom drifters which were deployed outside of **Angun** Lagoon and *were* recovered on the far side of the lagoon interior, and the surface drifters which were deployed on the far side of the lagoon interior and were recovered outside the lagoon, thus substantiating hydrographic results, which indicate net bottom transport into the lagoon and net surface transport out of the lagoon (these results will be further discussed in the Hydrographic Data section).

Current Meter Moorings

As part of the physical oceanography sampling program for this project, three current meter moorings consisting of one current meter per mooring were deployed in Angun Lagoon and **Pokok** Bay (locations are indicated on Fig. 7-5). These moorings included two Aanderaa current

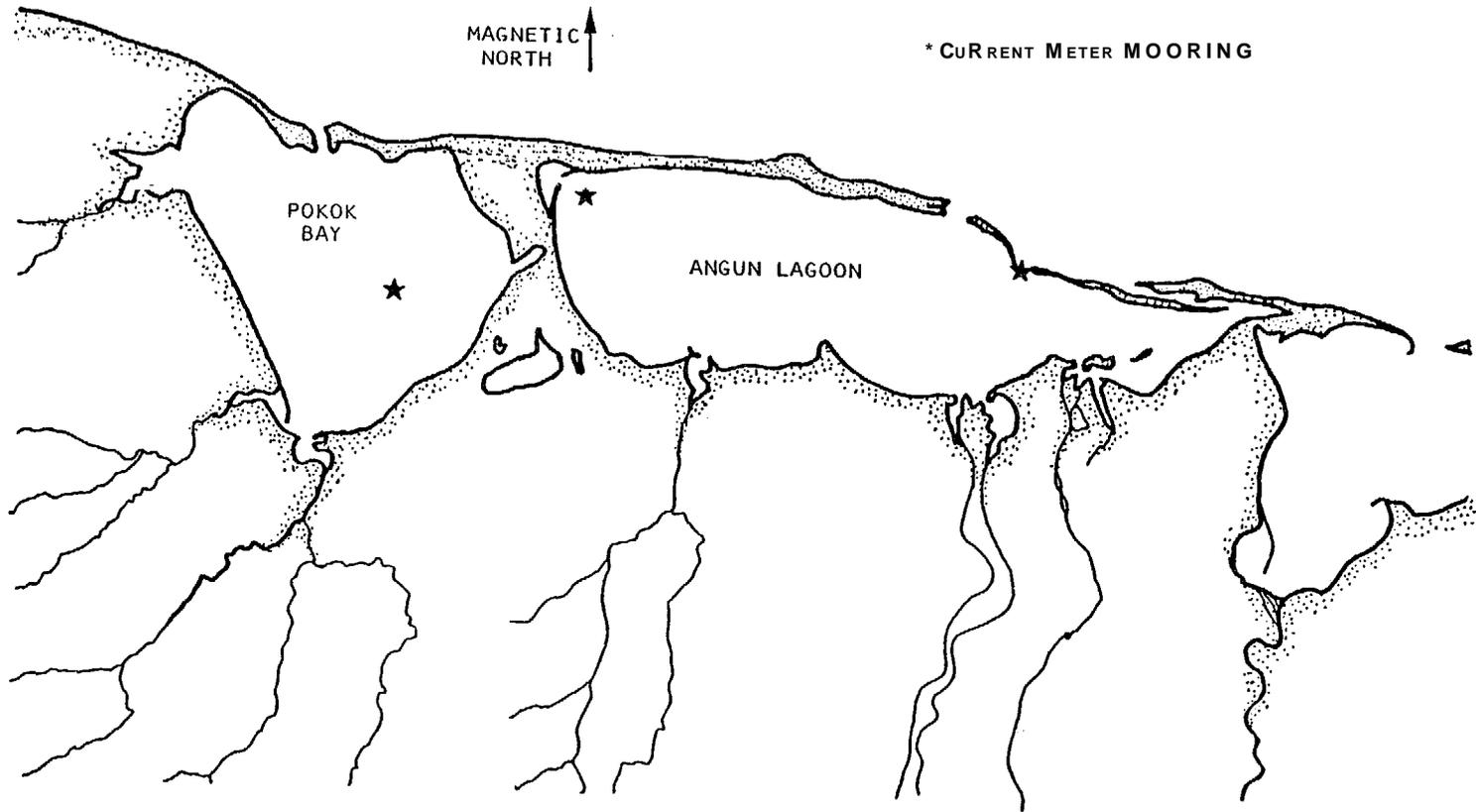


Figure 7-5. Location of current meter moorings in Angun Lagoon and Pokok Bay,

meters, **one** Neil Brown (NBIS) acoustic current meter, and one Aanderaa pressure and temperature meter. The Aanderaa current meters were deployed in Pokok Bay and the western end of Angun Lagoon. The NBIS current meter was moored in the main channel of Angun Lagoon. The Aanderaa pressure sensor was attached to the NBIS current meter for **11** days until it was detached by an ice floe; it was then redeployed adjacent to the Aanderaa current meter in the western end of Angun **Lagoon**.

As a sample of the data collected in Angun **Lagoon** and **Pokok Bay**, Figure 7-6 shows the output from the NBIS current meter and the Aanderaa pressure meter while both were located in the Angun Lagoon channel. The variables plotted are depth, temperature recorded by the NBIS current meter, temperature recorded by the **Aanderaa** pressure meter, and estimated long- and cross-channel current speeds. The **long-** and cross-channel speeds were estimated by rotating the north and east current components in the direction parallel and normal to the Angun Lagoon entrance (**35°T**; positive **values** indicate flow out of the lagoon). A one-hour **filter** was applied to the current and water level measurements.

The measured data confirm visual observations of high tidally-driven currents through Angun Lagoon entrance (12-hour **M2** tidal component predominates the records). Despite the high current speeds, tidal height variations are only on the order of 20 cm superimposed on meteorologically-induced driven events (approximately 50-100 cm) occurring on scales of several days.

A rough estimate of the volume transport in and out of the main Angun Lagoon channel was made using the data gathered by a current reeker **in** the channel. The channel profile was estimated from depth sounding data collected during the **field** program and a logarithmic velocity profile was assumed. This calculation indicated that flow through the instrumented entrance can account for over **60%** of the level variations observed in the **lagoon**. Two other entrances were less than a meter in depth although one is almost 60 m in width. The main entrance to Angun Lagoon is approximately **25** m wide and 5 m deep with very steep sides. As observed **in** Figure '7-6, current speeds were in excess of 1 kt during peak ebb and flood periods at a distance of approximately 1 m from the bottom. Maximum observed surface currents during these periods were visually estimated at greater than 2 **kt**.

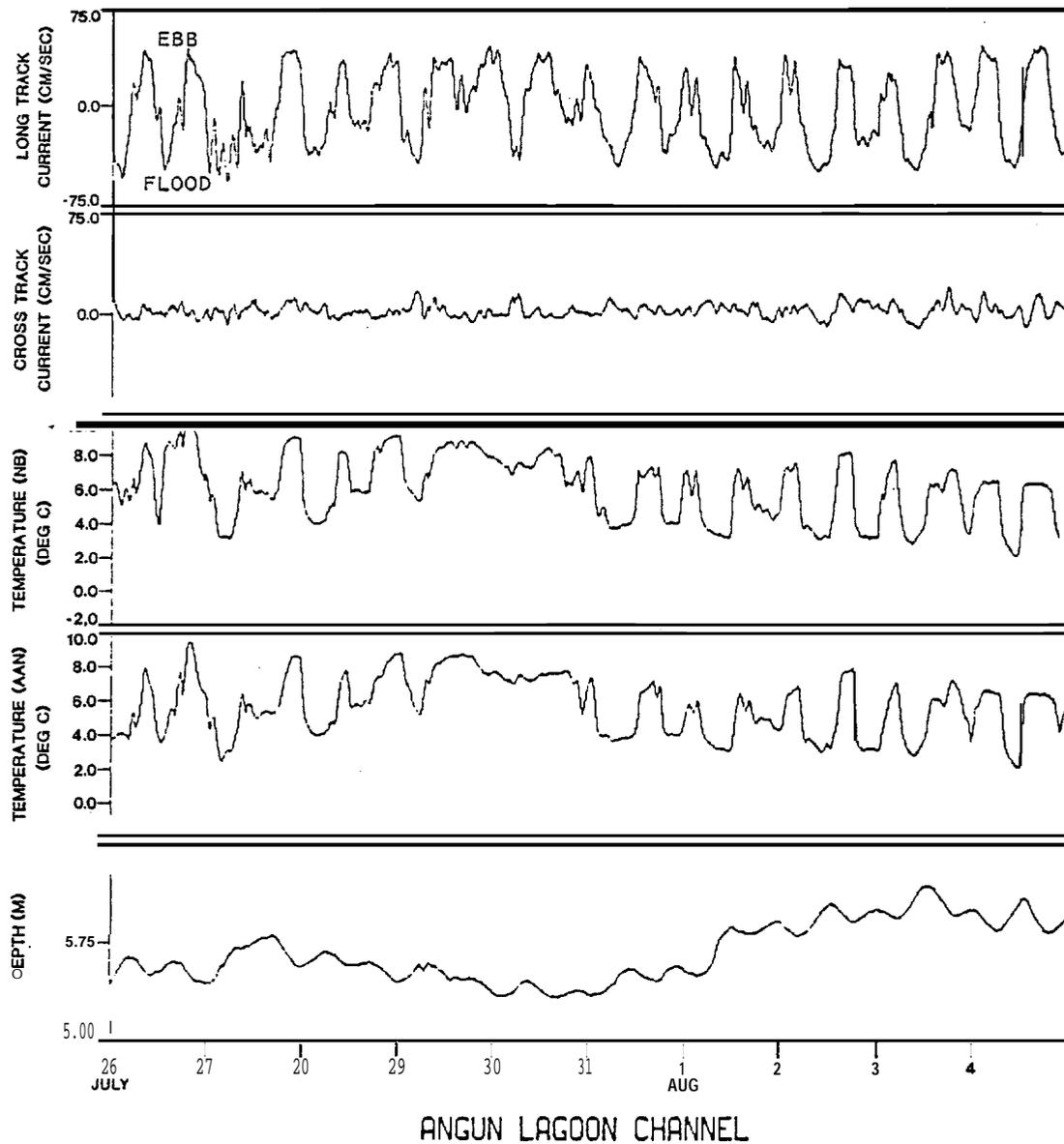


Figure 7-6. Time series plot of one hour lowpass-filtered current and temperature data recorded by a NBIS current meter (top three plots) and by an Aanderaa pressure meter (bottom two plots) located in Angun Lagoon channel.

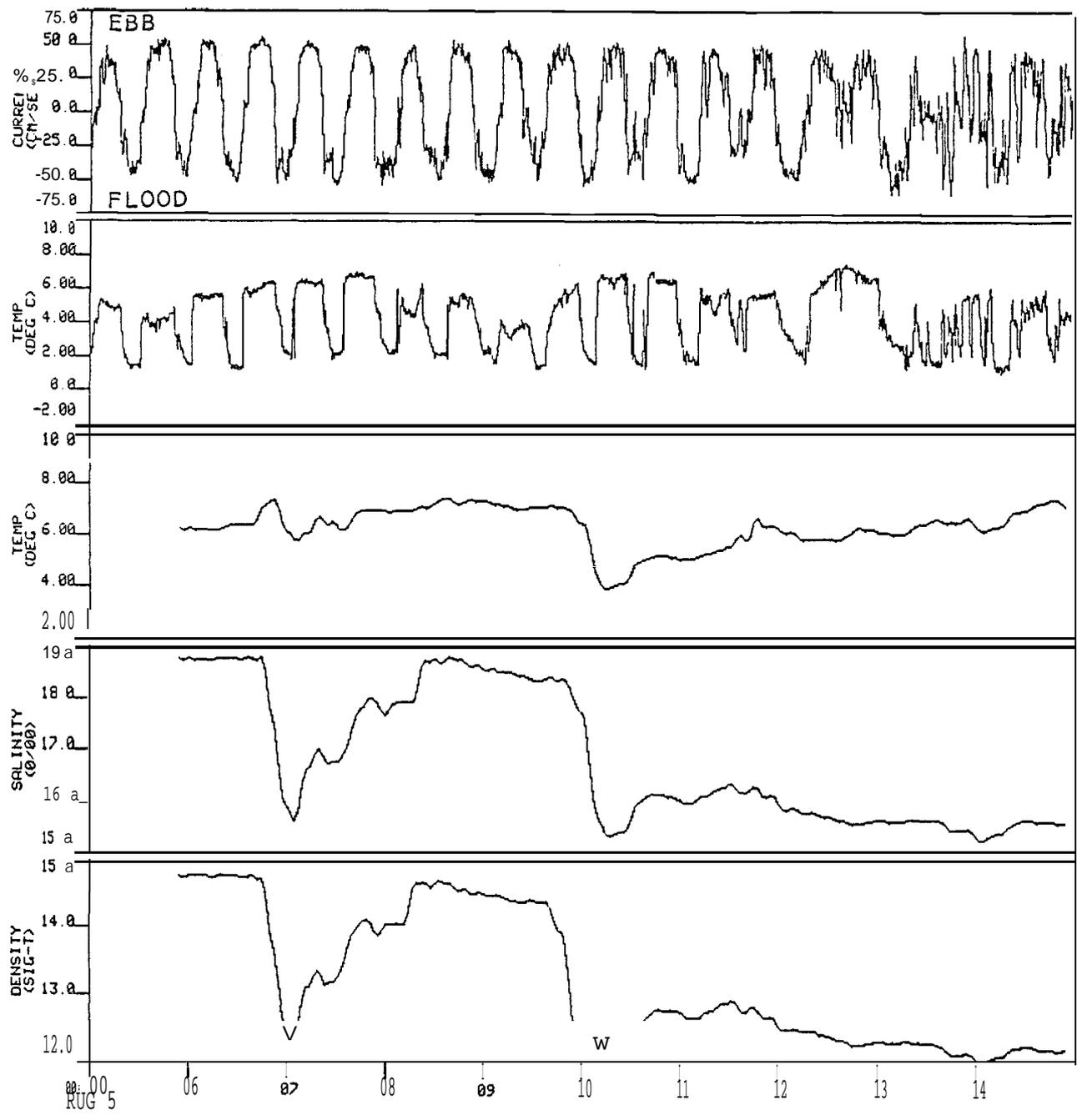
Related to the high peak-to-peak current maxima observed in the Angun channel flow is similarity in the two temperature records measured in the entrance. Although some slight vertical temperature gradient can be seen over the approximately 1 m vertical separation between the two **meters**, the temperatures track one another quite well, indicating that when an influx of water is experienced during the flood tide, the **flow** is inward at all depths (visual observations detected both large flood and ebb surface currents in addition to the measured subsurface currents). Therefore, the temperature of water coming into the lagoon at these two **sensor** depths (4 and 5 m) during flood tide indicates nearshore water characteristics, and temperatures of water exiting the lagoon during ebb tide indicate characteristics of lagoon water. It is apparent from these records that there is typically a **4-10°C** difference between nearshore and lagoon temperatures.

Referring again to Figure 7-6, the absence of this temperature difference during 29-31 July indicates that the nearshore and lagoon waters are at the same temperature and that it is the nearshore waters which have been warmed. It is also interesting that the flood tidal currents are quite small for two of the three cycles in this time interval. The driving mechanism associated **with** this event is **the** wind. The relationship between the wind and **Angun** Lagoon channel flow is most easily visualized in Figures 7-15 and 7-16 (pages 392 and 393) where the wind and current data are displayed as stick plots. As discussed in the drifter study, winds were predominantly from the west for several days prior to 29 July at which time they shifted to ENE until 30 July when they again became SW. During this two-day period considerable warm lagoon water was driven from the lagoon systems lining the coast and flooding the nearshore environment with fresher [approximately 17 ppt, **Schell** (this **volume**)], warm (approximately 8oc) water. Because this transport was more **alongshore** than offshore due to the ENE winds, this water was transported along the coastline and was available for exchange with neighboring lagoon systems. The opposite effect **is** observed during a westerly wind event occurring on the morning of 27 July (discussed in the previous section and displayed in Figure 7-15, upper two **traces**).

Figures 7-7 and 7-8 show 10 days of data from all the moorings deployed beginning 5 August. As before, the upper trace in Figure 7-7 shows that the currents in Angun entrance are highly **bimodal** with speeds up to ± 1 kt at the 4-m depth. The temperature record (Fig. 7-7, **panel 2**) indicates nearshore waters from about 1.8 to 2.0°C and lagoon waters slowly varying from 4 to 7°C. The Aanderaa current meter mooring at the far west end of Angun Lagoon also shows considerable structure (Fig. 7-7, panels 3-5). Note that the large event observed in salinity at the **Angun** interior mooring (Fig. 7-7, panel 4) has no apparent counterpart at the Angun entrance mooring. This rapid decrease in salinity can be attributed to the wind field which at 15:00 on 6 August changed from predominantly **NW** to predominantly **SW**, allowing the fresher surface **water** coming from the rivers to move into the western end of **Angun Lagoon**. As the winds **slowly** decreased in intensity and shifted in direction, eventually coming from the **NW** at 21:00 on 7 August, the freshwater was moved to the east and replaced by more saline water from the eastern end of the lagoon. Note that a corresponding event is not observed at corresponding times in Pokok Bay (Fig. 7-8).

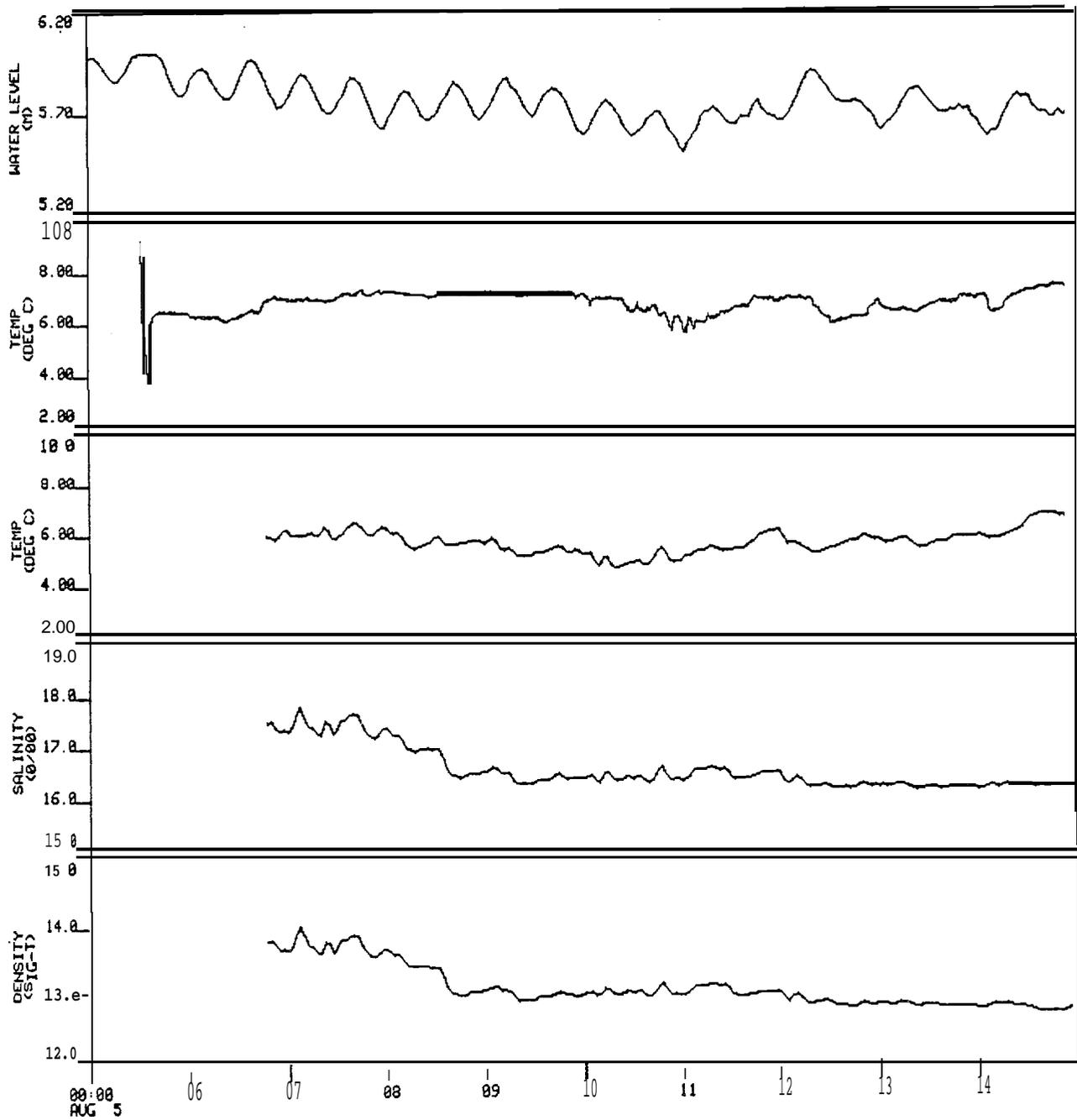
A second event is observed in Figure 7-7 beginning on 10 August. Unlike the first event, this event shows a 2°C change in the temperature trace at the western end of Angun Lagoon, indicating fresher water at about approximately 15.3 ppt and 4°C. The change in the wind pattern which induces this event was from **NW** to **E** winds and begins at approximately 18:00 on 9 August, lasting for several days. Prior to this period northwesterly winds were observed in excess of 5 m/s and vertical mixing of the **lagoon** may have occurred in the eastern end. In any case, the less **saline** waters and prolonged easterly winds maintained the fresher water in the western end of the lagoon.

