

# La circulation du Pacifique sud-ouest: sa rôle dans la climat à la grande échelle

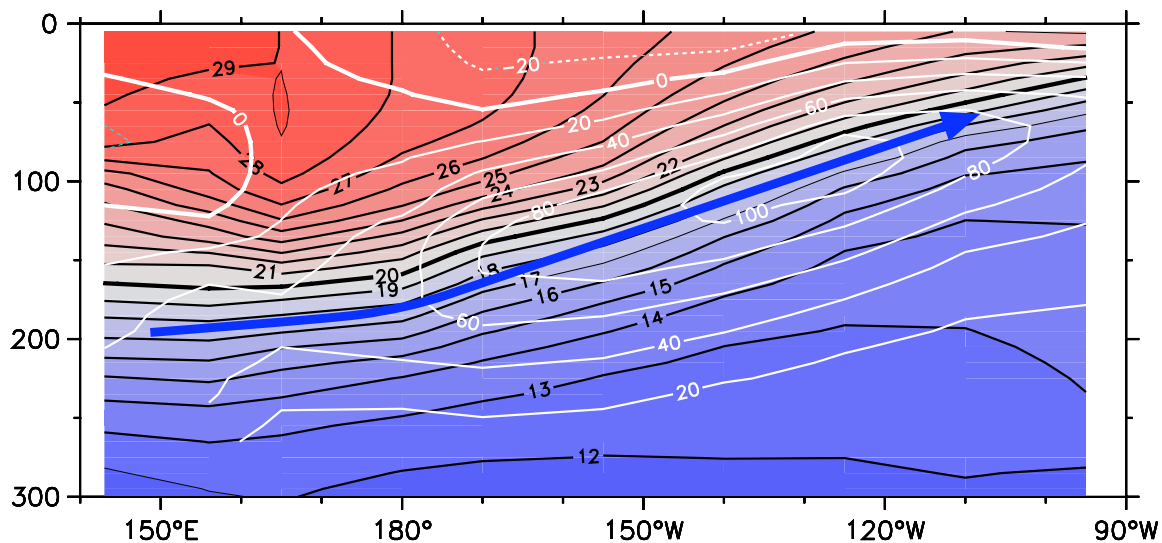
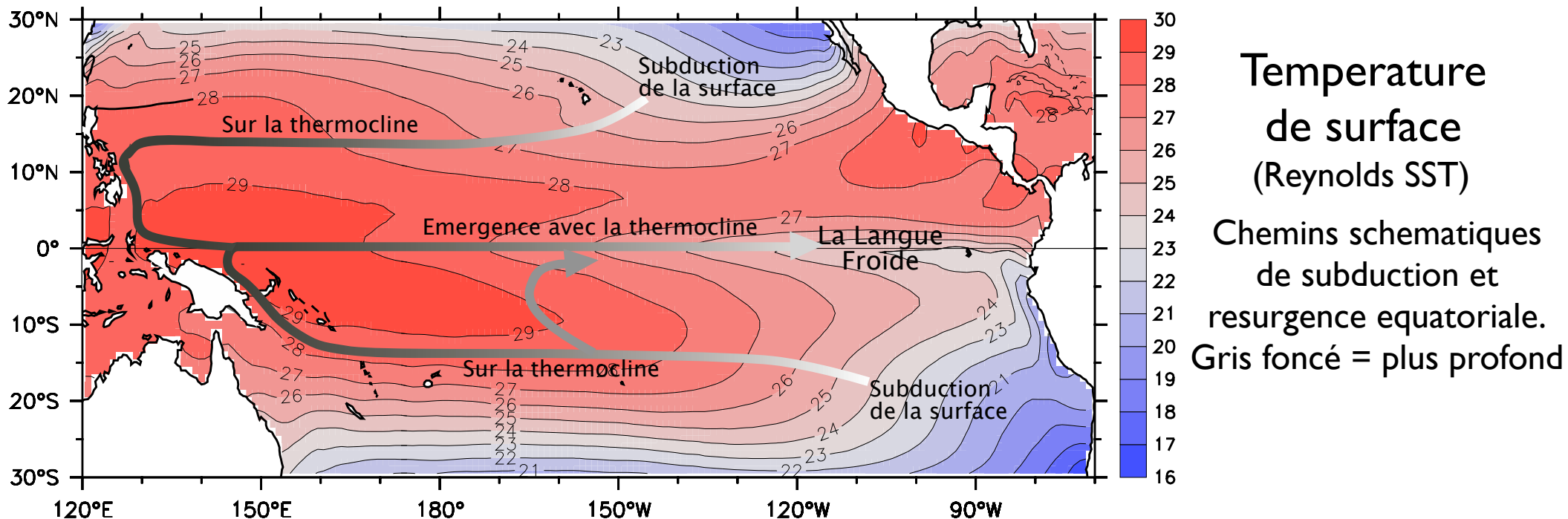
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Travail en cours!

William S. Kessler  
Lionel Gourdeau  
Alexandre Ganachaud

L'accomplissement le plus important ici:  
je m'ai fait des amis et des collègues

