

Supplementary data: physical data (1895-2010) for California Current winter climate reconstruction (California Current upwelling modes project)

Website: <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/472737>

Version: 2013-12-03

Project

» [History and Future of Coastal Upwelling Modes and Biological Responses in the California Current](#) (California Current upwelling modes)

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Dataset Description

Mean winter (Jan-Mar) upwelling index averaged at 36°N and 39°N, mean winter precipitation averaged across NOAA NCDC California Divisions 4 and 6, mean winter sea level at San Francisco detrended to remove a linear increasing trend, winter Northern Oscillation Index, and CCwinter (leading principal component of upwelling, sea level, and NOI). See Methods for explanations of the data time series.

Data Processing Description

A nested bootstrapping approach (n=10,000 iterations) was repeated at each change in sample depth (3 to 16). For each iteration, chronologies were randomly selected with replacement and averaged into a composite chronology. Calendar years shared with CCwinter physical data (1948-2003) were randomly sampled with replacement and the CCwinter reconstruction from tree ring data (CCwinter_recon) was predicted using a rise-to-maximum function: $CCwinter_recon = a * (1 - \exp(-b * oak \text{ composite chronology}))$. The Reduction of Error statistic was calculated between predicted CCwinter and sea level (1898-1947, see timeseries-physical) for independent verification; any positive value indicates reconstruction skill. A 21-year running standard deviation was calculated for the length of each iteration to evaluate trends in variance. The 14 ensemble medians were spliced together to form the final nested reconstruction (tree-ring and CCwinter standard deviation datasets). To examine the frequency of extreme events, CCwinter_recon values in each ensemble member were ranked, the 10 highest values retained, and the frequency per century was calculated post- and pre-1950. Note that an identical result was obtained for the extreme events analysis if the composite chronologies were ranked prior to their transformation by rise-to-maximum functions.

We tested various methods to retain inter-annual to long-term variation in the tree-ring data and found results and conclusions to be insensitive. Detrending with 50-year splines did not appreciably change the results of the study. The unusually high frequency of negative events is less pronounced post-1950, but spline detrending reduces the magnitude of extreme values and mutes or eliminates long-term trends. The two methods (negative exponential and signal free detrending) capable of retaining centennial scale variability yielded nearly identical results for the final reconstruction ($R^2 = 0.993$). [Given the complexity and experimental nature of the signal-free datasets, negative exponential detrending was used for the final reconstruction]

Related References:

B. A. Black et al., Winter and summer upwelling modes and their biological importance in the California Current Ecosystem. *Global Change Biol.* 17, 2536 (Aug, 2011).

J. E. Keister, E. Di Lorenzo, C. A. Morgan, V. Combes, W. T. Peterson, Zooplankton species composition is linked to ocean transport in the Northern California Current. *Global Change Biol.* 17, 2498 (Jul, 2011).

T. M. Melvin, K. R. Briffa, A "signal-free" approach to dendroclimatic standardisation. *Dendrochronologia* 26, 71 (2008).

I. Schroeder, W. J. Sydeman, N. Sarkar, S. J. Bograd, F. B. Schwing, Winter pre-conditioning of seabird phenology in the California Current. *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.* 393, 211 (2009).

F. B. Schwing, T. Murphree, P. M. Green, The Northern Oscillation Index (NOI): a new climate index for the northeast Pacific. *Prog. Oceanogr.* 53, 115 (2002).

F. B. Schwing, M. O'Farrell, J. M. Steger, K. Baltz, "Coastal upwelling indices, West Coast of North America, 1946-1995" (NOAA Technical Memo, NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC, Washington, DC. 144 p., 1996).