Pokok Bay responded quite differently to the observed meteorological forcing than did Angun Lagoon. Figure 7-8 (lower 3 traces) shows that, with the exception of a **slight** cooling trend during 7-9 August, not much structure was maintained in the lagoon. Referring back to Figure 7-7 (second trace), the water leaving Angun entrance also showed 3°C cooling between 8-10 August; however, the western end of the lagoon (third trace) showed no such cooling until the major wind reversal late on 9 August.



BEAUFORT LAGOON ECOLOGICAL STUDY

Figure 7-7. Mooring data for Angun Lagoon entrance (top two traces) and Angun Lagoon interior (bottom three traces) for ten days beginning 5 August.



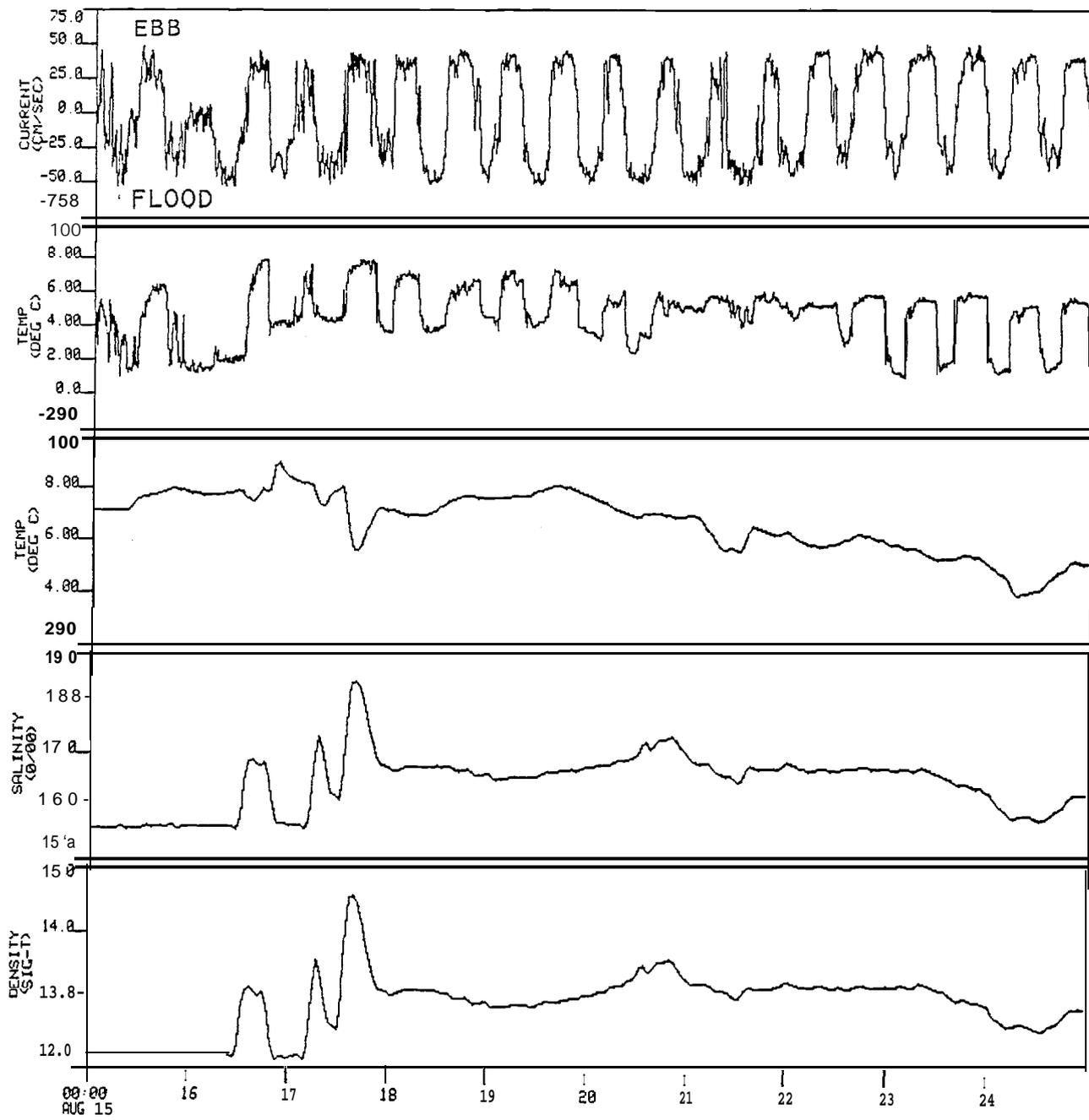
BEAUFORT LAGOON ECOLOGICAL STUDY

Figure 7-8. Mooring data from Angun Lagoon interior (top two traces) and Pokok Bay interior (bottom three traces) for ten days beginning 5 August.

Figure 7.8 (upper 2 traces) indicates that sea level response to the two wind events was minimal (approximately 25 cm decrease) and water level variations were predominantly driven by the astronomical tides. Water in the interior of both Angun Lagoon and **Pokok** Bay showed a gradual 2 to 3°C warming trend between 10.15 August with no comparable warming trend indicated in the nearshore water flowing into Angun Lagoon.

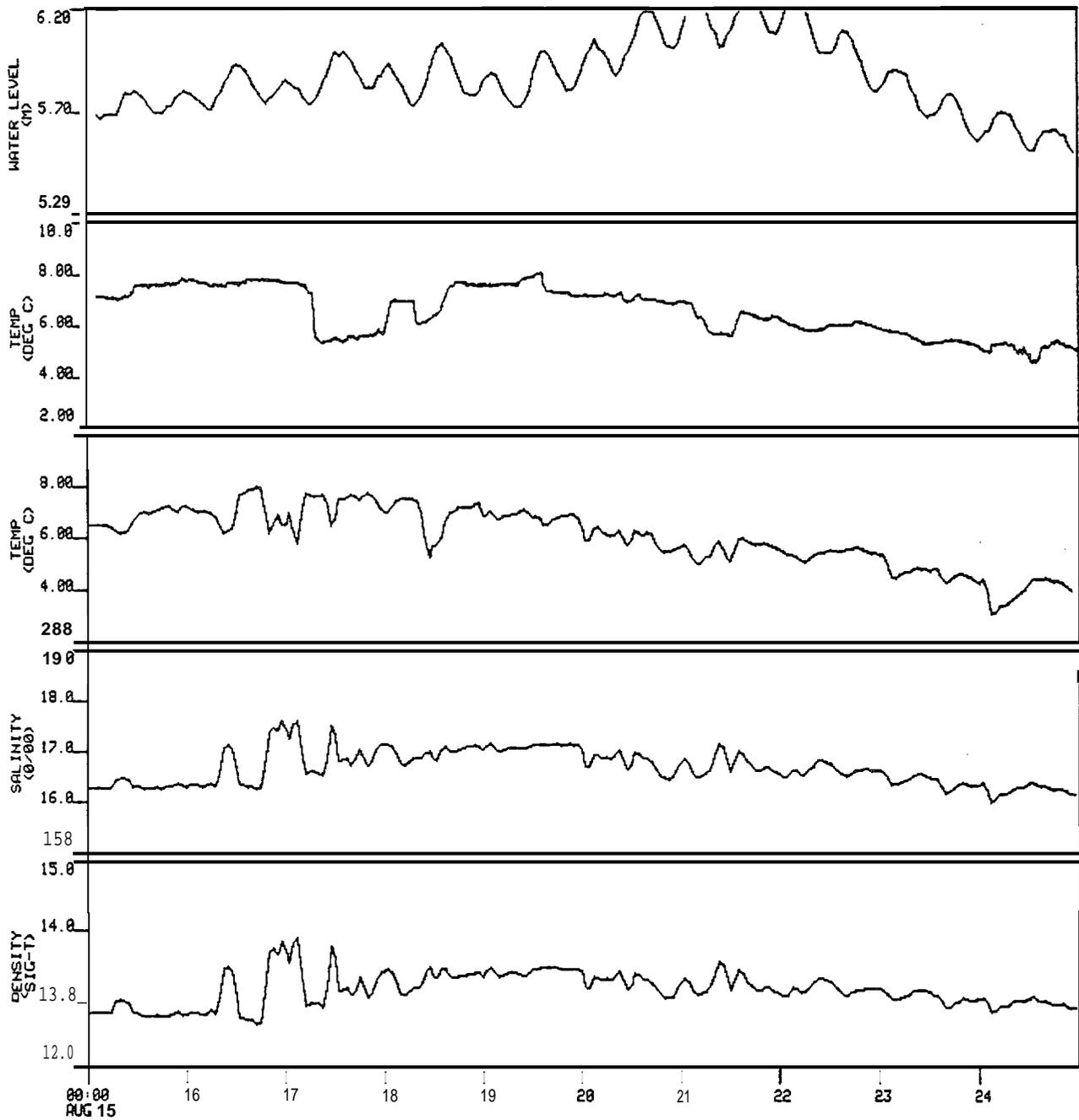
Figures 7-9 and 7-10 show data from the next consecutive **10-day** period. A third major event is observed in these data beginning on 16 August. The onset of this event began, as **has** been observed in the two previous events, by a change in the wind field (Figs. 7-15 and 7-16, . pages 392 and 393). Beginning at approximately 6:00 on 16 August, the dominant winds shifted from very light and variable to coming from the southwest. Nearshore waters **increased** in temperature by 3°C in one **tidal cycle** (Fig. 7-9, trace 2) and remained at this temperature almost continuously until 23 August when the wind pattern again shifted to easterly winds. On 17 August winds reached 18 knots, and mean sea level increased over 0.3 m (Fig. 7-10, trace 1). By 22 August nearshore waters and lagoon waters are almost identical in both Angun Lagoon (Fig. 7-9, traces 3-5) and **Pokok** Bay (Fig. 7-10, traces 3-5) as a result of probable vertical mixing which occurred over an 18-hour period on 17 August (average winds approximately 12 kt). Mixing continued with strong westerly winds (greater than 20 kt) on 20-21 August. On 22 August the winds again shifted to easterly and the 4°C difference was again observed between inflow and outflow water **in** the Angun entrance.

Figures 7-11 to 7-14 show the next two 10-day segments of data. Most noteworthy is the lack of events **in** the observed data (with the exception of the observed rapid decrease in salinity at the **Pokok** Bay mooring on 26 August which may have been equipment malfunction). The observed temperature differences between nearshore and lagoon water were **observed** to slowly decrease from 4 to 2°C with a mean decreasing from approximately 3 to almost 0°C by 12 September. During this period, the **salinity in** Angun Lagoon maintained an almost constant value of 16 ppt whereas **in Pokok** Bay salinity increased steadily from 16 to over 17 ppt by 11 September. Also during this time, the temperature in **Pokok** Bay decreased from 4 to 2°C whereas Angun maintained a 4°C average until 8 September when it rapidly cooled from 4°C to 3°C over a four day period. Nearshore



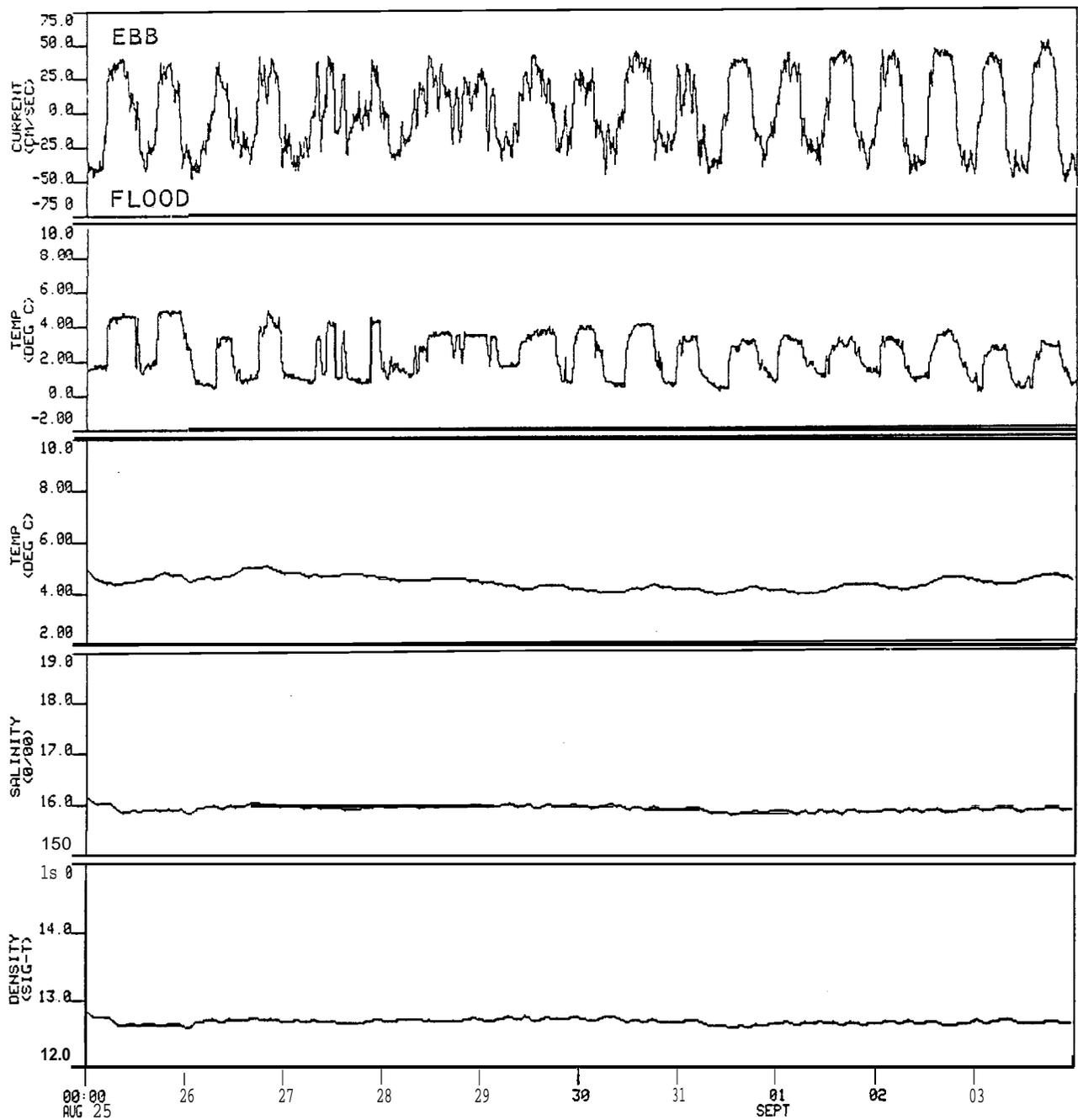
BEAUFORT LAGOON ECOLOGICAL STUDY

Figure 7-9. Mooring data for Angun Lagoon entrance (top two traces) and Angun Lagoon interior (bottom three traces) for ten days beginning 15 August.



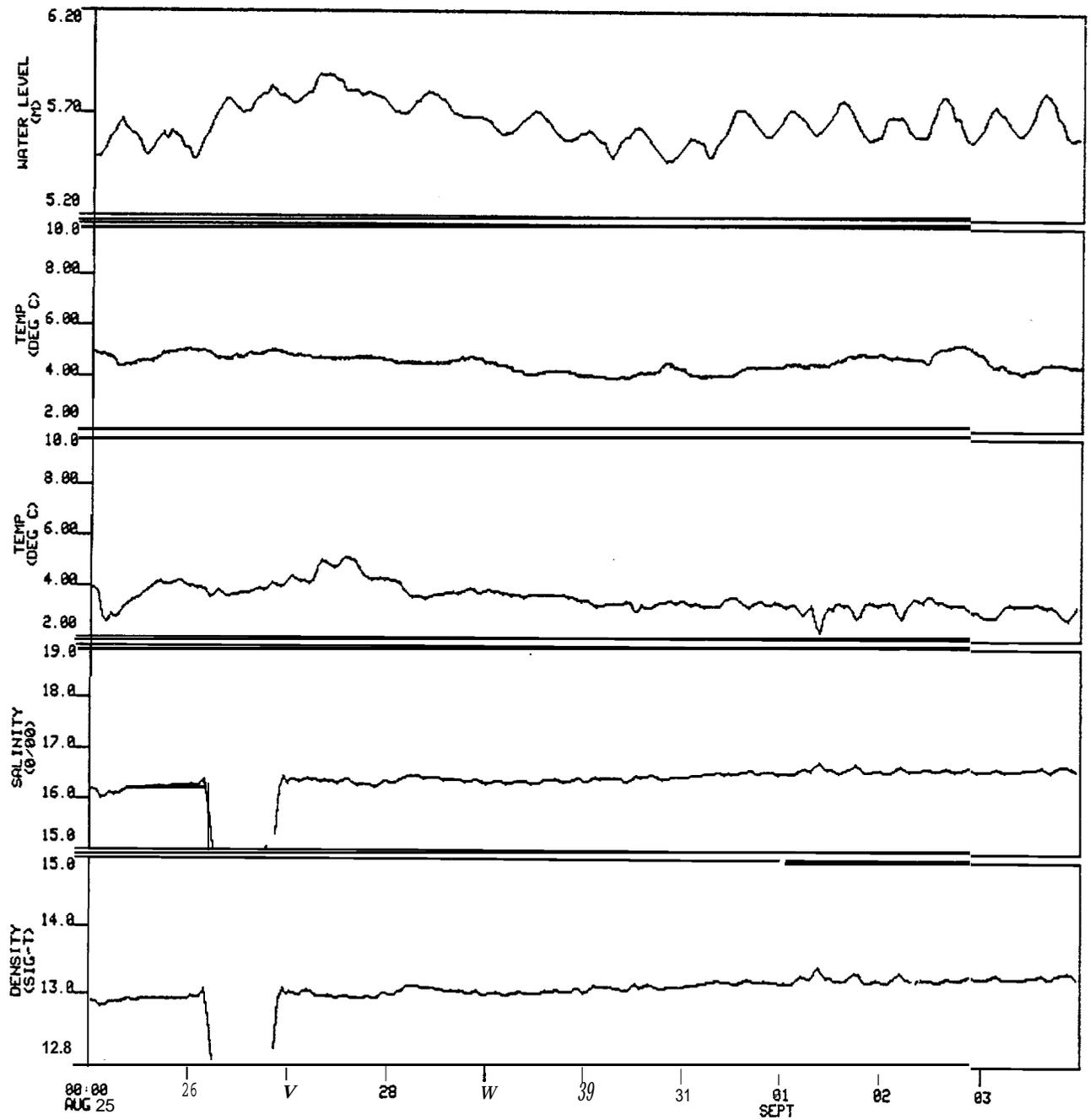
BEAUFORT LAGOON ECOLOGICAL STUDY

Figure 7-10. Mooring data from Angun Lagoon interior (top two traces) and Pokok Bay interior (bottom three traces) for ten days beginning 15 August.



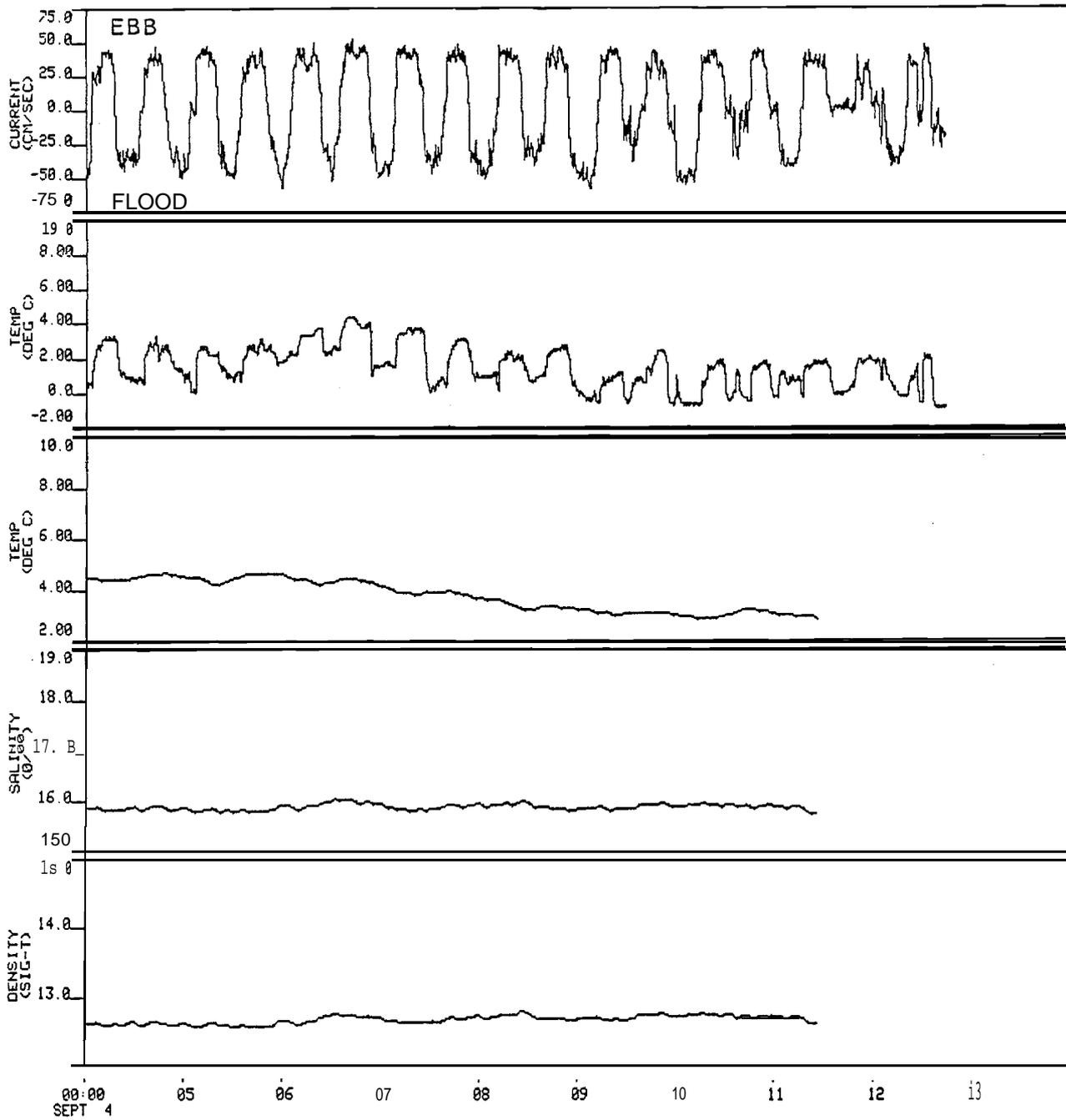
BEAUFORT LAGOON ECOLOGICAL STUDY

Figure 7-11. Mooring data from Angun Lagoon entrance (top two traces) and Angun Lagoon interior (bottom two traces) for ten days beginning 25 August.