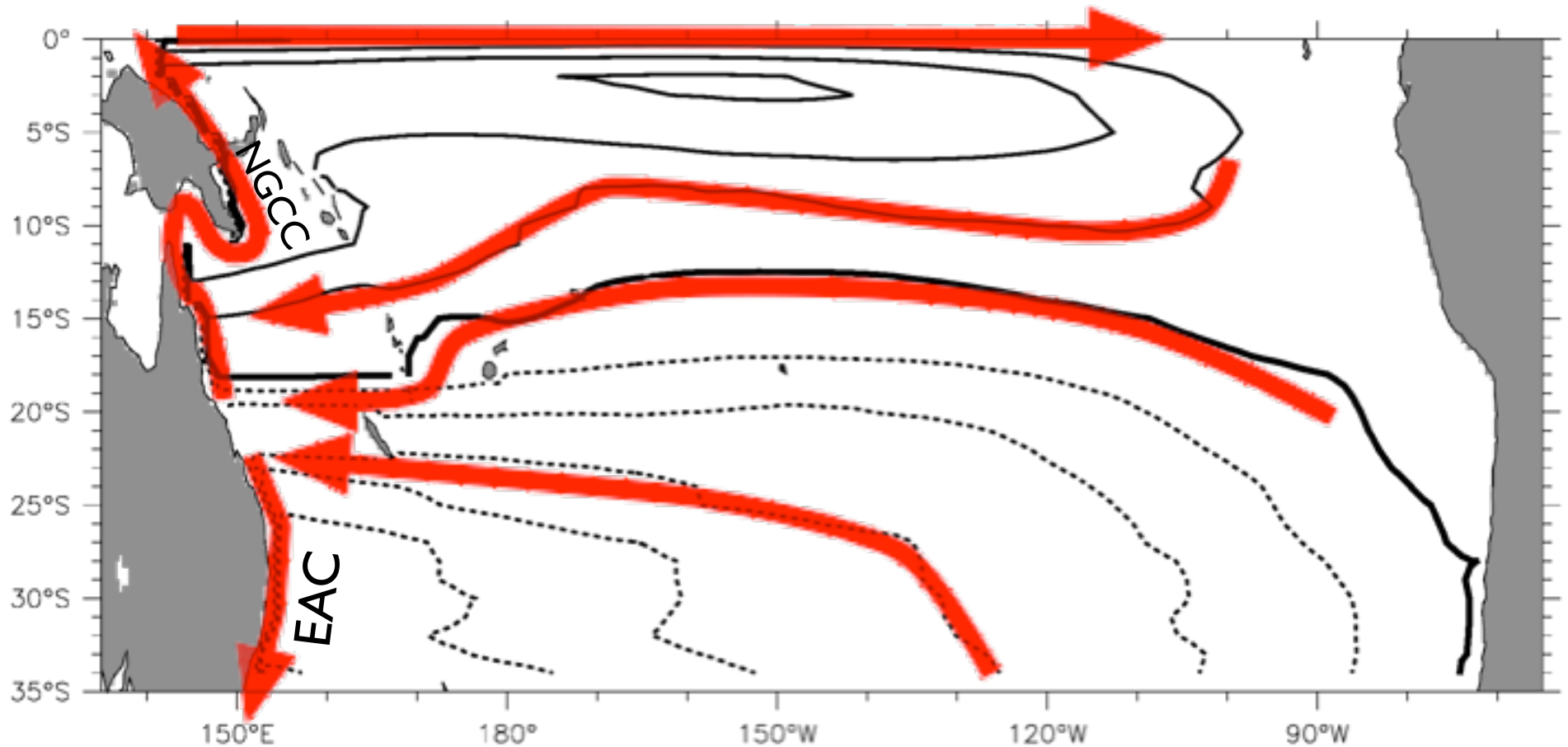
# L'eau de la Langue Froide provient des subtropiques



## Section verticale sur l'équateur

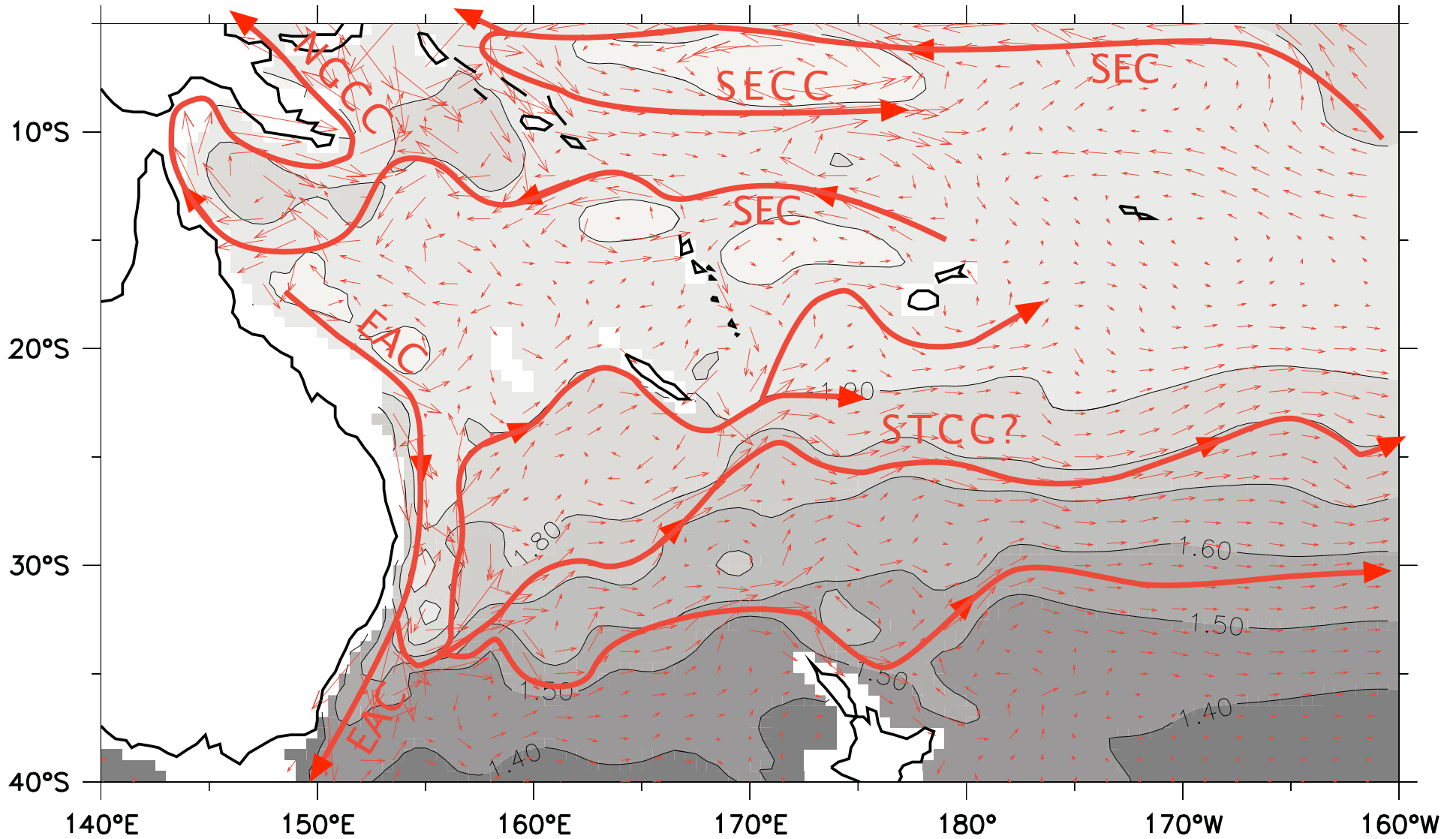
Couleur: Temperature  
Contours blancs: Vitesse  
Flèche bleue: SouCourant Equatoriale  
(TAO CTD/ADCP)