D. W. Stahle et al., The ancient blue oak woodlands of California: longevity and hydro-climatic history. *Earth Interactions* In Press, (2013)

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Data Files

File
timeseries_phys.csv (Comma Separated Values (.csv), 4.65 KB) MD5:7fd10c00fbf8654cdfd9dd65e79850b7
Primary data file for dataset ID 472737

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Parameters

Parameter	Description	Units
year	year	unitless
UW_36N_39N	coastal upwelling index: represents the magnitude of offshore Ekman transport and was averaged across two locations: 36N 122W and 39N 125W	unitless
Div_4_6_precip	Mean precipitation as averaged across NOAA National Climatic Data Center California Climate Divisions 4 and 6 for the months of January through March. (see http://www7.ncdc.noaa.gov/CDO/CDODivisionalSelect.jsp# for original data).	inches
sea_level_detrended	Mean sea level for the months of January through March at San Francisco, as obtained through the University of Hawaii Sea Level Center http://uhslc.soest.hawaii.edu/ . This winter average was detrended to remove a linear trend by fitting the time series with a linear regression and dividing observed values by those predicted by the regression. Values greater than 1 indicate above-average sea level while values less than 1 indicate below-average sea level.	unitless
NOI	winter Northern Oscillation Index	unitless
CC_winter	leading principal component	unitless

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Deployments

Black_model

Website	https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/472783
Platform	OSU
Start Date	2011-09-01
End Date	2013-05-31
Description	climate reconstruction model

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Project Information

History and Future of Coastal Upwelling Modes and Biological Responses in the California Current (California Current upwelling modes)

Coverage: North-central California Current between approx 36N, 122W and 39N, 125W

From NSF award abstract:

Climate variability on multiple temporal scales is increasingly recognized as a major factor influencing the

structure, functioning, and productivity of the California Current Ecosystem (CCE). Yet, despite many long-term and integrative studies, a detailed understanding of climatic impacts on upwelling and biological processes is still lacking, compromising our abilities to assess important concepts such as ecosystem "health" and "resilience." To address these issues in the central-northern CCE, the PIs have recently collated and analyzed records of rockfish and salmon growth and seabird reproductive success with respect to upwelling variability (NSF award #0929017). These diverse, multi-decadal time series revealed the importance of wintertime upwelling on ecosystem structure and function, even though upwelling, a principal driver of productivity in the CCE, is largely a summertime process. This research led to an unexpected discovery that winter and summer upwelling vary independently of one another in distinct seasonal "modes", with some biological processes affected by the winter mode and others by the summer mode. This is of significance because the summer mode shows a long-term increase (despite inter-decadal variability) while the winter mode does not.

In this new project, the PIs will test the overarching hypothesis that upwelling modes are forced by contrasting atmospheric-oceanographic processes, exhibit contrasting patterns of low- and high-frequency variability, and will be differentially impacted by global climate change with corresponding impacts on biology. To address this hypothesis the PIs propose a three-tiered approach to better understand seasonal upwelling modes and their differential impacts on biology of the CCE. First, they will examine the responses of an entirely new suite of species to upwelling modes, including Pacific sardine (recruitment), black rockfish (growth), rhinoceros auklet and Brandt's cormorant (survival), and coho salmon (survival). Previously, coarsely resolved upwelling indices were used in these analyses, but the PIs now will integrate winds and temperatures from local buoy data to better capture climate variability on finer timescales. Second, they will derive a more mechanistic understanding of seasonal upwelling modes and use this information in combination with global climate models to forecast upwelling responses under various climate-change scenarios. Third, preliminary results indicate that tree-ring data co-vary with the fish and seabirds and are similarly sensitive to a driver of winter upwelling, the Northern Oscillation Index (NOI). The PIs will use tree-ring data to provide a 300-400 year reconstruction of the winter NOI to assess the historical range of variability in upwelling mean and variance. This study will reveal the past, present forcing, and potential future of upwelling and its biological consequences in the California Current.

Related Publications:

García-Reyes, M., W. J. Sydeman, S. A. Thompson, B. A. Black, R. R. Rykaczewski, J. A. Thayer, and S. J. Bograd. 2013. Integrated assessment of wind effects on Central California's pelagic ecosystem. *Ecosystems*. DOI: [10.1007/s10021-013-9643-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10021-013-9643-6).

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Funding

Funding Source	Award
NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)	OCE-1130125

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