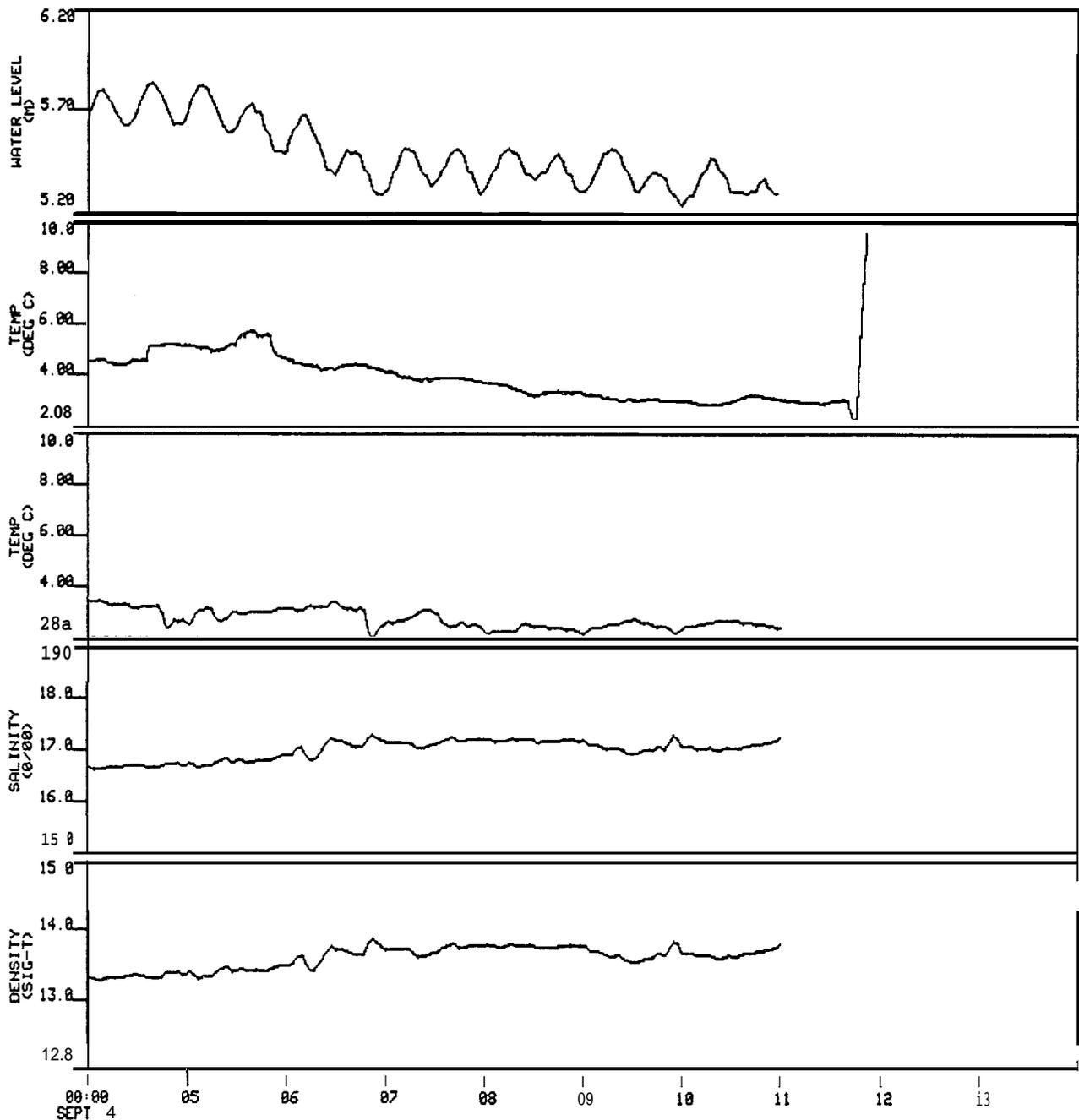
BEAUFORT LAGOON ECOLOGICAL STUDY

Figure 7-12. Mooring data from Angun Lagoon interior (top two traces) and Pokok Bay interior (bottom three traces) for ten days beginning 25 August.



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Figure 7-13. Mooring data from Angun Lagoon entrance (top two traces) and Angun Lagoon interior (bottom three traces) for ten days beginning 4 September.



BEAUFORT LAGOON ECOLOGICAL STUDY

Figure 7-14. Mooring data from Angun Lagoon interior (top two traces) and Pokok Bay interior (bottom two traces) for ten days beginning 4 September.

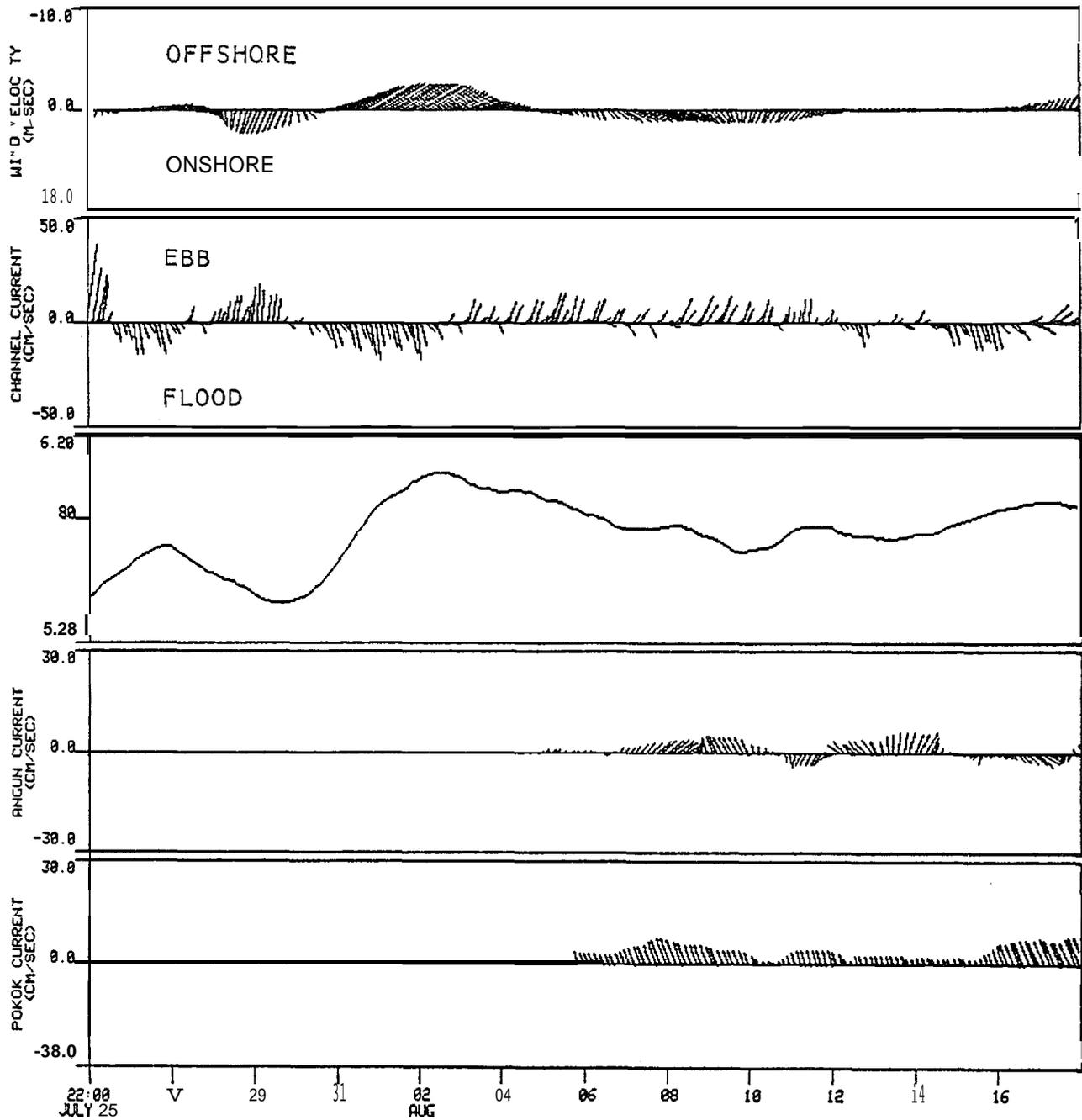
water at this time went from 2°C to approximately 0°C. During this 20-day cooling process a 1 to 2°C temperature difference was maintained between water at the west end of Angun Lagoon and the lagoon entrance.

This last set of observations has some implications relevant to understanding circulation and exchange processes in the two lagoons. (These points are further discussed in the "DISCUSSION" section of this Chapter.) Of particular note is the fact that the current direction in the western end of Angun Lagoon is **almost** always to the north or northeast, indicating clockwise circulation. For reference, Figures 7-15 and 7-16 show 30-hr filtered wind and current data from the field program. It must be cautioned that both of the Aanderaa current speed records from Angun Lagoon and Pokok Bay may be contaminated by surface wave effects, and the Instruments were primarily placed in the lagoons for their recordings of temperature and salinity. In addition, a compass-bearing problem on the Pokok Bay mooring is believed to have rendered current direction data useless. In any event, **the** strong correlation between winds, current speeds and water level are obvious in these figures.

Hydrographic Data

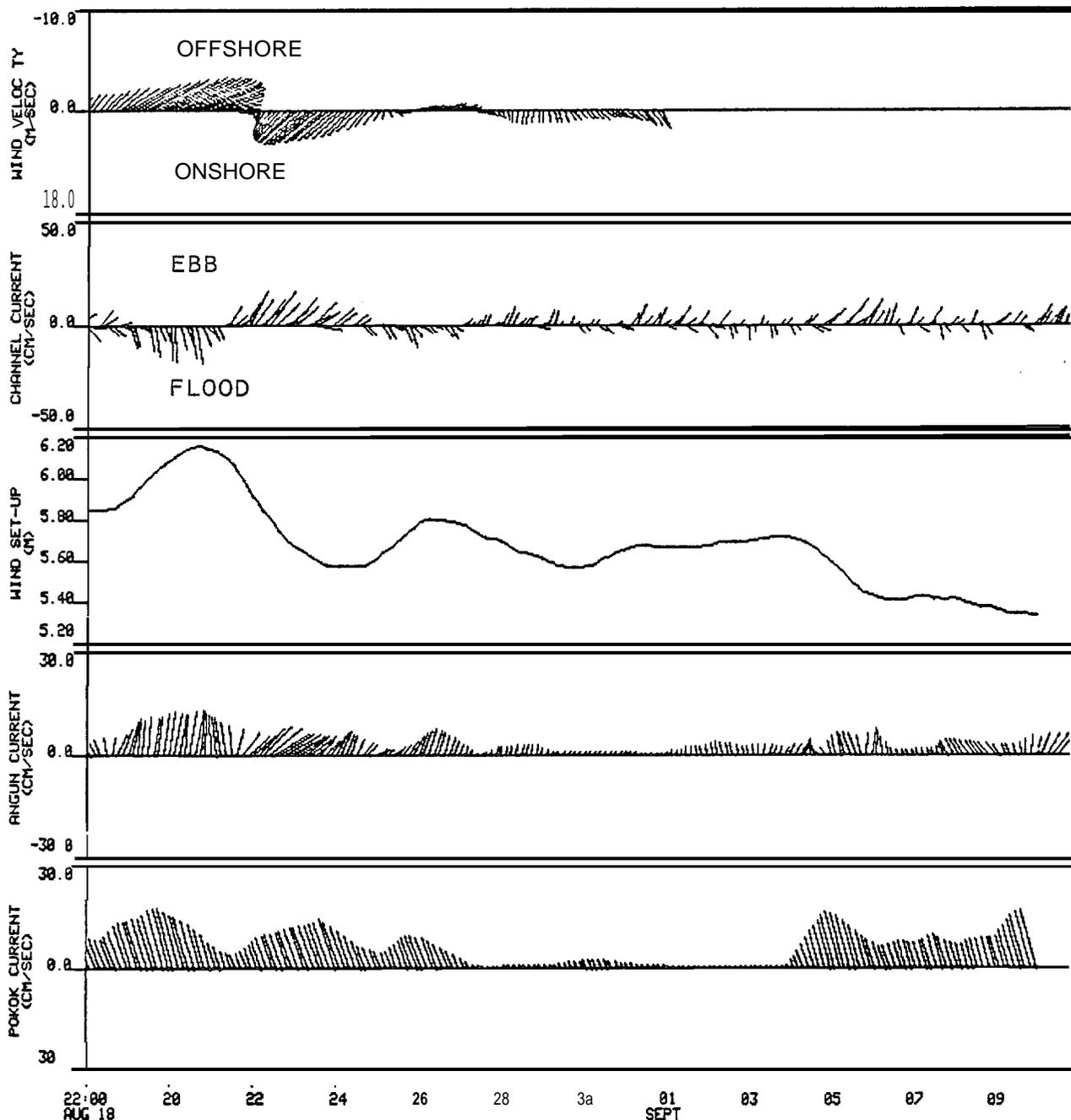
Several CTD and depth sounding transects were made in Angun Lagoon during the physical oceanography field measurement program. In addition, water bottle samples were collected in Beaufort and Angun Lagoons as well as in the nearshore region by the primary productivity biologists (Schell, this volume). Table 7-2 summarizes the CTD and depth soundings made by the physical oceanography program. Figure 7-17 indicates the location of each of these casts. These measurements were made from a specially equipped Zodiac designed to perform both the CTD work and the current meter mooring recoveries during the second phase of the field program.

CTD casts made in Angun Lagoon have been analyzed to determine the distributions of temperature and salinity in the lagoon basin. Figures 7-18 and 7-19 show examples of data from two of the CTD casts made near the entrance of the lagoon on 10 September during Phase II of the field program. A definite two-layered structure can be seen in these profiles. Cold and high-salinity water intruding from the nearshore region is observed overlain by warmer lower-salinity water from the lagoon interior.



BEAUFORT LAGOON ECOLOGICAL STUDY SUMMARY

Figure 7-15. Filtered wind data for Beaufort Lagoon (top trace), current data for Angun Lagoon entrance (2nd trace), wind set-up and current data in Angun Lagoon interior (3rd and 4th traces), and current data in Pokok Bay interior (bottom trace) beginning 25 August. (Wind data has been rotated by 35° to better indicate onshore and offshore components.)



BEAUFORT LAGOON ECOLOGICAL STUDY SUMMARY

Figure 7-16. Filtered wind data for Beaufort Lagoon (top trace), current data for Angun Lagoon entrance (2nd trace), wind set-up and current data in Angun Lagoon interior (3rd and 4th traces), and current data in Pokok Bay interior (bottom trace) beginning 18 August. (Wind data has been rotated by 35° to better indicate onshore and offshore components.)

Table 7-2. CTD and bathymetric measurements,

<u>CTD transects:</u> (see Figure 17)				
	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u>	<u>No. of Casts</u>
1.	9/10/82	Angun Lagoon	69°56.8'N, 142°24.7'W to 69°56.5'N, 142°26.0'W	6
2.	9/10/82	Angun Lagoon	69°56.5'N, 142°25.3'W to 69°57.8'N, 142°30.0'W	8
<u>Depth sounding transects:</u>				
	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>		
1.	7/25/82	Angun Lagoon	major entrance	
2.	7/25/82	Angun Lagoon	minor entrance	
3.	9/10/82	"	interior	
4.	9/12/82	Angun Lagoon	major entrance	

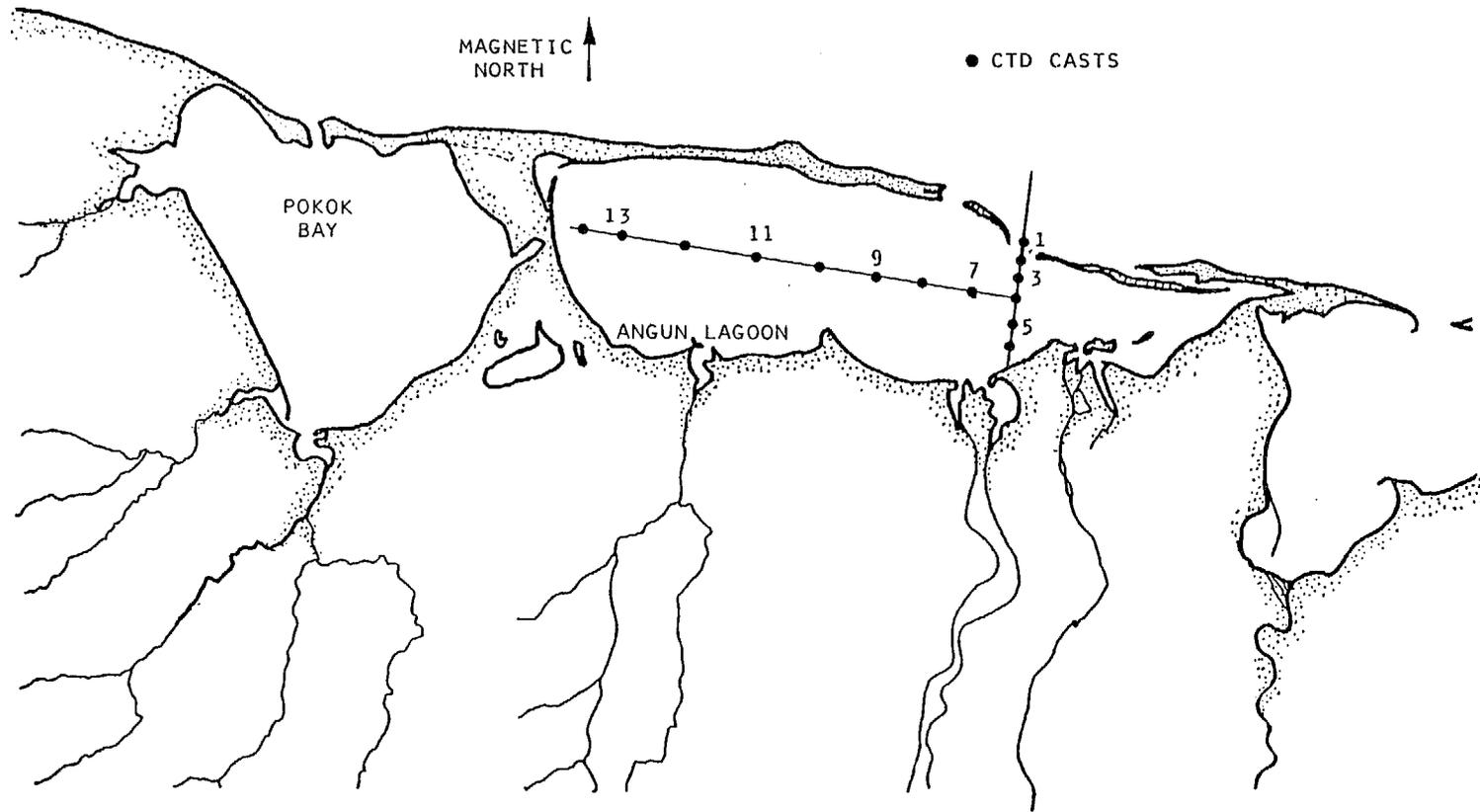


Figure 7-17. Angun Lagoon CTD transects.