# à plus grande échelle



Que se passe t'il quand le transport qui entre dans la Mer du Corail varie?

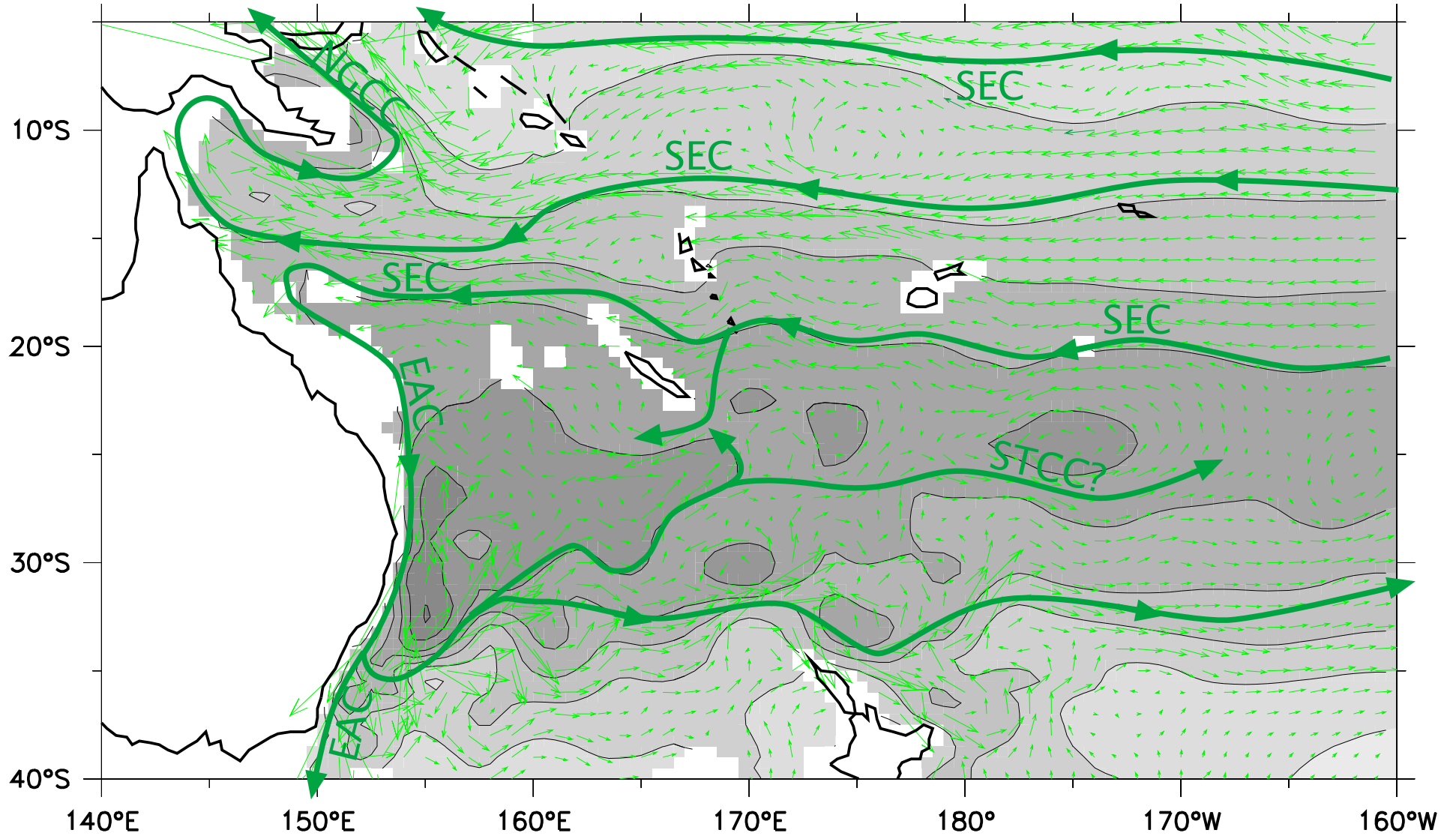
# Courants de surface



→ 20. cm s<sup>-1</sup>

Courants geostrophiques relatif 2000m (CARS)

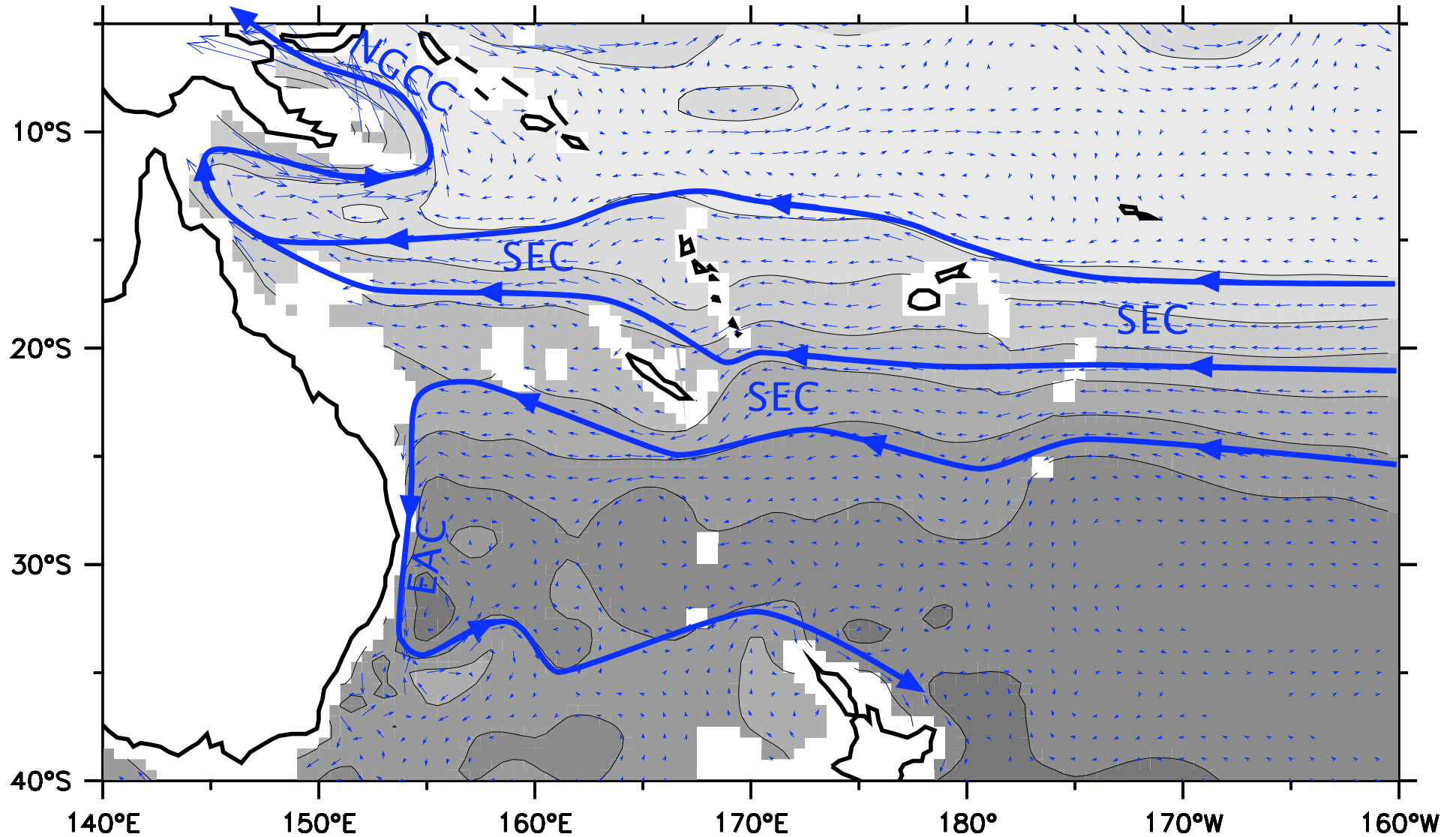
# Courants sur Sigma-T = 26 (central thermocline)



→ 10. cm s<sup>-1</sup>

Courants geostrophiques relatif 2000m (CARS)