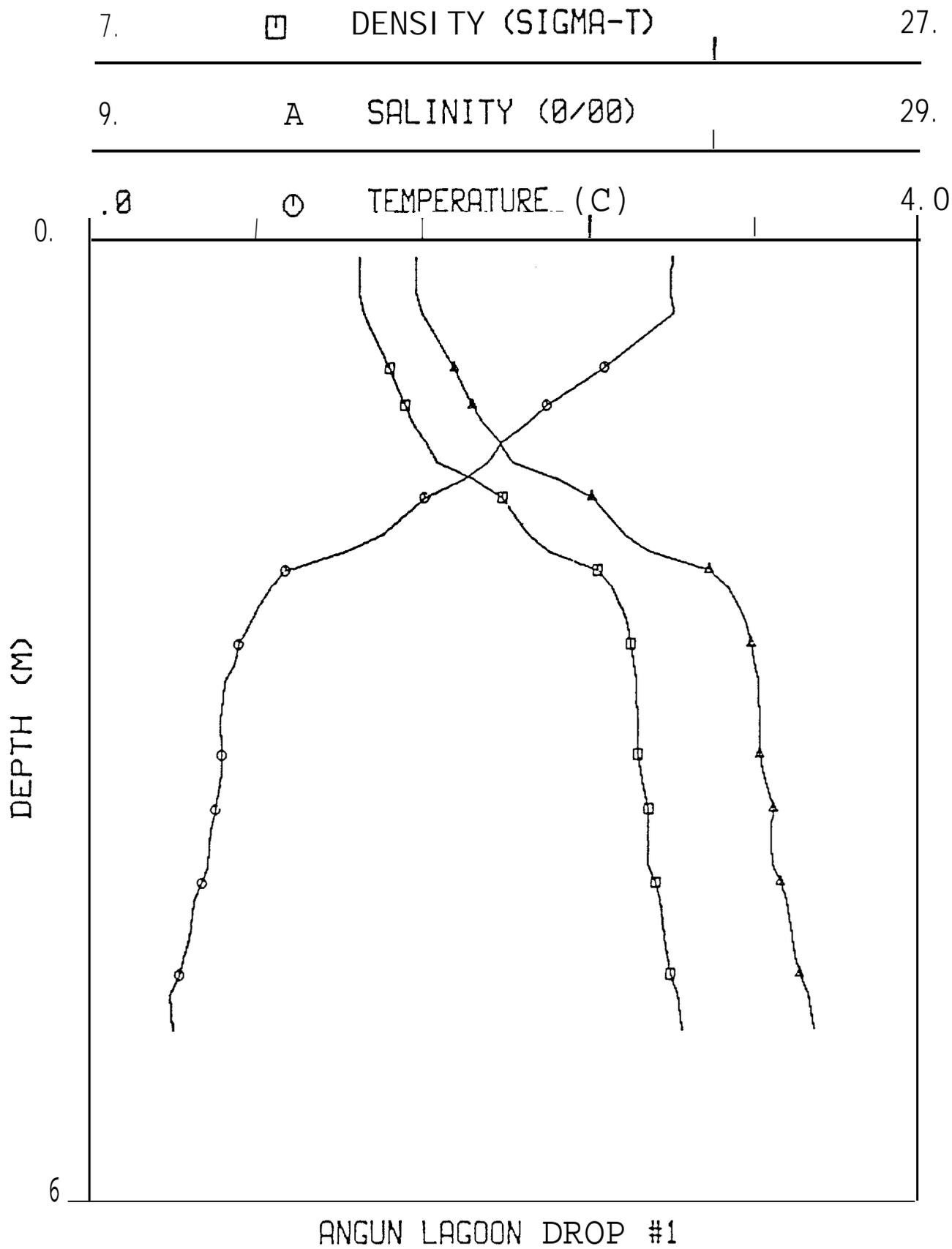


Figure 7-18. Example of data from CTD cast, Angun Lagoon entrance on 10 September during Phase 11 of the program.

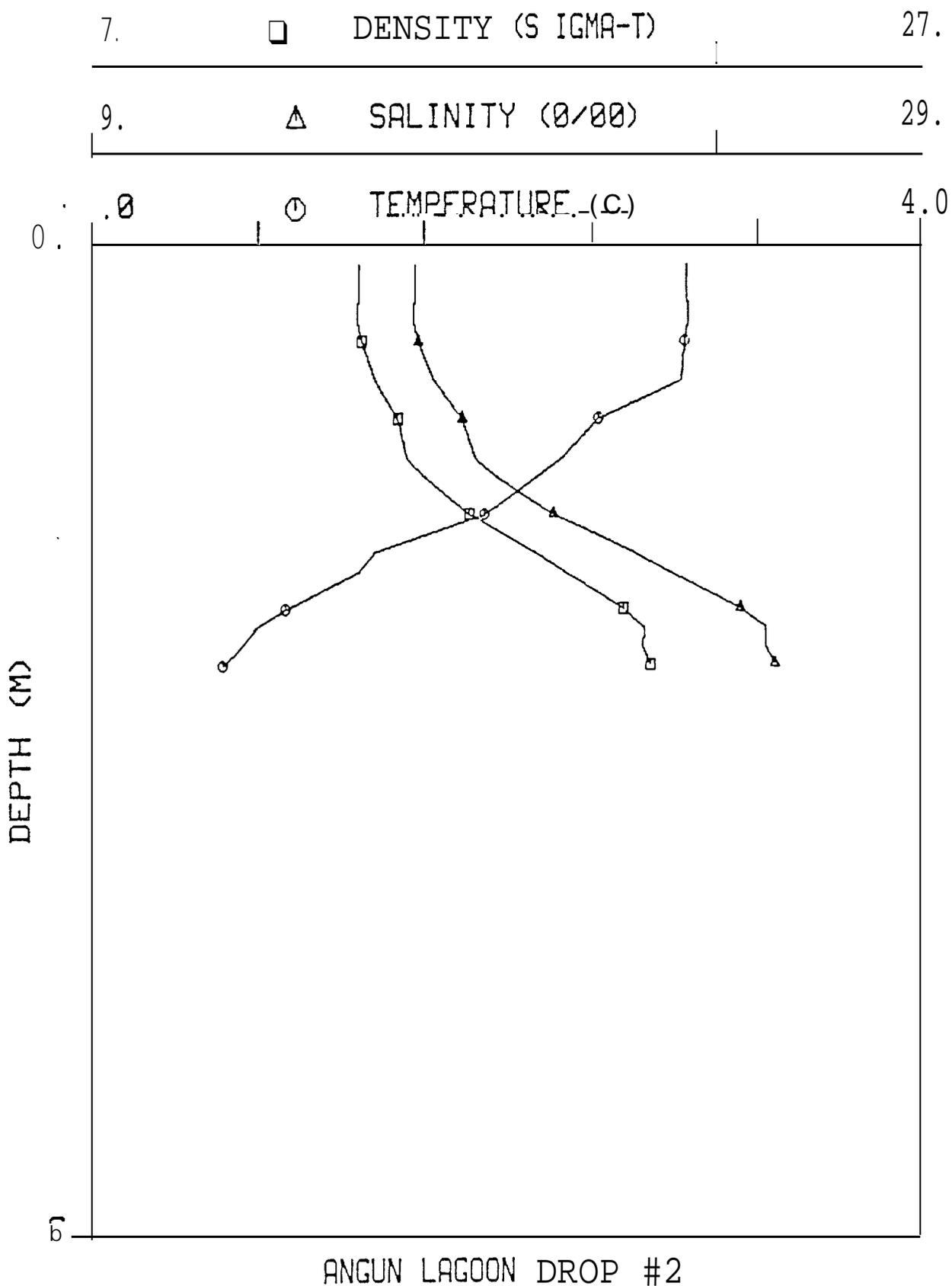


Figure 7-19. Example of data from CTD coast, Angun Lagoon entrance on 10 September during Phase II of the program.

Depth soundings of the lagoon combined **with** the CTD cast data were used to produce sections of the temperature distribution in the lagoon. Results of this analysis are shown **in** Figures 7-20 to 7-22. Referring to Figures 7-17 and 7-20, a core of cold nearshore water (with corresponding higher salinity and density) can be seen Intruding south across the bottom of the lagoon along the north-south section and mixing vertically into the water column (slightly increased salinity and density in surface waters is seen at the southern end of the lagoon). To the west of an observed colder bottom water core near the lagoon entrance is a warm water surface core with properties similar to water in the more isolated western end of the lagoon. It is apparent from these data and from bottom and surface drifter study results that there is a net influx of nearshore water into the lagoon at the bottom of Angun entrance and a net outflow of warmer surface water imposed on time varying tidal and meteorologically-forced flow fields.

Referring again to Figures 7-20 to **7-22**, it is possible that the hydrographic structure observed near the lagoon entrance is related to a **closed** gyre with a radius of from 1-.1.5 km which during periods of light wind isolate the region near the lagoon entrance from the western lagoon interior. This hypothesis is not inconsistent with predictions by lagoon circulation models and **would** account for the apparent isolation of the far western end of the lagoon from the lagoon entrance, as seen by the much longer response time **for** the western end of Angun Lagoon compared to the interior of Pokok Bay and the region near the entrance to Angun Lagoon. (This **is** discussed further in the "DISCUSSION of this chapter.)

Water bottle samples and temperature measurements collected by **Schell's** (this volume) primary productivity study show considerable density stratification in Angun Lagoon in late July. Observed salinities on 26 July ranged from 15.6 ppt in the upper several meters of water throughout the central and western portions of Angun Lagoon to as high as **27.5** ppt near the bottom. Although continuous profile data are not available at these stations, the high salinity layer is indicated **to** be on the order of 1 m in thickness or less. Measured salinities show little horizontal variation across **the length** of the lagoon beyond a localized region of about 1 lagoon width near the main entrance (approximately 1 km). This is consistent with fall observations by the physical

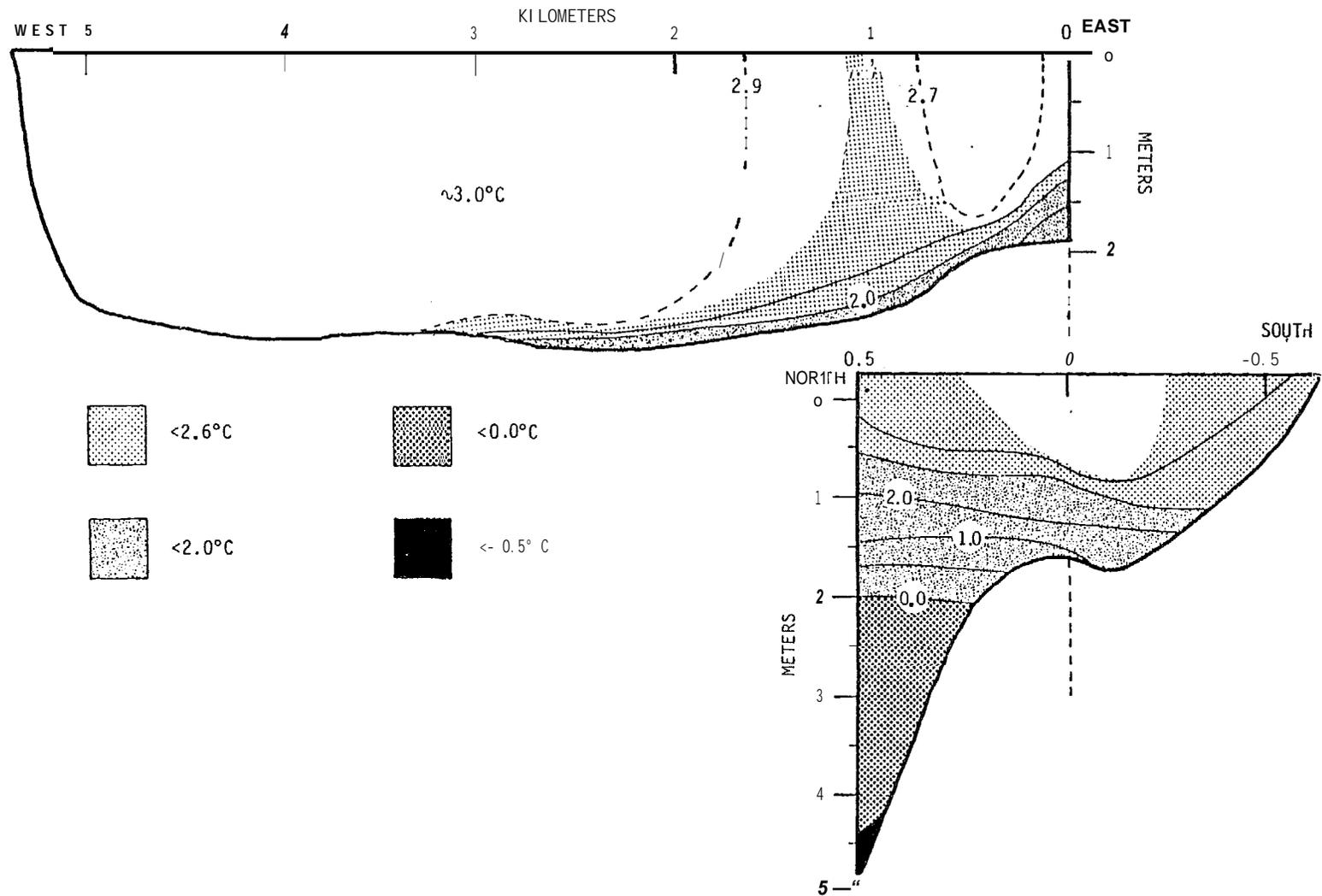


Figure 7-20. Two temperature sections along (upper) and across (lower) Angun Lagoon. See Figure 17 for station locations.

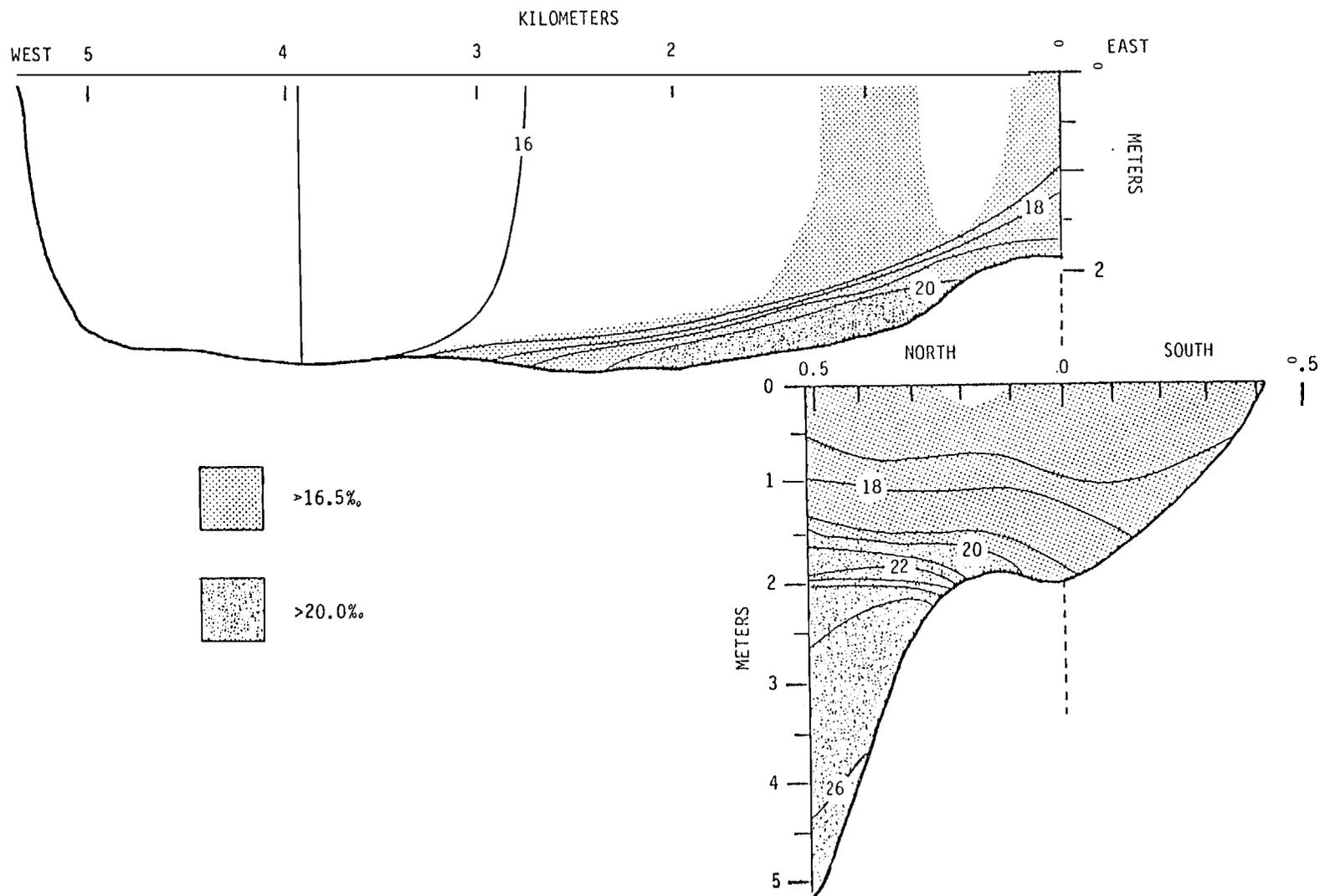


Figure 7-21. Two salinity sections along (upper) and across (lower) Angun Lagoon. See Figure 17 for station locations.

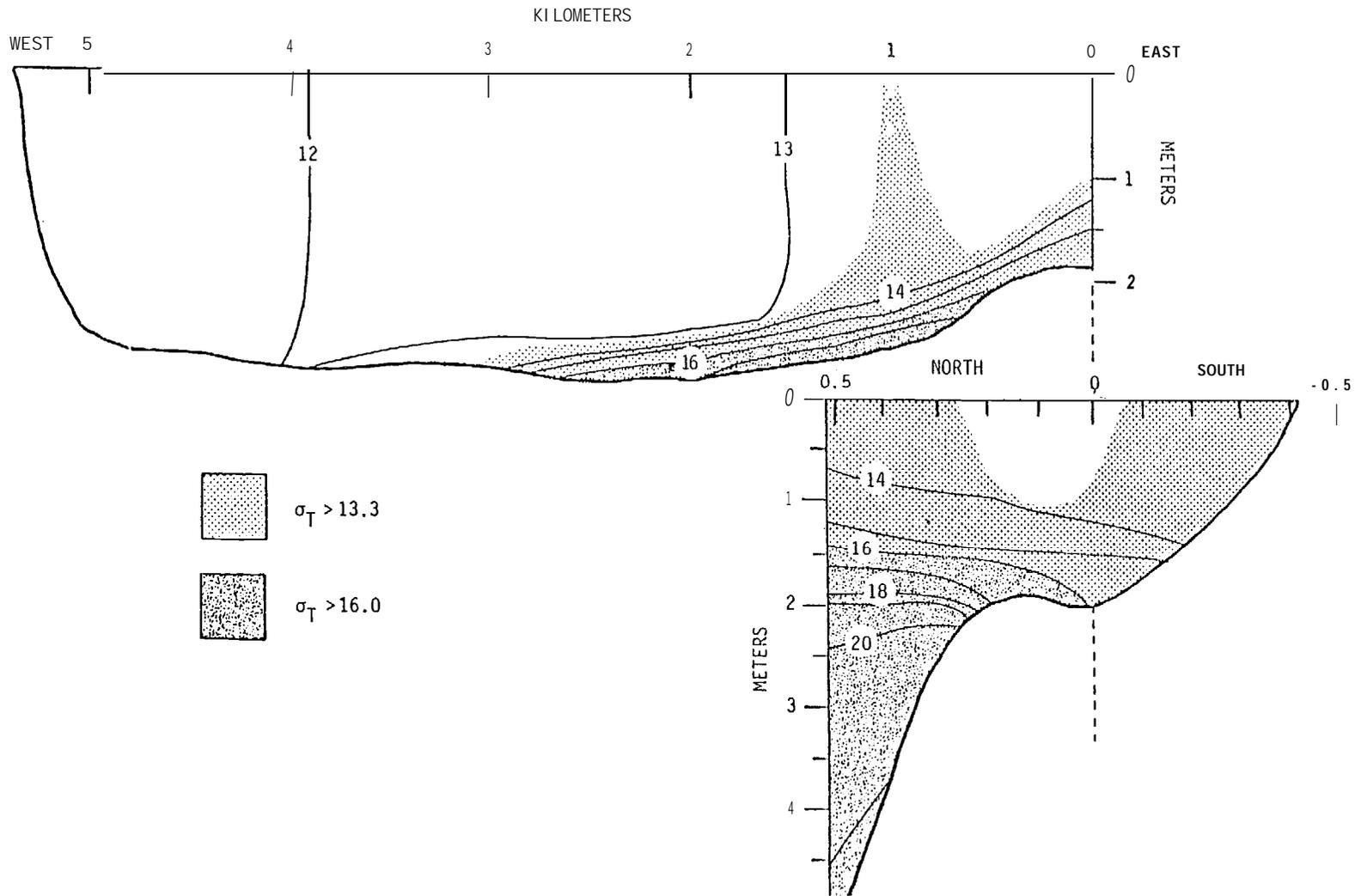


Figure 7-22. Two density sections along (upper) and across (lower) Angun Lagoon. See Figure 17 for station locations.

oceanography program which also found most variability near the lagoon entrance. As observed by **Kozo** (this volume), **Schell's** light intensity measurements were also high during this early period, indicating **little** vertical wind mixing. **Kozo's** data show that winds were light and variable for several days preceding 27 July. On 29 July **Schell's** measured **light** intensity data are **10 %** that observed on 26 July implying that vertical wind mixing may have occurred. Meteorological measurements previously discussed recorded **12 hours of** strong winds (approximately 22.8 kt from the **WNW**) late on **27** July which may have produced the mixing. In addition, **Schell's** data show that the higher salinity bottom layer has vanished by 29 July and that surface and bottom salinities are almost identical in the central and western end of **the lagoon**.

By 5 August three more smaller wind events had occurred and **the** western end of the lagoon was again vertically homogeneous with still higher salinities of **18.8** ppt. Higher salinity water required to achieve these higher values was probably made available for tidal exchange at the **lagoon** entrance during a **40-hr** period of easterly winds on **29-30** July. Some water with salinities greater than 20 ppt was observed near the lagoon bottom after this period on 31 July; this may have moved into the lagoon by tidal influx during 29-30 July and then vertically mixed **during** the three wind events greater than 20 kt on 1, 2 and 3 August.

If we again utilize **Schell's** data and assume that **the** upper 3 m of water in the western end are at **18.2** ppt on **31** July and that 1 m of 20.2 water is at the bottom then 18.7 ppt water should be observed after complete vertical mixing. **Schell's** data indicate that 18.8 ppt water is present in the western and central lagoon. Light intensity data are unfortunately *not* available for **Angun** Lagoon during this period; however, Beaufort Lagoon light intensity data on 6 August show considerably **lower** values than those for comparable depths in Angun Lagoon on 31 **July** prior to the hypothesized vertical mixing and may support the conjecture that wind mixing has occurred.

Other evidence of wind mixing can be seen in the Angun Lagoon temperature and salinity time series (Fig. 7-9). On 16 August **salinities** recorded in **the** far western end of Angun Lagoon were 15.6 ppt. Wind conditions at that time were quite **mild** and had been for the preceding **2-3** days (Fig. 7-15). By mid-day a southwesterly wind had developed which

continued to intensify for" the next four days. This wind forced water onto the nearshore, **increasing** water level in the lagoon by over 30 cm. A layer of 17 ppt water was detected at the current meter mooring **in** Angun Lagoon several hours later. By 17 August the wind speed had reached 15 kt and a second and third pulse of higher salinity water were observed at **17.3 ppt** and **18.4 ppt**. On 18 August, under the continued influence of these winds, all variability in the salinity records had ceased and it is assumed that the water column had been vertically mixed. Water level continued to rise in the lagoon until 21 August when the difference between lagoon and nearshore waters was greatly reduced and only minor variations were observed in the lagoon salinity and temperature records.

A simple calculation beginning on 17 August indicates **that if** 1 m (approximate distance of conducting sensor from the lagoon bottom) of 17.3 ppt **water** is mixed with 2 m of 15.6 ppt water, then uniform 16.2 ppt water results. This 16.2 ppt water is observed on 17 August just prior to the influx of 18.4 ppt water previously mentioned. If these two water masses are then vertically mixed (1 m of 18.4 ppt plus 2 m of 16.2 ppt water) then 16.9 ppt water results. Time series data show that 16.8 ppt water is present after the **final pulse** of 18.4 water was detected. These data indicate that a critical wind speed was required to vertically mix water layers in the lagoon (note that no mixing occurred of the pulses of water on 16 August where maximum winds only reached 6.8 kt but that these winds did induce layered flow within the lagoon). However, when winds reached 12-15 kt on 17 August, vertical mixing occurred and the layered structure was not reestablished at this end of the lagoon for the remainder of the summer measurement program, probably as a result of the considerably reduced influx of freshwater runoff by mid-August. As observed in the CTD data, a layered structure did remain in a region nearer the **lagoon** entrance.

Examination of the T-S diagrams from the Angun Lagoon and Pokok Bay current meter moorings (Figs. 7-23 and 7-24) indicate that residual higher salinity water was present in Angun Lagoon after the mixed event described on 27 July. The core of summer water for both Angun Lagoon and Pokok Bay lies principally in a band between **5-9°C** and 15.5-17.0 ppt. The Pokok Bay core **is** on the average **0.8 ppt** more saline and **0.5°C cooler** than the observed Angun Lagoon water. However, beyond 22 August when winter

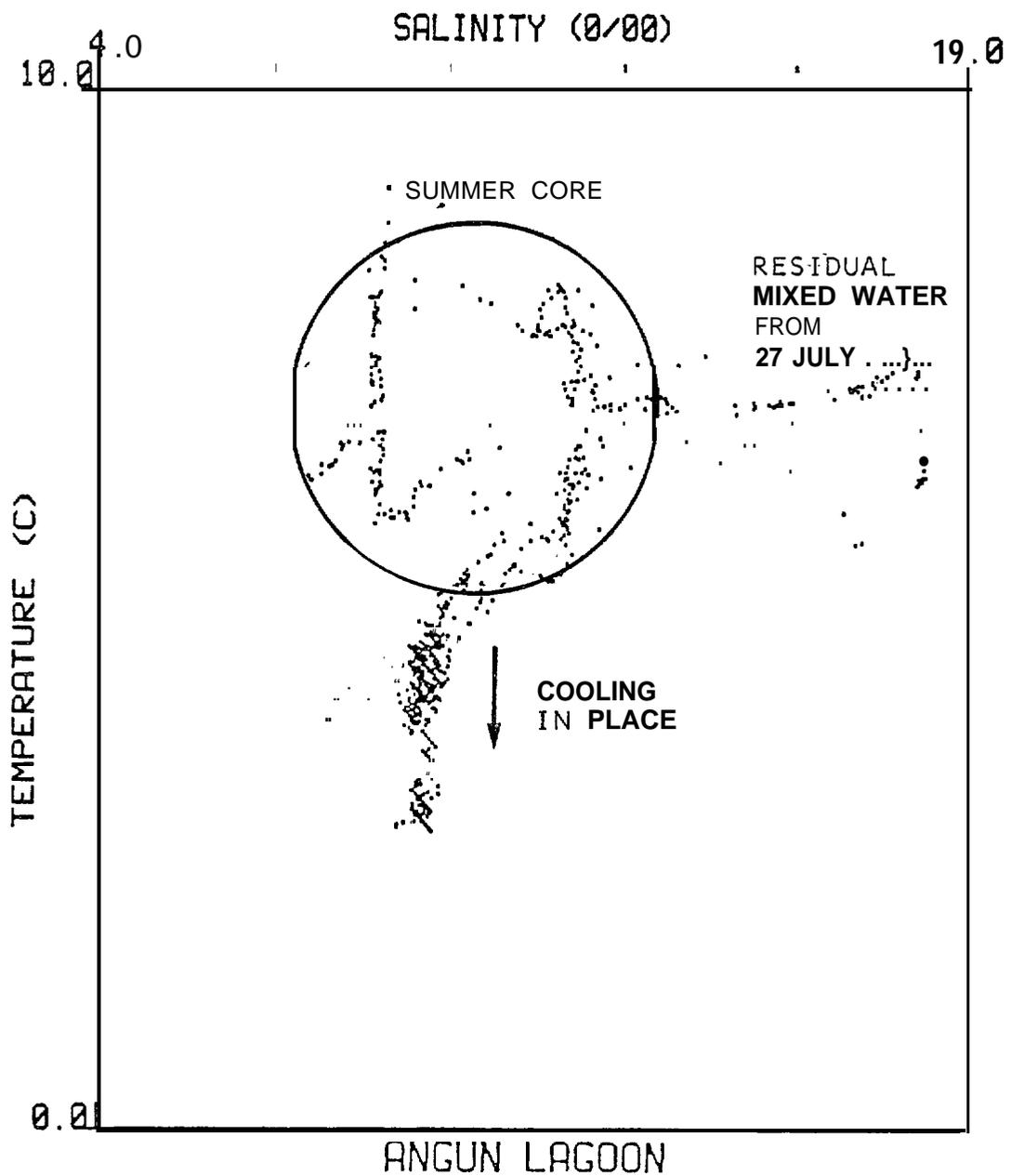


Figure 7-23. Temperature salinity diagram from Angun Lagoon current meter moorings.

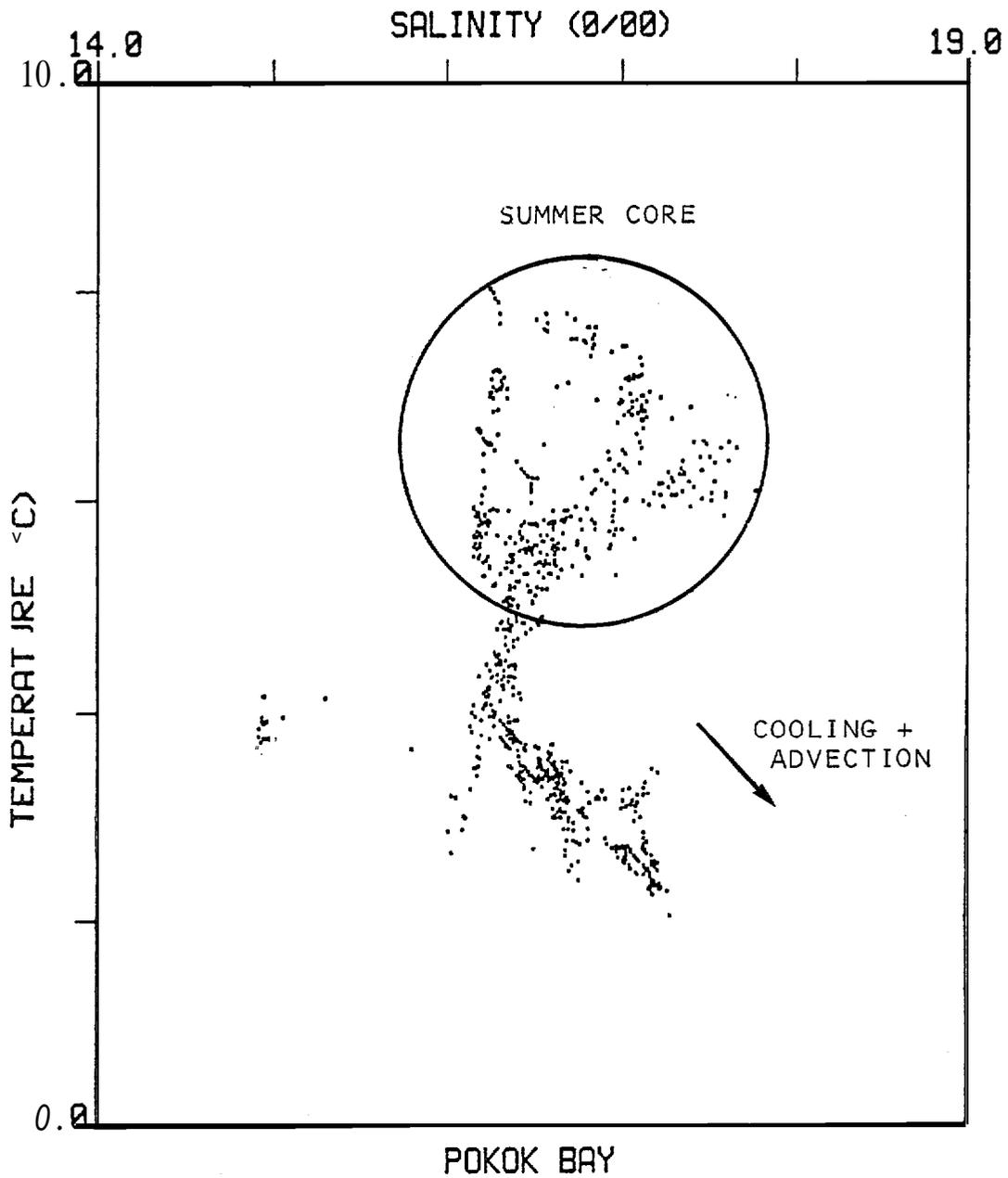


Figure 7-24. Temperature salinity diagram from Pokok Bay current meter moorings.

cooling begins to set in, water temperatures fall below 5°C. Figure 7-23 shows that after 6 September cooling of western Angun Lagoon water takes place without change in salinity, indicating cooling in place and no lateral mixing with nearshore waters.

Figure 7-25 shows a combined T-S diagram of several CTD casts taken in the central and eastern end of Angun Lagoon on 10 September. Note that if waters in the eastern end of the lagoon were mixing with central and eastern lagoon waters, a continued increase in salinity should have accompanied the decrease in temperature from 5 to 3°C shown in Figure 7-23.

Pokok Bay also shows a 2°C cooling trend (Figs. 7-12 and 7-14) which began on 25 July and continues until 10 September, closely following the observed trend in temperature reduction of nearshore waters indicated in the lagoon entrance data (Figs. 7-11 and 7-13). However, accompanying this cooling trend is a uniform increase in the Pokok Bay salinity from approximately 16.0 ppt on 25 August to 17 ppt on 6 September (Figs. 7-12 and 7-14), indicating mixing with more saline and cooler nearshore waters. If one assumes a uniform 20 cm M2 tidal fluctuation during this period and 20-22 ppt nearshore water (see 10 August CTD casts in Figs. 7-18 and 7-19) for 0-1°C water, then a 15-20% flushing efficiency is calculated for Pokok Bay during 25 August to 6 September to offset this 1 ppt increase in salinity where flushing efficiency is defined as the ratio of actual flushing (rate of change in salinity in this case) to the ideal flushing (which assumes that all water entering the lagoon is completely mixed with ambient water before exiting the lagoon). This implies that ideal tidal exchange with the nearshore, which would indicate 8-10 day turnover of the lagoon ($3.0 \text{ m mean lagoon depth} / 0.15\text{-}0.20 \text{ m per M2 tidal fluctuation} = 8\text{-}10 \text{ days for volume exchange}$) may actually be a factor of five low, and 40-50 days may be more realistic numbers. It must be noted, however, that major meteorological events in the region typically occur on shorter time scales than this and that these events may considerably enhance both vertical and horizontal mixing in the lagoons and exchange of lagoon waters with the nearshore. The lack of any significant change in salinity in the western end of Angun Lagoon indicates that flushing efficiency there may be even less than that calculated for central Pokok Bay. Clearly, further investigation into tidal and storm surge flushing of

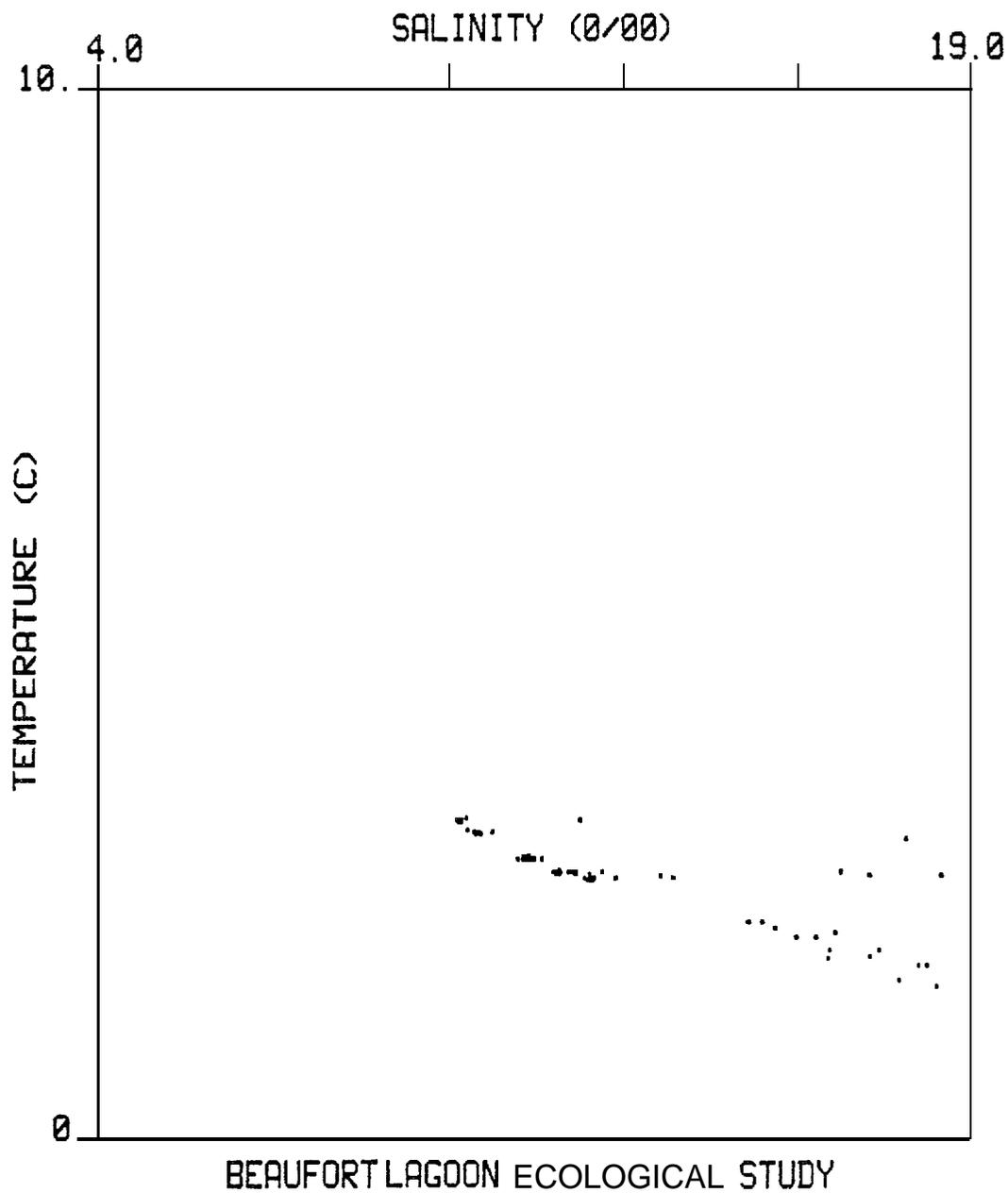


Figure 7-25. Temperature salinity diagram for CTD casts collected in the central and eastern end of Angun Lagoon on 10 September 1982.

limited exchange lagoons is indicated **if** these results are correct (this discussion is continued in the **"DISCUSSION"** section of this Chapter).

DISCUSSION

The results of this study will be discussed as they relate to the objectives stated in the **"INTRODUCTION"** of this Chapter, i.e. characterization of the various types of lagoon/barrier island and nearshore systems which exist along the Beaufort Sea coastline based on hydrographic properties, circulation characteristics, flushing rates, and cross-shelf and **longshore** exchange. This discussion will draw heavily on previous measurement programs on the Beaufort Sea Shelf, particularly work performed on the western **Beaufort** Shelf in Simpson **Lagoon**.

Cross-shelf and Longshore Exchange

The present study was unfortunately unable to collect **field** data on the inner shelf due to the severe ice conditions encountered during the measurement **program**. However, based upon historic data from the region and meteorological measurements made by Kozo (this volume), nearshore drifter data collected in this program, and physical processes identified as active on the western Beaufort Shelf, the exchange processes can be given a general description **which** contrasts conditions on the eastern and western shelf regions.

The **40 m** isobath, where a mean eastward flowing subsurface current of Bering Sea water extends across the entire American section of the Beaufort Shelf, has been selected as the boundary between the inner and outer shelf. Atmospheric events on the shelf may cause periodic fluctuations or even reversals in the mean eastward flow. It has been postulated that net westward flow may exist in the surface waters immediately above this core of Bering Sea water.

Landward of this region, on the inner shelf, currents have been demonstrated to be primarily wind-driven. In the western Beaufort beyond Barter Island this would indicate year-round mean currents to the west along the **coastline**, as shown by drifter studies by Matthews (1981) and

Barnes and Toimil (1979). However, in the eastern **Beaufort** winds are more **bimodal** and currents will exhibit a **bimodal** distribution with a mean eastward flow in the winter and a mean westward flow in the summer (Brewer et al. 1977); **this is typical of eight often summers according to Kozo (this volume).**

During open water periods this flow will tend to move western Beaufort nearshore waters offshore to be replaced by inner shelf waters and, under some conditions, to induce **upwelling** from the outer shelf as observed by **Hufford(1974)and others.** **Upwelled** waters on both the eastern and western **inner** shelf may then be further transported **landward** to the nearshore region by estuarine flow or, under proper wind conditions by offshore movement of wind-driven surface waters.

Longshore transport of water has **also** been demonstrated to be primarily wind-driven (see **Fig. 7-26**). In the western **Beaufort** this implies mean **longshore** transport to the west with easterly reversals occurring as mean wind conditions are modified by the passage of weather systems across the Beaufort. In the eastern **Beaufort** mean weather patterns are more **bimodal** in nature. Summer **longshore** transport **is** dominated by mean westward motion with reversals to the east as weather systems move through the area. Fall and early winter conditions show mean eastward water movement in this area with very high eastward transport and wind-induced set-up associated with fall storm systems. Westward transport also may be observed to accompany periods of easterly winds.

The **innershelf long-** and cross-shelf circulation can therefore be summarized as being primarily driven by the local wind fields with **longshore** current speeds on the order of **3-4%** of the wind **speed.** In the western **Beaufort,** this implies net westward water movement; in the eastern Beaufort this implies a **bimodal distribution of** currents with eastward currents **dominating** in the winter and westward currents dominating in the summer. Mean year-round wind speeds cluster about 4 m/sec in the Barter Island area although Kozo (this volume) does indicate some reduction in winds eastward toward Demarcation Bay. These average wind speeds imply mean wind-driven transport at characteristic speeds of 15-20 **cm/sec** in the open water period. Bath **Åagaard** (1981) and Matthews (1981) indicate that under-ice speeds would be greatly induced for this wind speed.