# Courants sur Sigma-T = 27 (lower thermocline)

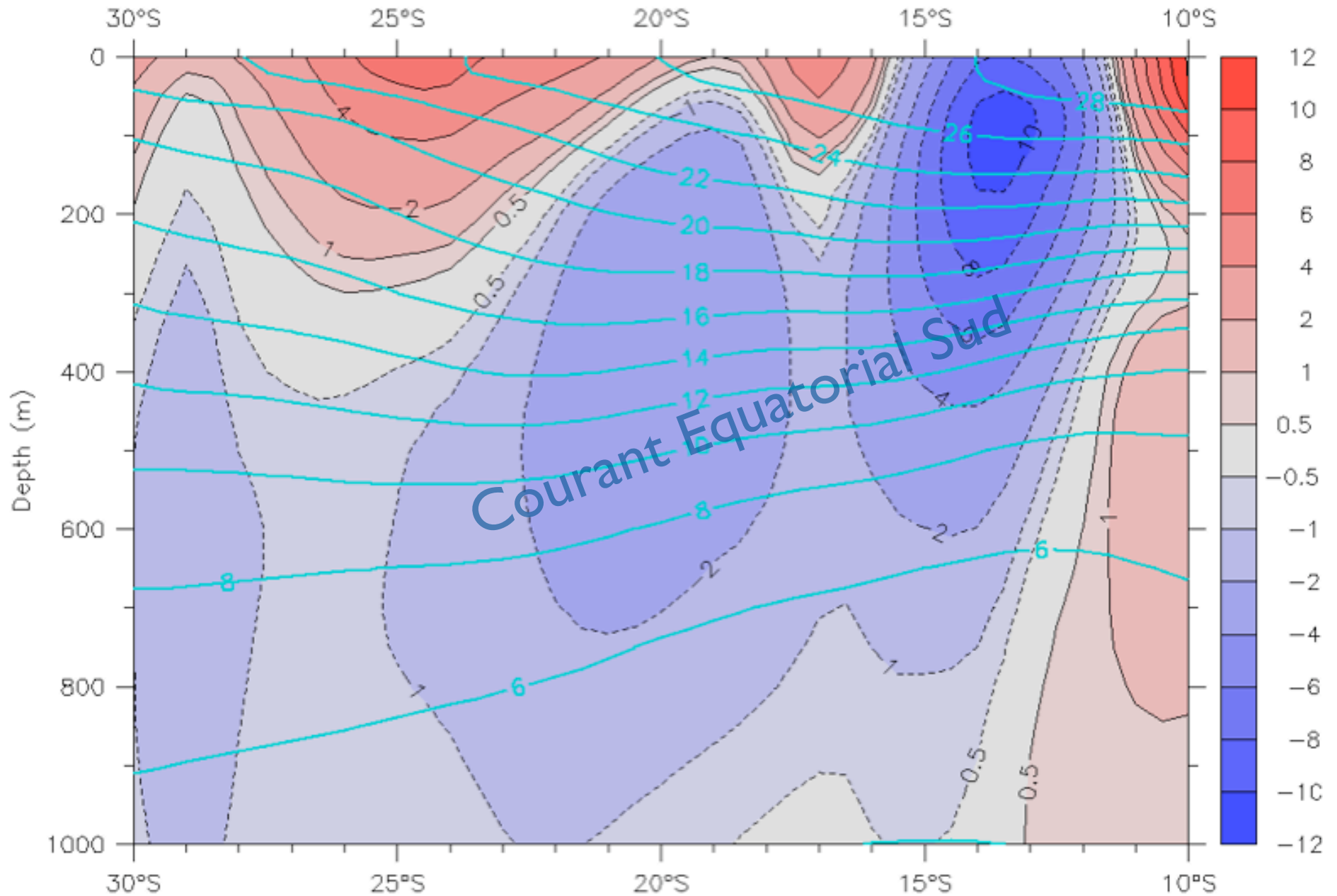


→ 10. cm s<sup>-1</sup>

Courants geostrophiques relatif 2000m (CARS)



# Courants zonales sur 170°E – 180°



Les contours bleus indiquent la temperature. Courants relatifs à 2000m

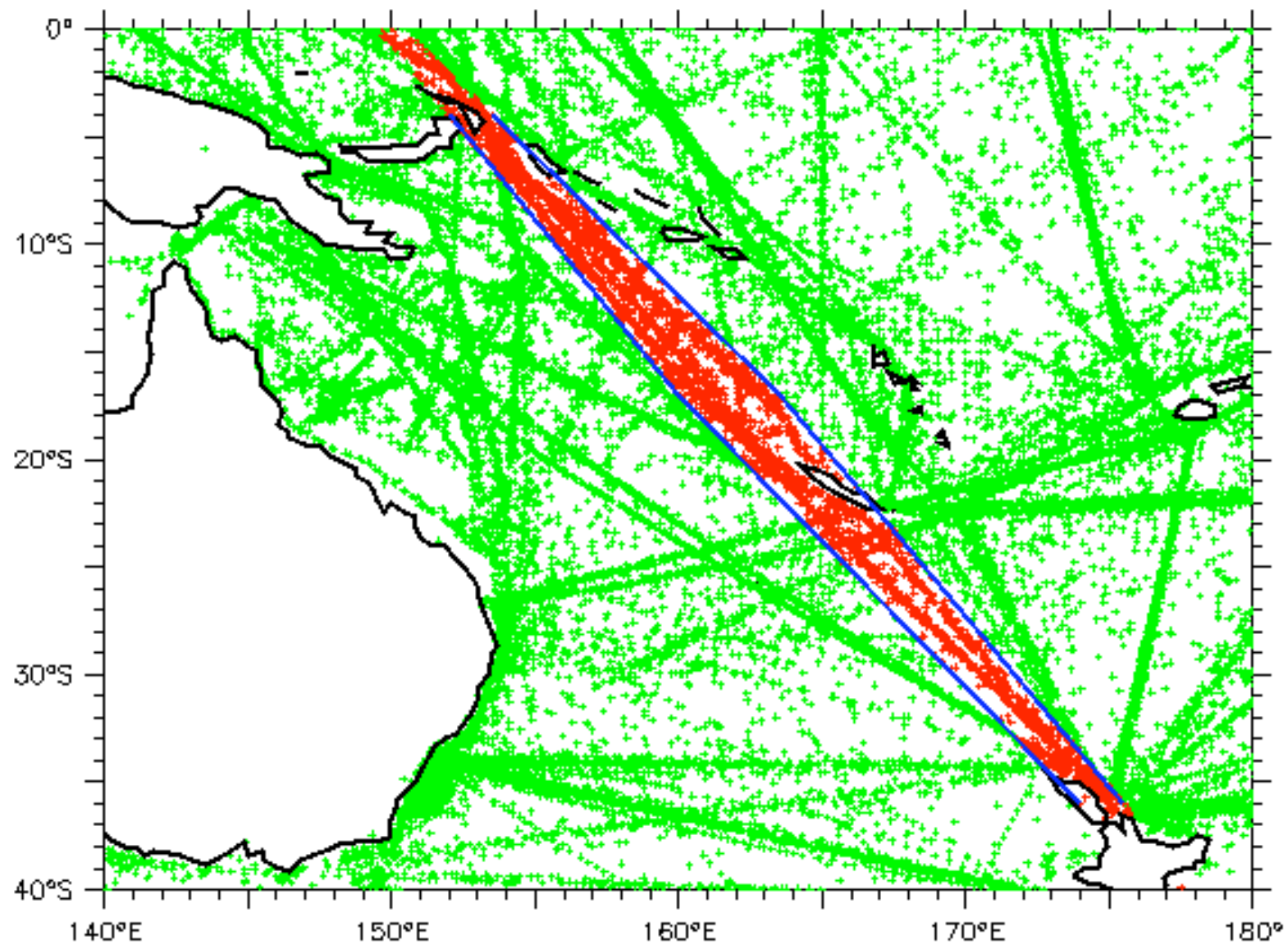
## Après cette introduction:

- Sur la plupart du sud-Pacifique, les courants en surface vont vers l'est, mais la circulation en total va vers l'ouest.  
Nous reviendrons à cette question ....
- Maintenant, nous voudrions comprendre la variabilité du SEC, et sa conséquence.