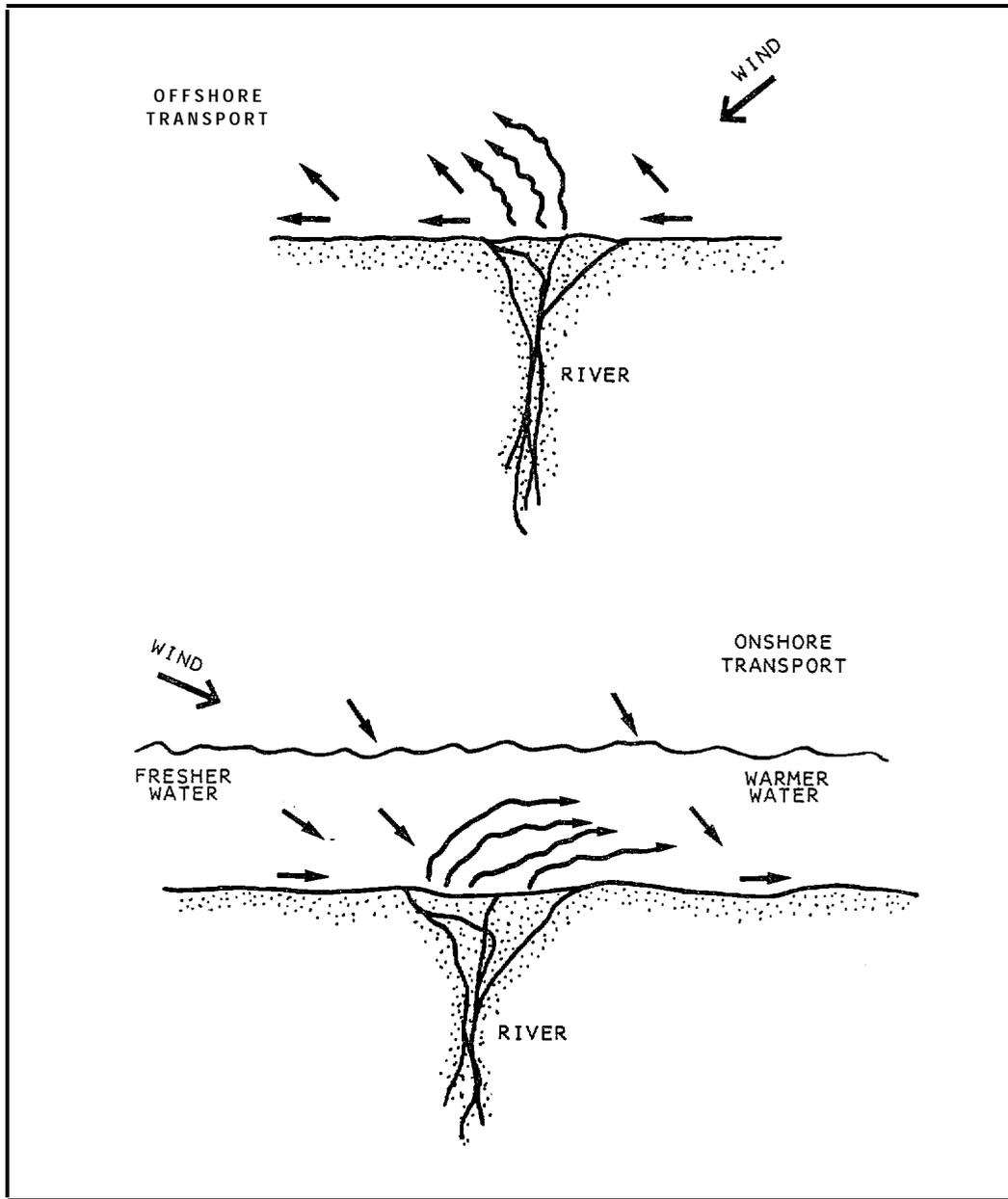


Figure 7-26. Lagoon circulation nearshore, showing general wind effects on onshore and offshore transport.

Lagoon/Barrier Island Characterization

The basic lagoon types appearing on the **Beaufort** coastline are illustrated in Figure 7-27. The first type discussed in this Chapter **is** the open lagoon, i.e. those open to longshore transport as well as to cross-shelf exchange between multiple large openings in the barrier islands. **The** second lagoon type discussed is the pulsing lagoon, i.e. those with one major entrance through the barrier island. These lagoons are closed to **longshore** current throughput; exchange with the nearshore waters occurs primarily via tidal pumping of water through a single major *entrance*, although some smaller amount of exchange may also occur through **shallow** breaks in the barrier islands. One or more small rivers or streams typically empty into each of these lagoons providing a source of freshwater particularly in early spring.

The third **lagoon** type is termed a limited exchange lagoon in that it has only limited **longshore** current throughput via several **larger** openings in the barrier island system. These lagoons may or may not exhibit pulsing effects due to tidal pumping. These lagoon types will be discussed individually giving specific examples of each.

Open Lagoons

The most extensively studied example of an open **lagoon** system is Simpson Lagoon. Considerable data have been collected on both the biological and physical environments **in** multi-year OCSEAP-sponsored field programs of the Simpson Lagoon and nearshore region. This discussion will, however, address only results pertaining to a description of the physical environment of the lagoon. Figure 7-28 illustrates the effects of the mean summer wind conditions on Simpson Lagoon circulation patterns. In general, nearshore water enters the lagoon in the eastern and central portion and is advected through the lagoon in a manner similar to the wind-driven longshore transport seaward of the barrier **island chain**. Note that the multiple large openings in the **lagoon** system and the open end allow considerable **flowthrough** of the nearshore waters. Exchange is therefore largely due to advection of **new** water masses through the lagoon rather than input/local mixing/output.

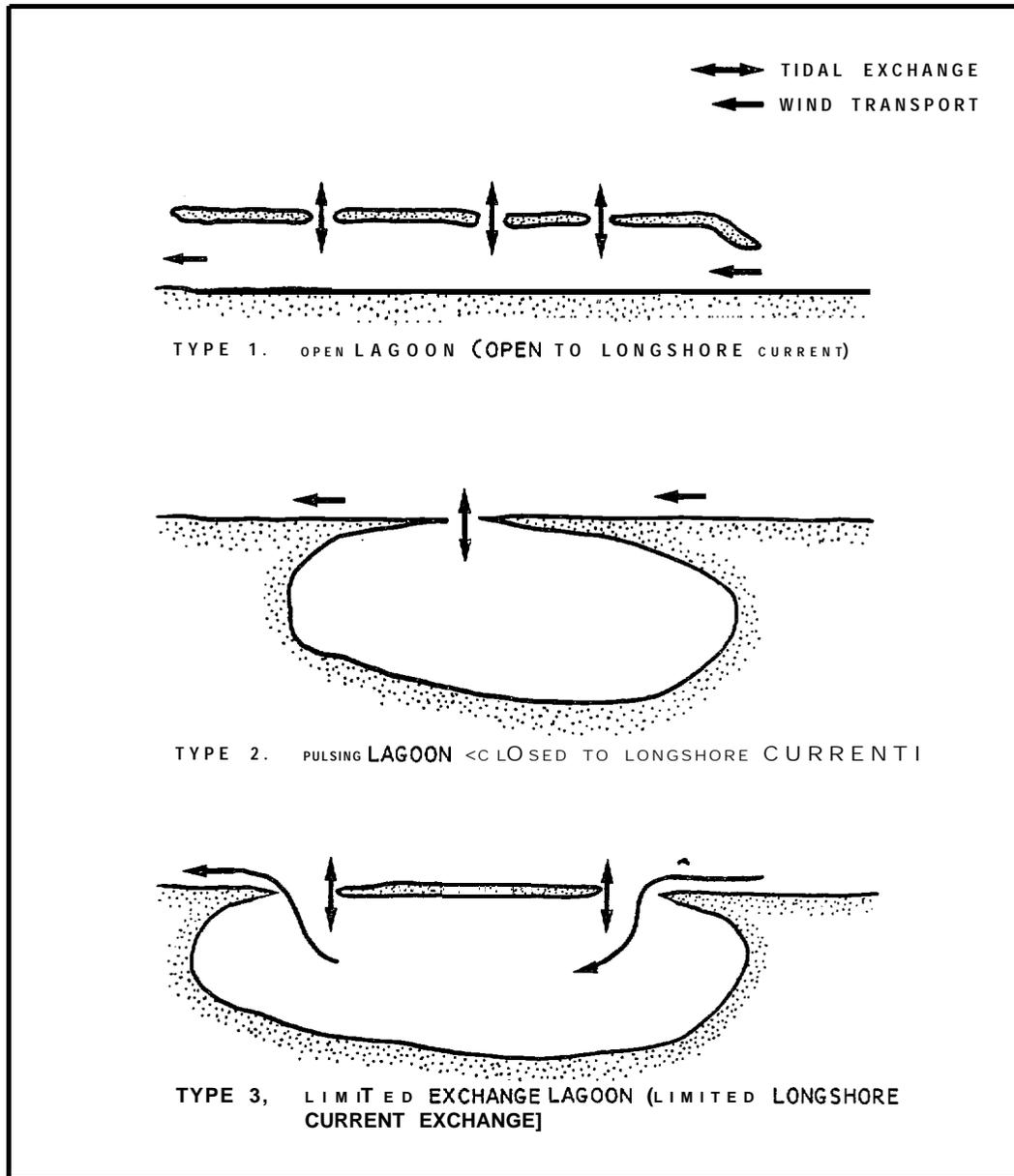


Figure 7-27. Basic lagoon types: open, pulsing and limited exchange,

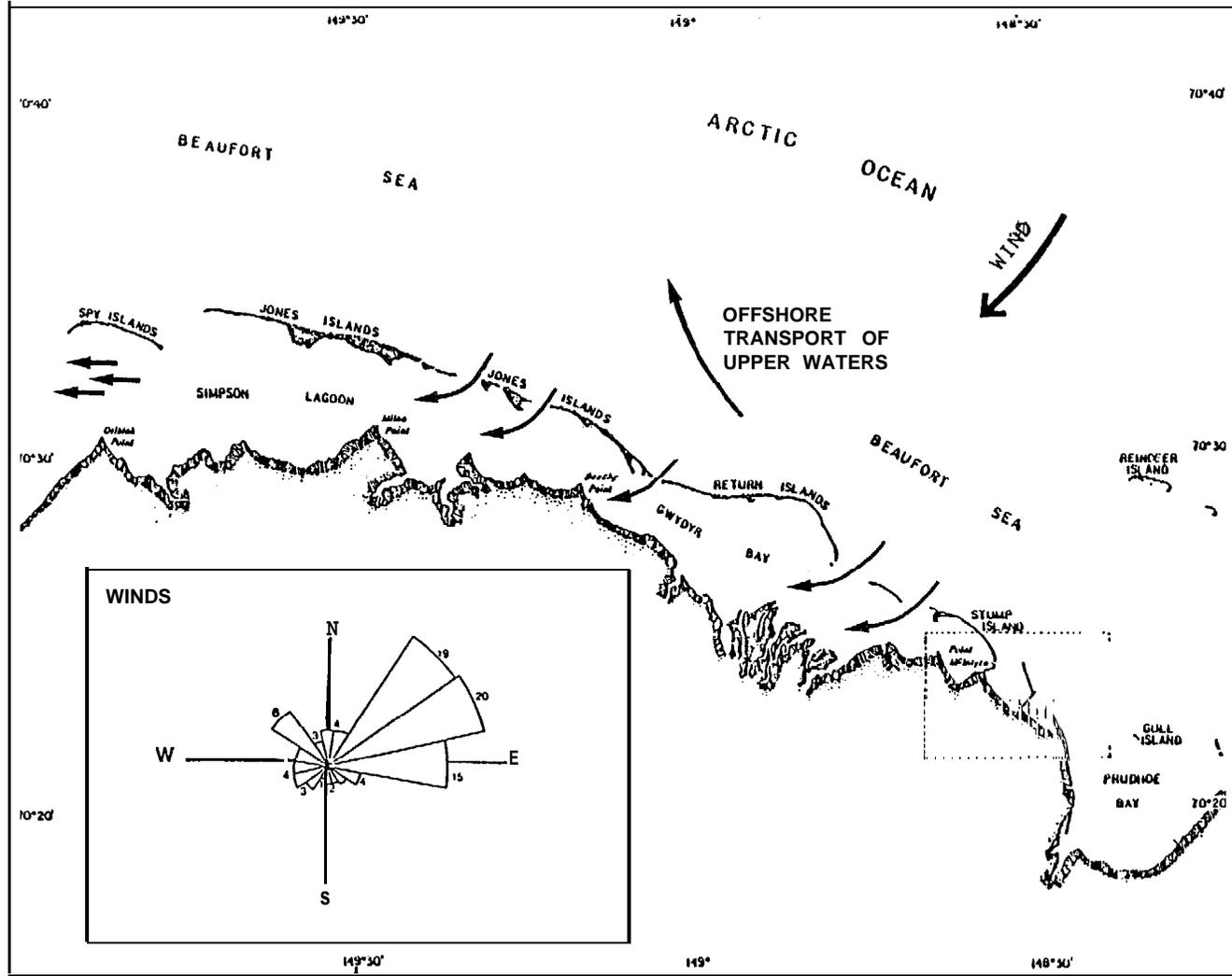


Figure 7-28. Effects of mean summer wind conditions on Simpson Lagoon circulation patterns.

Tidal effects (Fig. 7-29) are superimposed upon **the** wind-driven component of the circulation and periodically modulate that component's effect. Depending on the strength of the wind-driven currents in a particular break in the barrier **island**, the tide may only modulate the mean flow in the entrance or **it** may actually reverse the flow during the opposing cycle of the tidal current as was observed in the Angun Lagoon entrance data.

When both mean wind-driven and **tidal** components of the circulation pattern are acting simultaneously, the effect is a pulsing flow pattern in the lagoon with a mean flow from east to west through the lagoon. Matthews (1979) has estimated that the **flowthrough** occurs at 3-4% of the mean wind speed which would indicate lagoon water turnover on the order of 3-4 days for mean wind conditions of 10 kt. Matthews has also reported data which substantiate this description of circulation in a lagoon such as Simpson. **Figure 7-30** illustrates the type of conditions which might be expected to exist **in** the lagoon if the description is correct. First, a net wind-driven transport of waters east to west through the lagoon **would** be accompanied by some offshore transport of the warm fresh surface nearshore waters and replacement by **cooler** saltier offshore waters. Tidal currents would then selectively introduce this nearshore water to the **lagoon** interior at each entrance on the successive flood tides. On ebb tides, the net westward **flow** would be reduced and lagoon waters would collect near the eastern entrances of the lagoon to form pools of warmer fresher water. On successive flood and ebb tides, these pools" of **alternating** cooler saltier nearshore water and warmer fresher lagoon water (*formed by mixing* of nearshore water from previous cycles and **freshwaer** from river runoff) would experience a net westward transport through the lagoon interior.

Figure 7-31 (from Matthews 1979) shows an example of temperatures salinity and current measurements from **Milne** Point during August 1978, **along** with a time series of sea level taken during the same time period. **Note** that when **there is** a mean westward flow through the lagoon (15-22 August) the temperature and salinity traces show the passage of alternating pools of cool saltier (**0°C** and 30 ppt) and warmer fresher (**3-4°C** and 24 ppt) water past the mooring site. This effect is observed to a

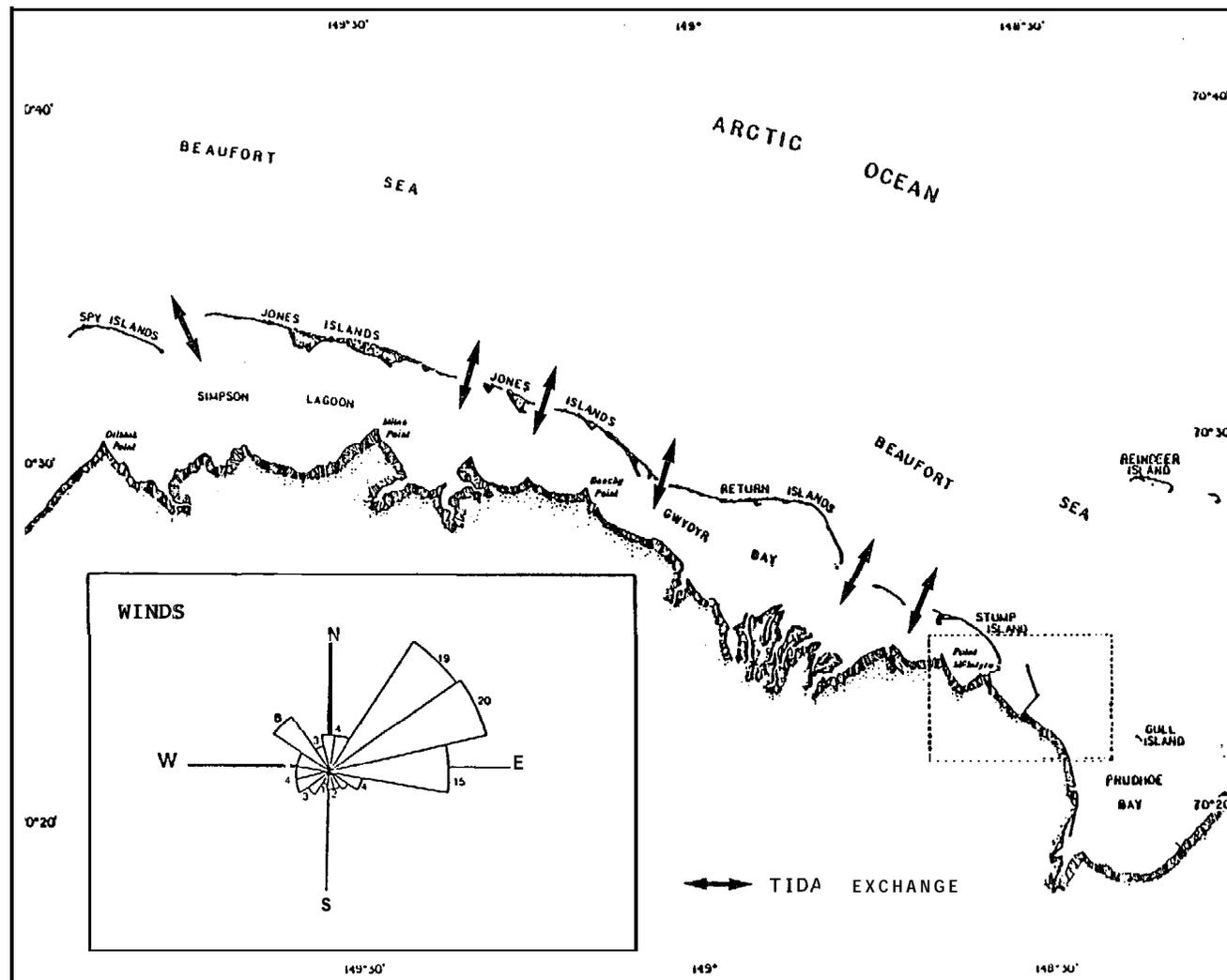


Figure 7-29. Tidal effects on Simpson Lagoon circulation patterns.

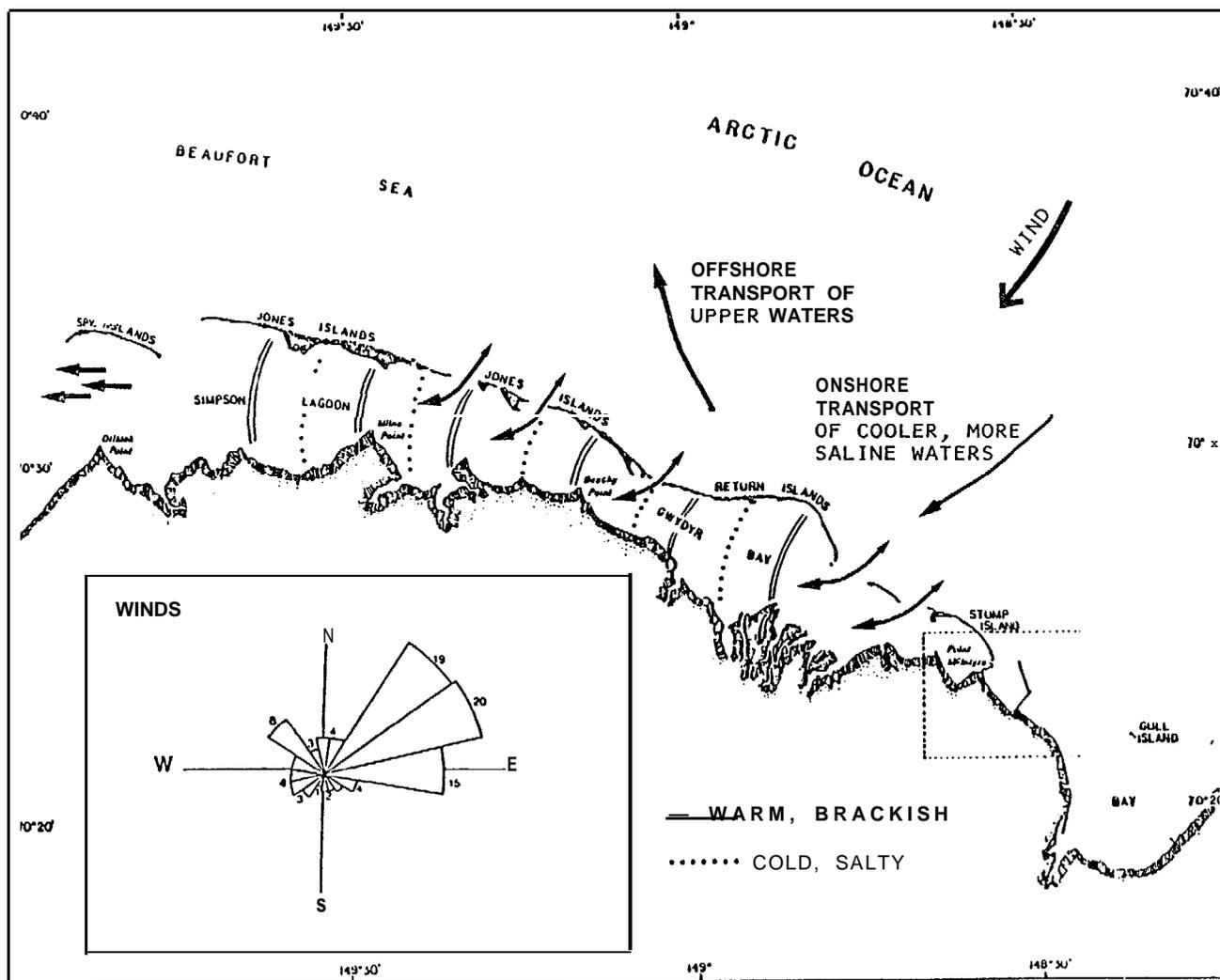


Figure 7-30. Combined effects of wind and tide on Simpson Lagoon circulation.

WEST MILNE POINT

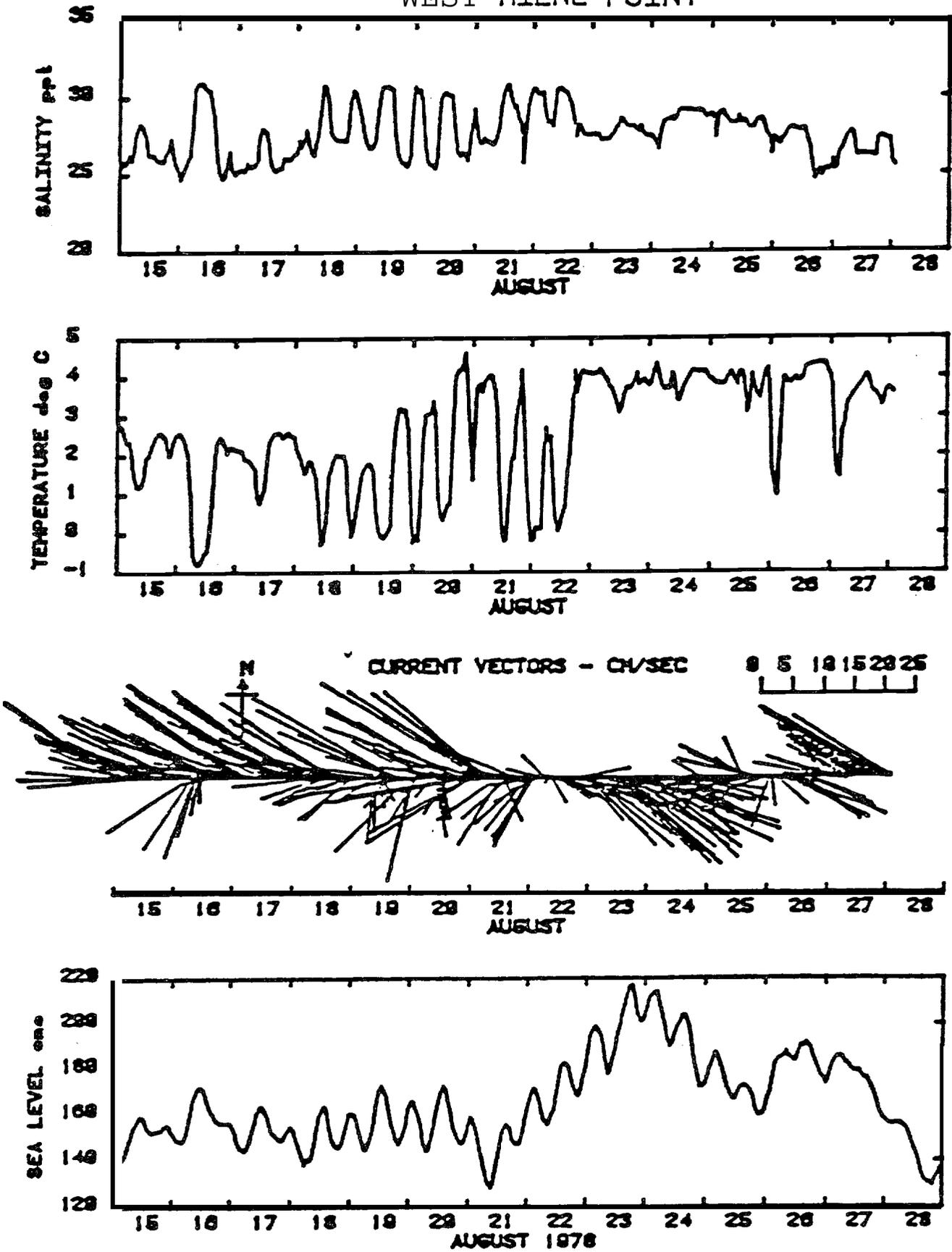


Figure 7-31. Temperature, salinity and current measurements taken at Milne Point August 1978 (from Matthews 1979).

greater or lesser extent at other mooring sites eastward of the **Milne** Point site.

When an abrupt change is observed in the wind pattern during the mean lagoon flow, a corresponding abrupt change is observed **in** the characteristics of the lagoon waters. On 22 August the winds changed **from** predominantly easterly to westerly, causing a reverse in the direction of the mean flow through the lagoon. This in turn retained the warm nearshore waters on the coast and reversed the direction of the longshore current. Figure 7-32 illustrates the change anticipated in the lagoon circulation patterns during mean westerly winds, using as an example the reversal in the direction **of** the lagoon flow observed in Figure 7-31 beginning on 22 August and lasting **until** 26 August. This reversal would **be** accompanied by the disappearance of the alternating nearshore and lagoon water masses past the mooring site (as nearshore and lagoon waters become identical) and observance of uniform warm intermediate-salinity water past the mooring site. An accumulation of nearshore water along the coastline would also lead to the observed sea level increase of apparently 50 cm. The reestablishment of the mean easterly lagoon flow as observed on 25 August would begin to produce the observed differential between lagoon and nearshore waters. Transport through the lagoon appears to be approximately the same both before and after the abrupt wind shift. In the former case, however, nearshore and lagoon waters appear to be identical and in the **latter** case they exhibit differences **in** both temperature and salinity.

Pulsing Lagoons

The pulsing lagoon type was the **focus of** study in the present field program. **Figure** 7-33 illustrates the combined wind and tidal effects of available exchange in this type of lagoon using Angun Lagoon and **Pokok** Bay as examples. Illustrated in this figure are mean summer conditions with winds predominantly from the east. In a manner similar to the open lagoon case, easterly winds result in somewhat higher nearshore salinities and lower nearshore temperatures for exchange with the lagoon. In addition, as discussed earlier, circulation in the lagoon itself may depend on the

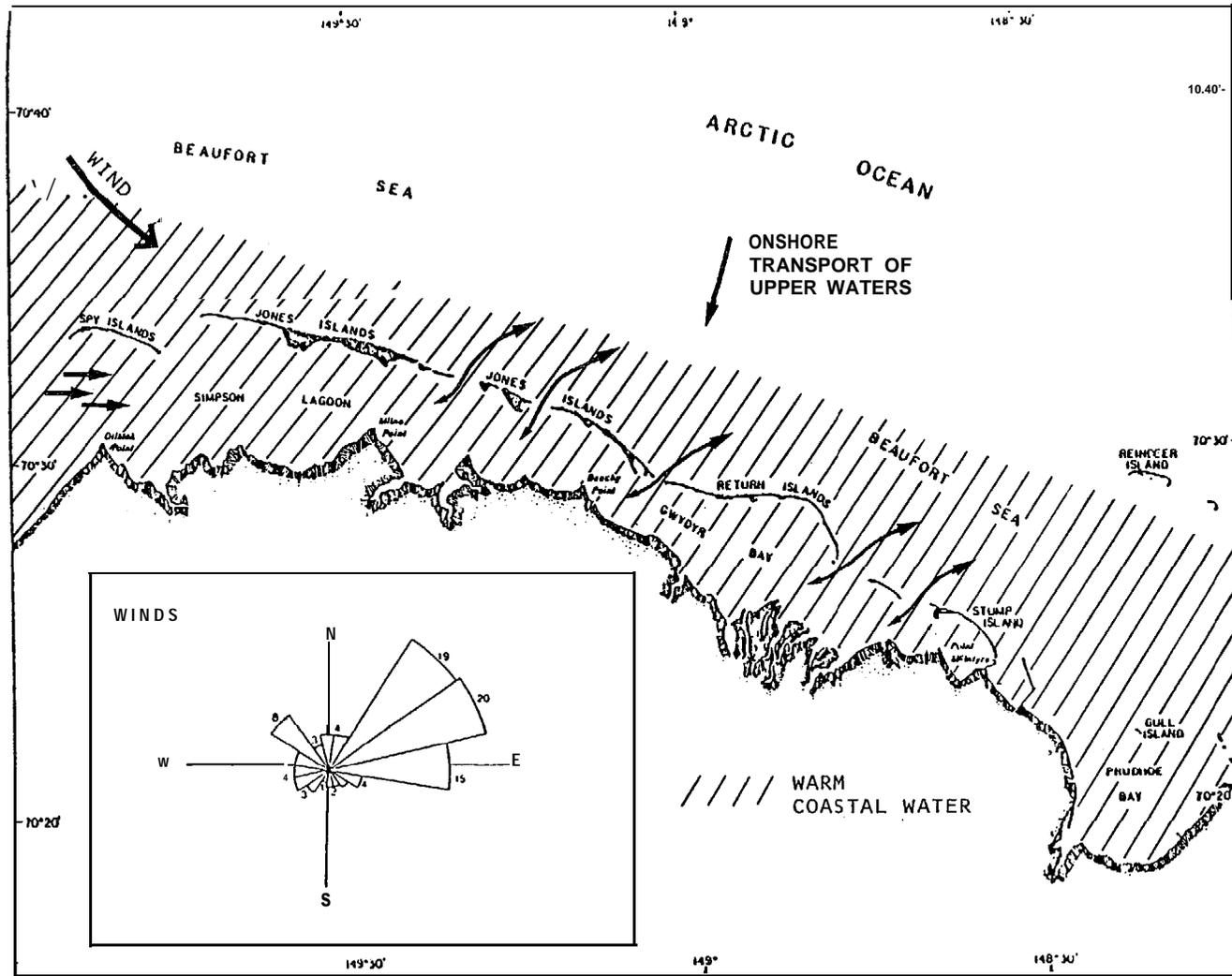


Figure 7-32. Combined effects on wind and tides during a mean westerly wind.

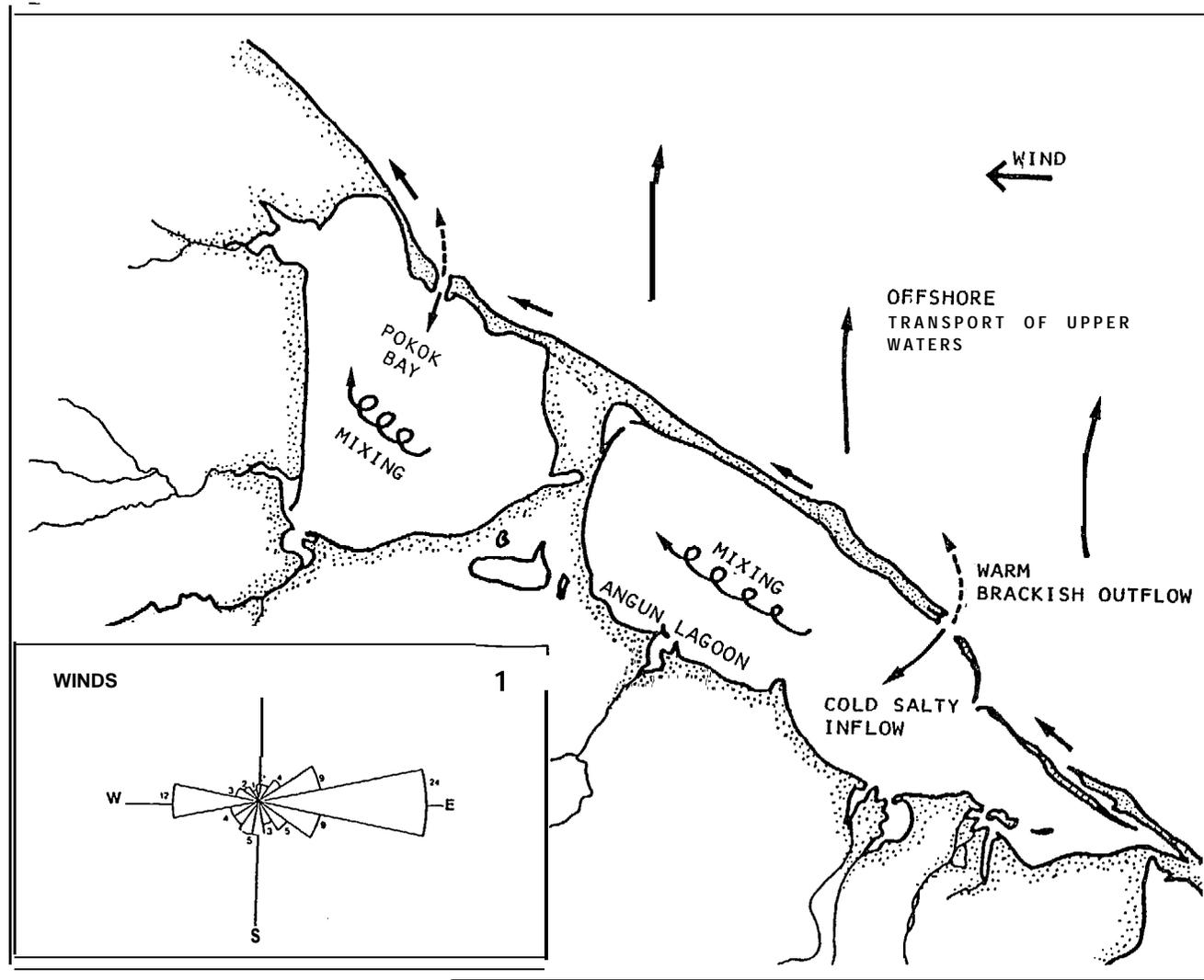


Figure 7-33. Combined wind and tidal effects in a pulsing lagoon such as Pokok Bay and Angun Lagoon.

lagoon geometry **with** greater mixing observed for a lagoon with the geometry of **Pokok** Bay than for a lagoon with the shape of **Angun** Lagoon.

Figure 7-34 illustrates the circulation patterns anticipated for westerly winds. As in the open lagoon case, the fresher warmer nearshore water is maintained on the coast and advected eastward in the **longshore** current. Figures 7-9 and 7-16 (previously discussed in "**RESULTS**" section) show an example of a rapid shift from predominantly westerly to easterly winds and the resulting changes to the water entering **Angun** Lagoon. As observed in the Simpson Lagoon data, during westerly winds the nearshore water is warmed to temperatures equal to **lagoon** water and the nearshore and lagoon entrance **waters** become identical. However, when easterly winds are reestablished the nearshore waters **cool as warm** water is **driven** offshore and the pulsing **effects** of cool-water-in/mixing/warm-water-out is observed. Because there is no *net flowthrough of* the waters entering the pulsing lagoons, sensors placed in the interior of **Angun** Lagoon and **Pokok** Bay do not experience *the* alternating patterns of nearshore and lagoon water observed in Simpson Lagoon.

Physical models developed to study circulation and flushing in lagoons and small **embayments** provide **useful** information for interpreting measurements made in the present study. Recent work by **Nece et al.** (1979) studied the effects of **planform** geometry and the size and placement of lagoon entrances on flushing efficiencies of small **embayments**. Figure 7-35 **shows an example** of the distribution of exchange coefficient (percent water exchange per tidal **cycle**) in an **embayment** similar to **Pokok** Bay in geometry. Note the uniform distribution of the flushing properties **in** this case. The average flushing efficiency for a lagoon with this shape, according to this study, ranges from **90** to 100%. For comparison, in the "**RESULTS**" section, flushing efficiency for **Pokok** Bay was crudely estimated at 15 to **20%** near the lagoon center. It should be noted, however, that the tidal ranges utilized in **Nece et al.** were a factor of ten greater than those observed in the Beaufort Lagoon system. Flushing efficiencies might therefore be expected to be greater in the model studies than in the **actual** lagoons. Regardless, the results for Simpson Lagoon are considerably different, giving estimated exchanges on the order of 3 to 4 days (**8-10** days for ideal tidal **flushing**) which yields over a 200% efficiency compared to tidal flushing alone.

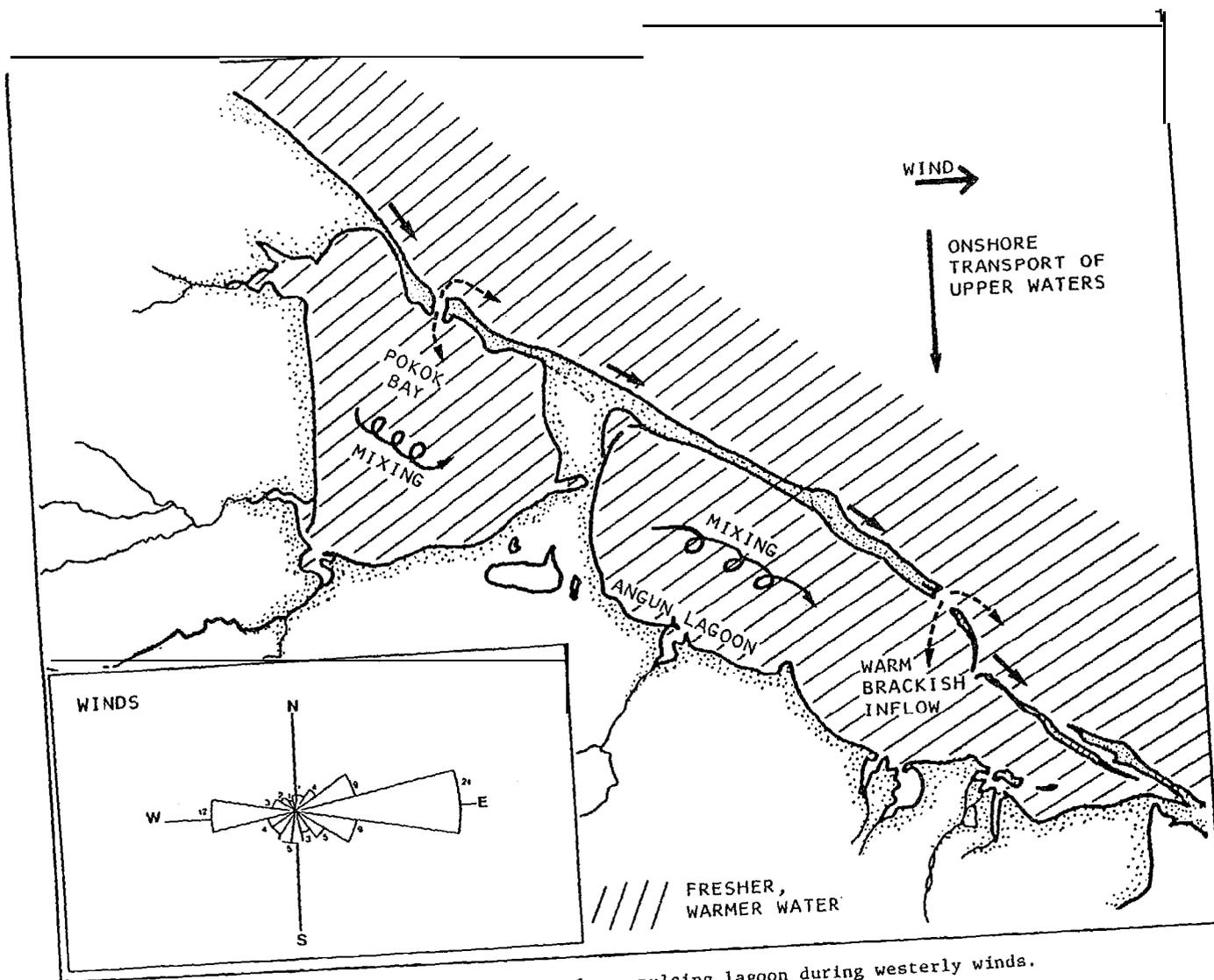
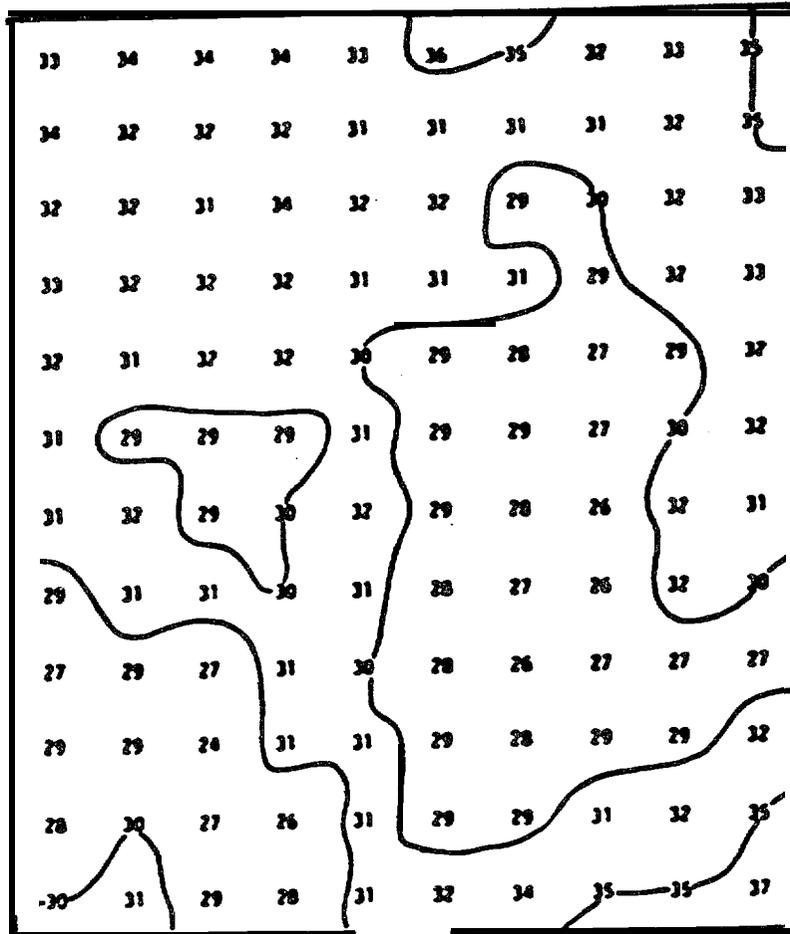


Figure 734. Combined wind and tidal effects for a pulsing lagoon during westerly winds.