# Auckland–Bismarck Strait XBT track

IFREMER XBT data 1985–2002. 4734 of 68215 profiles



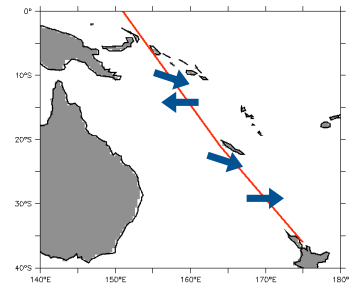
# Pourquoi utiliser les données XBT?

Elles sont très irrégulières et difficiles à traiter. Mais, par contre .....

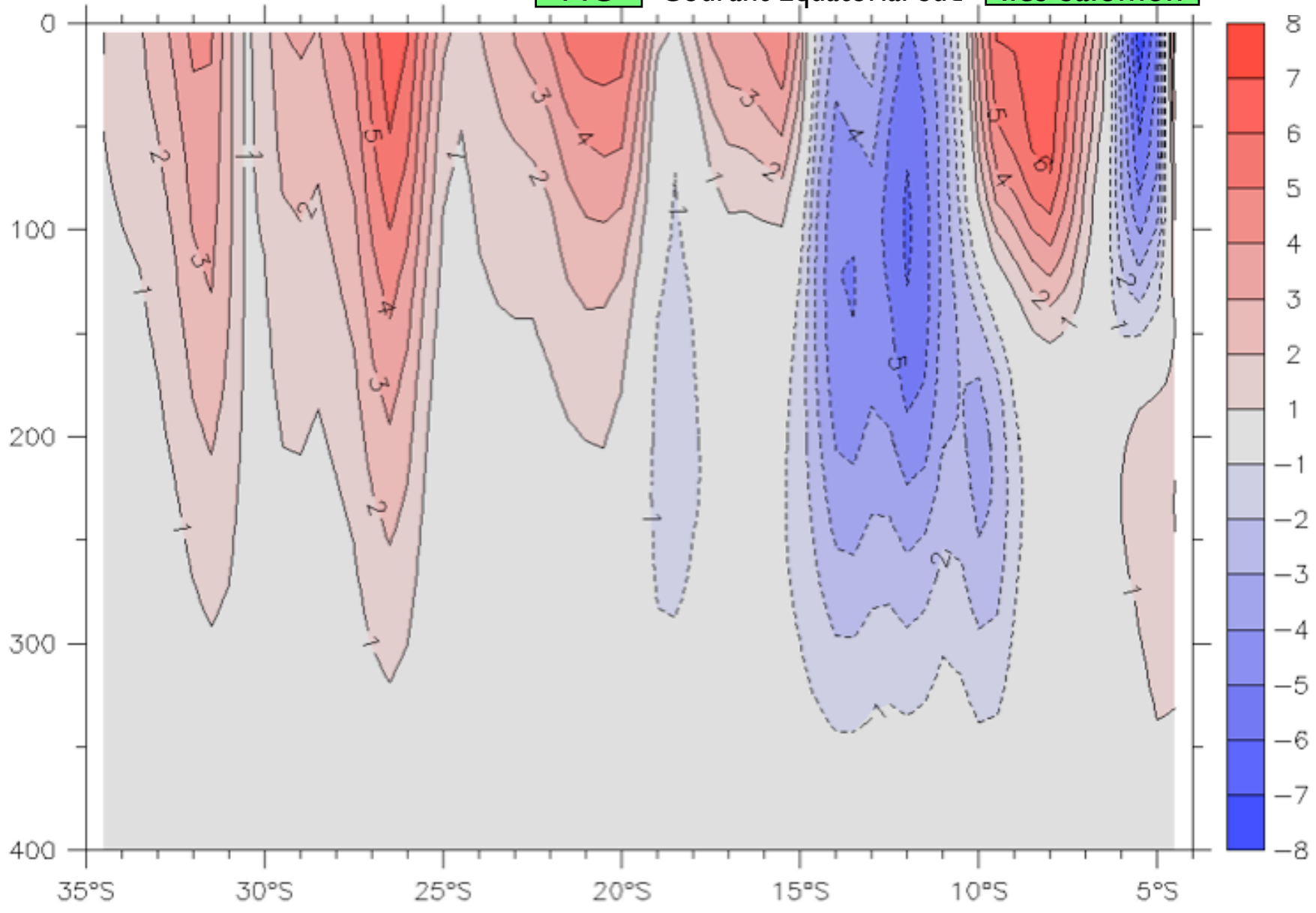
- On peut rallonger la time series, au moins jusqu'aux années 1980. C'est très important parce que les années 1990s sont marquées par le grand événement de 1997-98.
- On peut étudier la structure verticale. Comme nous avons vu, un des traits fondamentaux du Pacifique Sud est son cisaillement des courants.

# Courants moyens sur la piste XBT

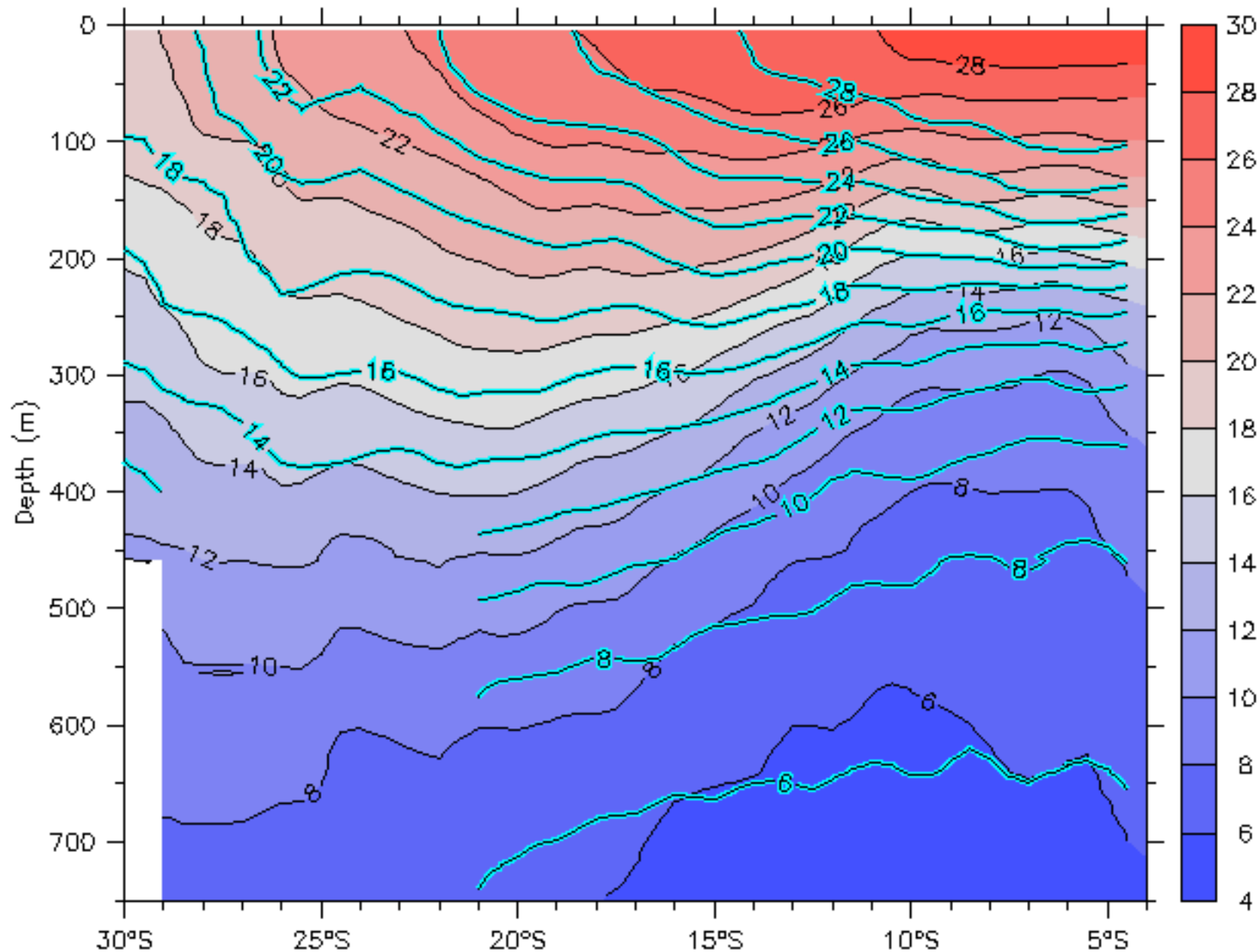
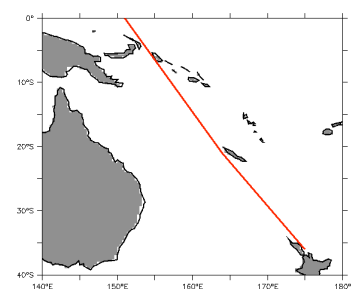
(Juste à l'ouest de Nouvelle Calédonie)



**NC** Courant Equatorial Sud **Iles Salomon**



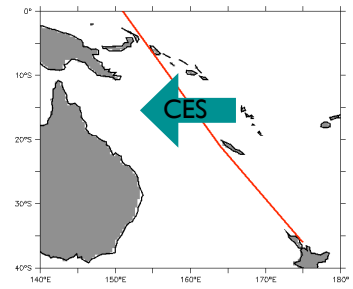
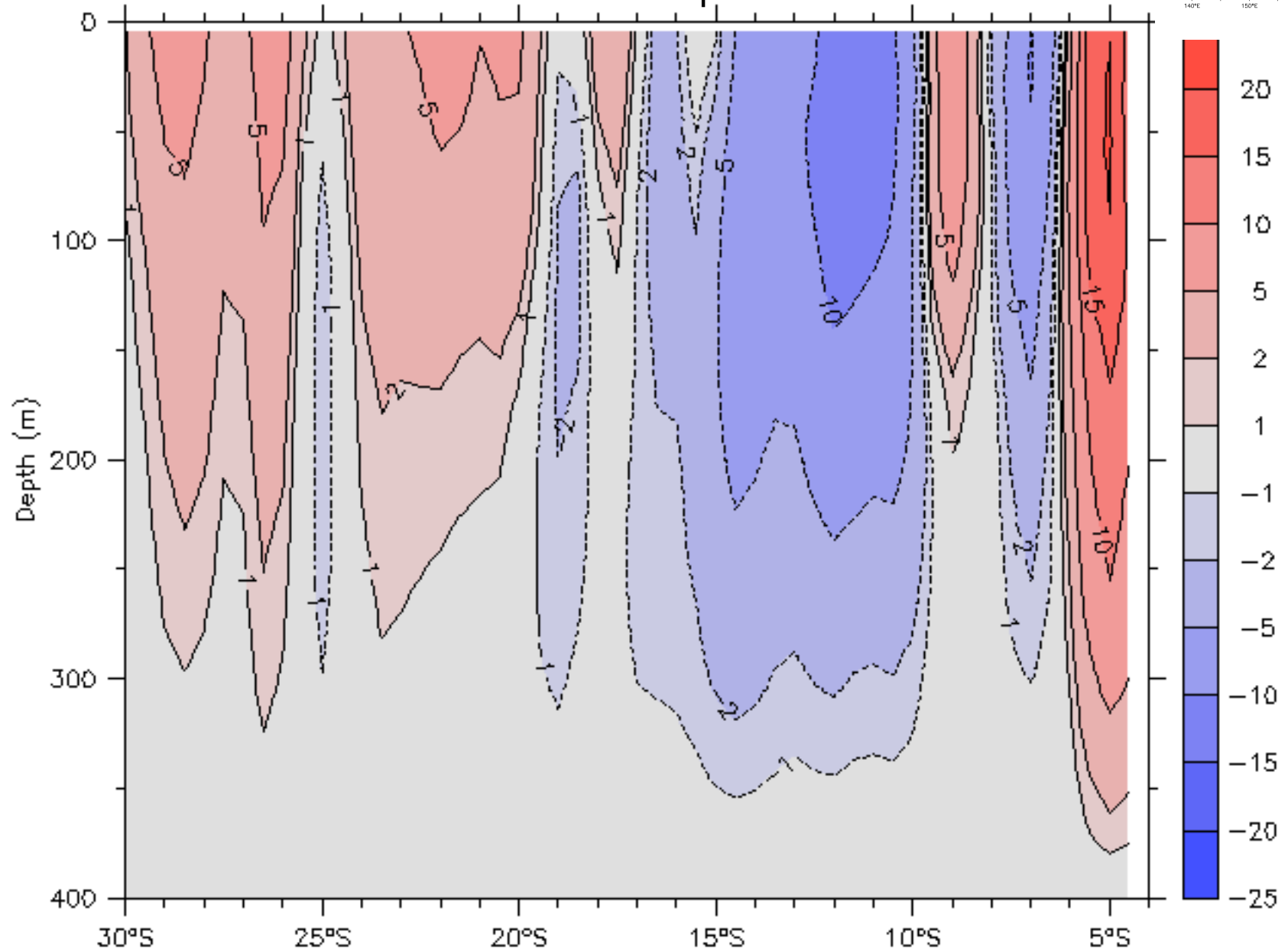
# Températures pendant 1992 Superpose 1989