AVERAGE EXPERIMENT EXCHANGE COEFFICIENT = 51%
 IDEAL EXCHANGE COEFFICIENT = 31%
 FLUSHING EFFICIENCY = 100%

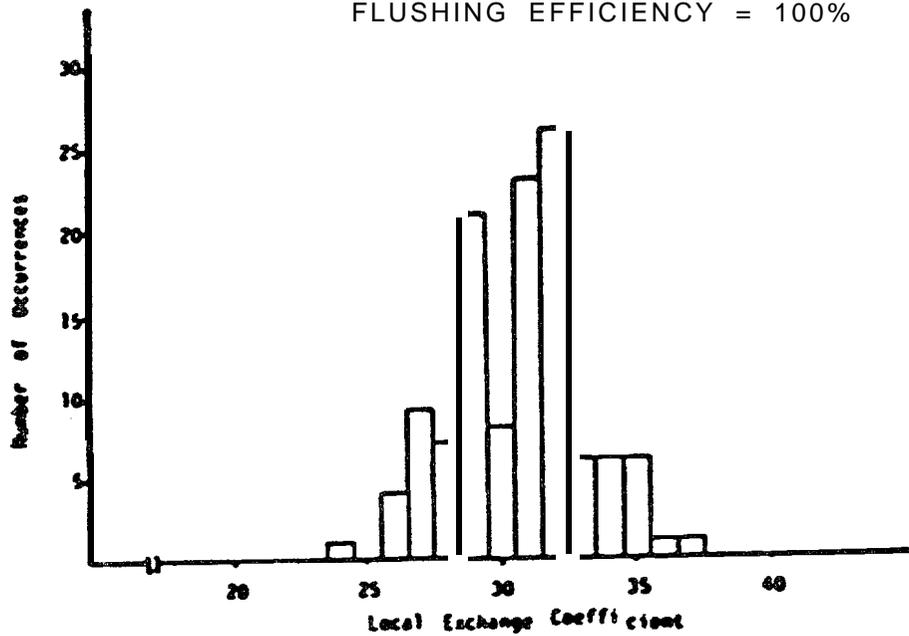


Figure 7-35. Example of exchange coefficient distribution in an embayment similar to Pokok Bay (from Nece et al. 1979).

For a **planform** model geometry similar to **Angun** Lagoon an interesting phenomenon arises. Nece et al. find that multiple circulation cells develop in the lagoon when lagoon length-to-width ratios are greater than three; as a result, cells furthest from the entrance do not participate **fully** in the exchange processes and exhibit reduced flushing efficiencies. (The previous section alluded to existence **of** these cells in Angun Lagoon.) For a lagoon with a geometry similar to Angun Lagoon (**length-to-width ratio = 5**) three circulation cells would be observed. Figure 7-36 illustrates the results of a model study with an **embayment** having approximately the same geometry as the western portion of **Angun** Lagoon. The results indicate that near the lagoon entrance exchange coefficients may be as high as for the **Pokok** model results (23027%). **However**, exchange as low as 1-2% is observed at the far end of the lagoon away from the entrance. The overall flushing efficiency due to **tidal** effects alone therefore would be on the order of 48% which is less than **half** of the efficiency predicted for a **pulsing** lagoon similar to **Pokok** Bay. The region of the lagoon furthest from the lagoon entrance **is, however**, virtually isolated from the exchange processes, showing efficiencies as low as 8-10%. As in the case of the **Pokok** model, however, modeled tides are a factor of 10 greater than those observed in Angun Lagoon and actual flushing efficiencies are expected to be considerably less than those modeled.

Of particular note **is** the fact that current measurements in the far western end of Angun Lagoon show persistent north-northeast current direction indicating a mean clockwise circulation **in** this portion of the lagoon. Following **Nece et al.**, if three circulation **cells** exist in **the** lagoon west of the main entrance then the central cell should exhibit net counterclockwise circulation and the cell immediately adjacent to the entrance should exhibit clockwise circulation. This is substantiated by visual observations of **inflowing** currents and surface drifter motions near the lagoon entrance.

It must be remembered at this point that these results are for tidal flushing only and that considerable wind mixing may occur in addition to the exchange **which** is enhanced by the input **of** freshwater into the surface waters at the isolated end of Angun Lagoon. However, in the absence **of** large quantities of freshwater as **might** be expected in the late summer and

29	27	28	23	22	19	19	19	19	18	17	14	13	13	13	13	10	06	02	01	01	02	02	01
27	25	25	26	26	24	21	22	22	23	23	21	18	13	10	17	11	03	02	02	02	02	02	02
29	27	25	24	25	25	25	25	24	21	20	19	18	13	17	10	19	05	04	02	01	02	02	01
29	25	24	23	22	23	24	24	23	21	19	17	15	15	14	13	12	08	04	02	01	01	01	03
27	25	23	19	19	21	21	20	19	19	17	17	15	15	15	12	10	08	06	04	05	02	03	04

AVERAGE EXPERIMENTAL EXCHANGE COEFFICIENT = 15%
 IDEAL EXCHANGE COEFFICIENT = 31%
 FLUSHING EFFICIENCY = 48%

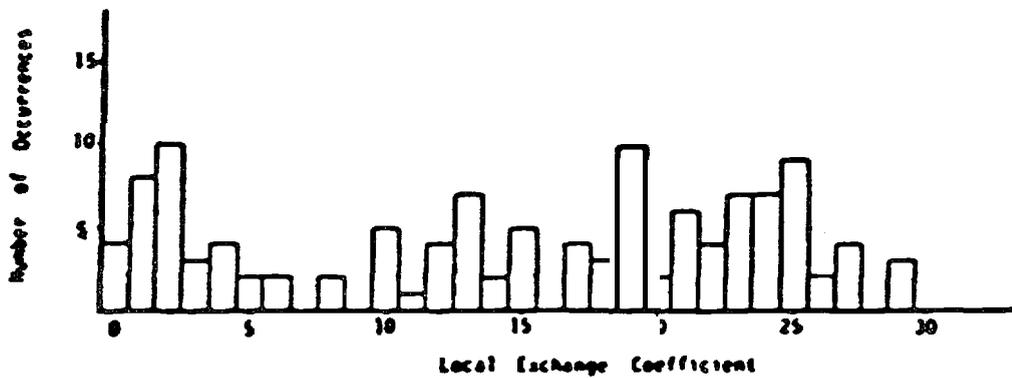


Figure 7-36. Example of exchange coefficient distribution in an embayment similar to Angun Lagoon (from Nece et al. 1979).

fall under mean easterly wind conditions, flushing of lagoons similar to Angun Lagoon might be considerably **lower than** indicated by typical ideal flushing estimates based on volume exchange alone.

Limited Exchange Lagoons

The final lagoon type to be discussed has been termed the limited exchange lagoon since **only** limited throughout of nearshore waters is possible. An example of this type is **Beaufort** Lagoon **which is** actually composed of several small interconnected narrow lagoons with an extensive **barrier** island system. The barrier island system (commonly referred to as Icy Reef) has a relatively small number of openings distributed along **its** extent **but** several of the openings are quite large, allowing the possibility of net wind-driven **flowthrough** of the waters from **the** **longshore** current. At the far western end of Beaufort Lagoon is **Nuvagapak** Lagoon, followed by (moving eastward) Egaksrak Lagoon, Siku Lagoon, **Pingokraluk** Lagoon, and finally Demarcation Bay. Major *entrances* include **Nuvagapak** entrance to the west (which actually consists of two openings: one **narrow** and **quite** deep, the other wider **but** relatively shallow), **Egaksrak** entrance, **Siku** entrance, and the main entrance to Demarcation Bay.

Although water samples were collected in **Nuvagapak** Lagoon, sufficient information does not exist to substantiate the hypothesis that nearshore water input to the **Beaufort** Lagoon system on the upwind *entrances* **would** be slowly advected through the **lagoon** system and output through the downwind entrance to the lagoon. **Visual** observations on 2-3 August, however, indicate a large influx of nearshore ice floes at the deep western entrance which were advected into the lagoon interior during mean westerly winds. However, once in the **lagoon** and subject to both higher water temperatures and wave activity, the ice floes quickly **melted and were lost** as tracers of the **net** water movement through the lagoon.

Flowthrough, hence purely **advective** exchange as was discussed for the open **lagoon** types, is expected to be considerably less than observed for Simpson Lagoon. However, considerably more **advective** exchange than for

the pulsing lagoons is anticipated. The observed range of flushing efficiency calculated for open and pulsing lagoons has been estimated at 200% and 15-20%, respectively, for Simpson and **Pokok** lagoons. If model results for **Pokok Bay** and **Angun** Lagoon geometries scale the same (100% flushing efficiency for **Pokok Bay** and 48% average efficiency for Angun Lagoon) then actual average efficiencies for Angun Lagoon may be as low as 7-10% given a 15-20% estimate for **Pokok Bay**. Therefore, a considerable gain in flushing efficiency might be expected for the limited exchange lagoons dependent on the degree of wind-driven advection through the lagoons. For example, if advection in **Nuvagapak** Lagoon is only 0.5% of a 3 m/sec easterly wind (1.5 cm/sec) as compared to 3-4% observed in Simpson Lagoon, then flushing efficiency could be increased to 75% with water exchange occurring in as little as 12 days.

A considerable number of limited exchange lagoons exist in the eastern **Beaufort** including those lagoons typically considered as forming **Beaufort Lagoon** and the lagoon systems inside- **Icy Reef** to Demarcation Bay. To the west, **Oruktalik**, **Tapkaurak**, and **Jago** lagoons are of similar configuration. These limited exchange lagoons, whose entrances may or may not exhibit some phenomenon characteristic of pulsing lagoons depending on the degree of wind-driven advection through the particular lagoon encompass over 75% of the coastline of the Beaufort nearshore east of Barter Island. Perhaps another 15% of the coastline can be accounted for by pulsing lagoons in this region. Further study of the flushing characteristics of these lagoons is clearly warranted. In contrast, the lagoons in the western **Beaufort** from Barter Island to **Pt. Barrow** are almost all of the open type similar to **Simpson Lagoon**.

Continued OCSEAP-sponsored studies in the **Chukchi** Sea nearshore will deal almost exclusively with the limited exchange lagoons which have extensive barrier island systems and multiple small entrances distributed along the coastline. A study of the **Peard Bay** lagoon system in particular will be undertaken in the summer of 1983. Figure 7-37 shows the results of a model study of a small embayment with two small entrances (one entrance is twice the size of the other) similar to **Peard Bay**; the predicted flushing efficiency for a lagoon with this geometry would be 84% which compares to 48% for a single entrance lagoon with the geometry of Angun Lagoon. In addition, given two entrances and the relationship of

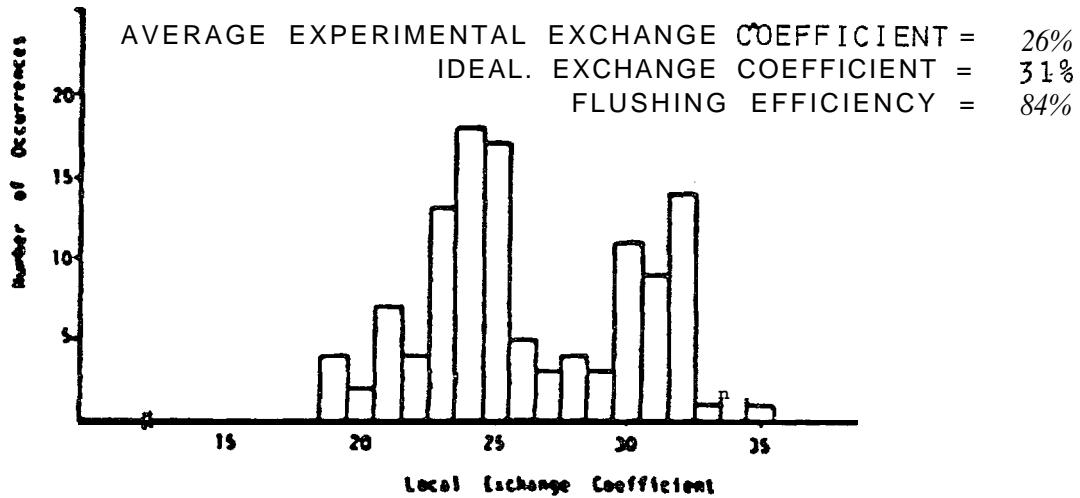
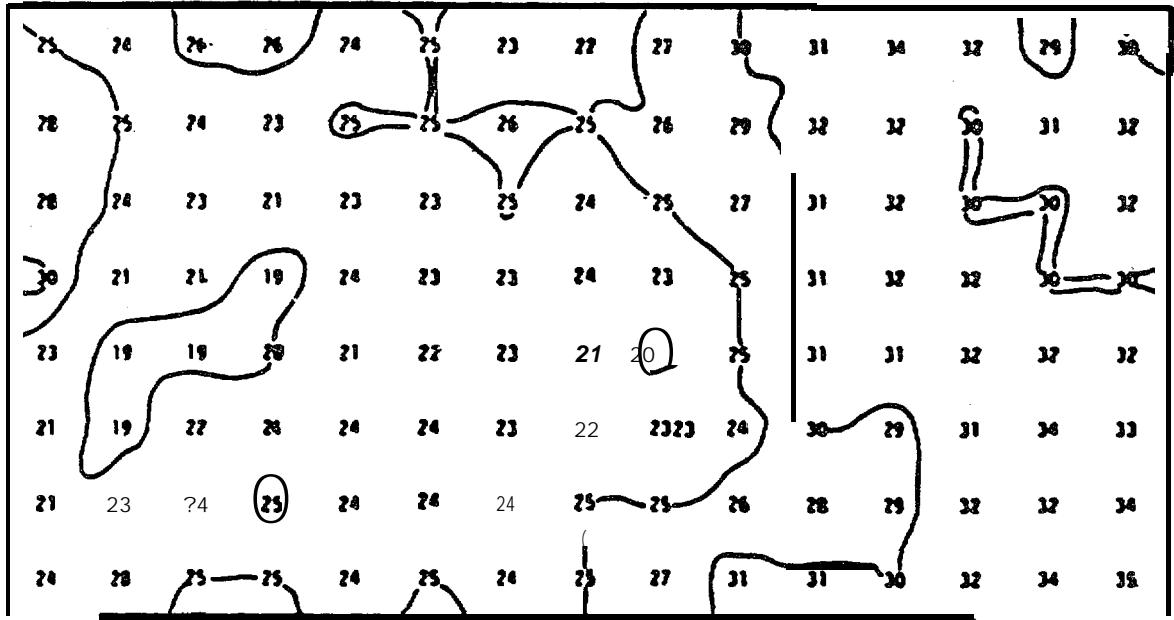


Figure 7-37. Example of exchange coefficient distribution in a small embayment with two entrances similar to Peard Bay (from Nece et al. 1979).

the **Peard** Bay geometry to the local wind **field**, it is probable that considerable **flowthrough** of nearshore waters may occur during strong easterly or westerly wind events.

CONCLUSIONS

Circulation patterns and exchange properties of nearshore and lagoon/barrier island systems on the eastern and western Beaufort Shelf show many dissimilarities. Observed differences may be attributable both to differences in coastal and lagoon geometries and to differences in their surrounding external physical environments. The major difference in the physical environment affecting eastern and western **Beaufort** systems is the mean wind field. Mean winds *in* the western Beaufort are primarily from the **ENE** whereas in the eastern **Beaufort** winds are **bimodal**, being directed from both the **ENE** and **WSW** with ENE winds dominating in the summer and WSW winds dominating in the winter. Because **currents on** the inner **shelf** and nearshore are primarily wind-driven, circulation patterns should vary considerably in the two regions. However, there is *not yet* sufficient data on either inner **shelf** region to **adequately** describe current patterns.

The mean summer **wind** conditions in the eastern **Beaufort** tend to move nearshore surface waters offshore and to the west to be replaced by cooler saltier water from the inner shelf. These conditions occur 35% of the time for an average summer. During periods of easterly winds, water entering the lagoons **from** the nearshore is typically cooler and **saltier** than the ambient lagoon water. Of the *remaining* open water season, 25% of the time winds are from the **WSW** and nearshore waters are retained along the coast and are advected to the east. During these periods **of** westerly **winds**, lagoon and nearshore waters tend to exhibit similar properties

Mean summer conditions in the western Beaufort are similar to those *in the* eastern Beaufort during periods of easterly winds. However, in the western Beaufort easterly winds dominate over a greater percentage of time including the fall and winter periods. This is reflected in the movement of **warmer** fresher nearshore water **away** from the coast to be replaced by cooler saltier inner shelf water and **in** the observed cooler mean temperatures and higher mean salinities in the western Beaufort lagoons.

Fall conditions in the eastern Beaufort are dominated by westerly **winds** which move the ice and inner shelf surface waters onshore and to the east. Fall is the period when large storm setup may occur and significant **longshore** transport may result.

Hypersaline water observed in the western Beaufort open lagoons has not been detected in eastern lagoons. Even very early (26 July) measurements **in** Angun and Beaufort Lagoon interiors failed to detect residual **hypersaline** water from the winter season. This may be due partially to the **lack of** sills in the pulsing and limited exchange lagoon entrances which enable the brine extruded during the winter freezing to escape the lagoons, or perhaps to probable higher winter tidal exchange rates in the eastern lagoons which have deeper entrances and interiors than were observed in the western open lagoons. It is **also** probable, however, that the absence of this water is due simply to the spring river discharge which purged the lagoons prior to July, similarly to observations **in** Simpson Lagoon.

Lagoon/barrier **island** geometries **vary** between the eastern and western Beaufort Shelf, with open lagoons being the dominant form along the western nearshore regime and pulsing **or** limited exchange lagoons being the dominant form along the eastern Beaufort. The largest flushing efficiencies for the three lagoon types occur in the open lagoons similar to Simpson Lagoon in the western **Beaufort**. These lagoons are open to flowthrough by the coastal **longshore** currents and may exhibit flushing efficiencies equal to 200% **of** tidally-induced exchange **alone**.

Flushing efficiencies for pulsing or limited exchange lagoons may, however, be considerably **less**. For example, the flushing efficiency of **Pokok** Bay (a pulsing lagoon that should exhibit good flushing characteristics with a centrally located entrance and a length-to-width ratio of approximately 1) may be as low as 15-20% in the absence of enhanced **baroclinic flow**. On the other hand, Angun Lagoon (a pulsing lagoon with a length-to-width ratio of 5 and an off-center entrance, thus predicted poor flushing characteristics) may show average overall flushing efficiencies which are half **of** those observed for **Pokok** Bay. In addition, Angun Lagoon contains some isolated regions away from the entrance which may have tidal flushing efficiencies only **10%** of those calculated for **Pokok** Bay.

However, under the influence of wind forcing and particularly under the influence of westerly winds which forces **water** onto the nearshore region and **into** the **lagoons**, vertical **mixing** and increased horizontal exchange occurs which **may** temporarily increase the exchange efficiencies of these types of lagoons to equal that observed for Pokok Bay. The critical wind speed required to mix the **lagoon** waters appears to be on the *order* of **10 kt** for **early** spring stratifications, and is anticipated to be considerably **less** for late summer conditions when vertical stratification is reduced. In **either** case, however, flushing efficiency for these eastern Beaufort Lagoon types is considerably **less** than that observed for the open western lagoons, and **it** appears only a fraction (15-20%) of that which would **be** estimated from volume exchange calculations alone. These reduced flushing rates make the eastern Beaufort Lagoon systems more vulnerable to impact by **oil** and gas *exploration* activity due both to disruptions in the exchange processes which renew the lagoon properties via interactions with the nearshore waters and to direct contamination by oil or drilling byproducts.

NEED FOR **FURTHER** STUDY

Results **of** this program indicate the need for a better understanding **of** the flushing properties of pulsing and limited exchange lagoons. OCSEAP is presently sponsoring a numerical modeling program to study circulation and exchange in various lagoon types. Data to validate these models can be obtained by either field measurement programs or Laboratory model studies. These studies **could** most effectively be carried out in a laboratory modeling program similar to that conducted by Rece for small **embayments** in the State of Washington. These studies should include both the effects of **tidal** flushing **for** various **planform lagoon** geometries (simulated 20-cm tidal amplitudes) and the effects of enhancements due to fresh water runoff in the lagoon interiors. These **model** studies, unfortunately, cannot model the effects **of** wind-driven circulation and mixing but **could** be used to validate portions of current numerical codes

being developed to model **Beaufort** Lagoons. These codes, when validated, will accommodate wind-induced mixing and circulation effects for comparison to observed wind mixing thresholds and measured lagoon circulation.

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