# Composante perpendiculaire

## 1992

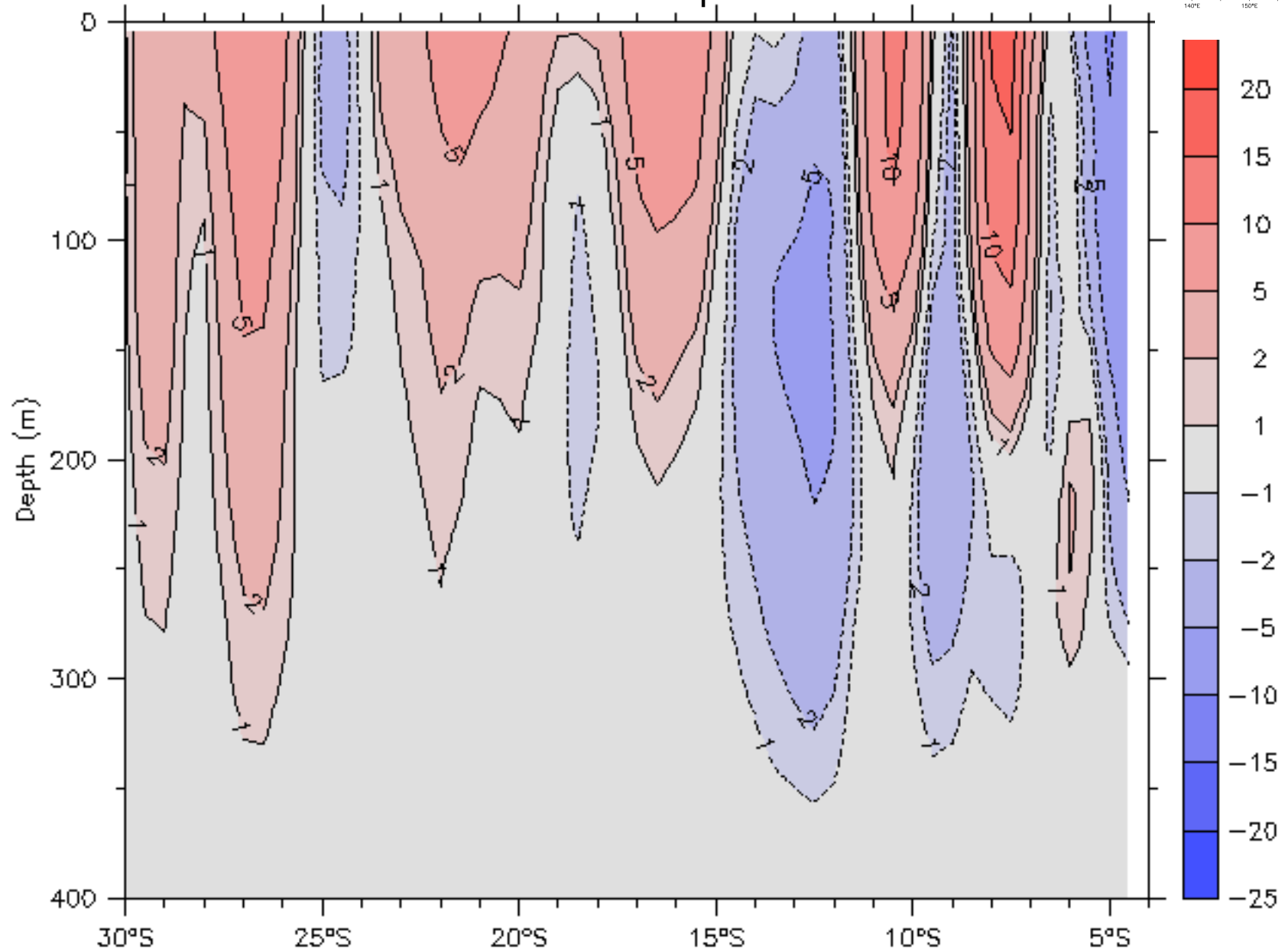
### Courant Equatorial Sud



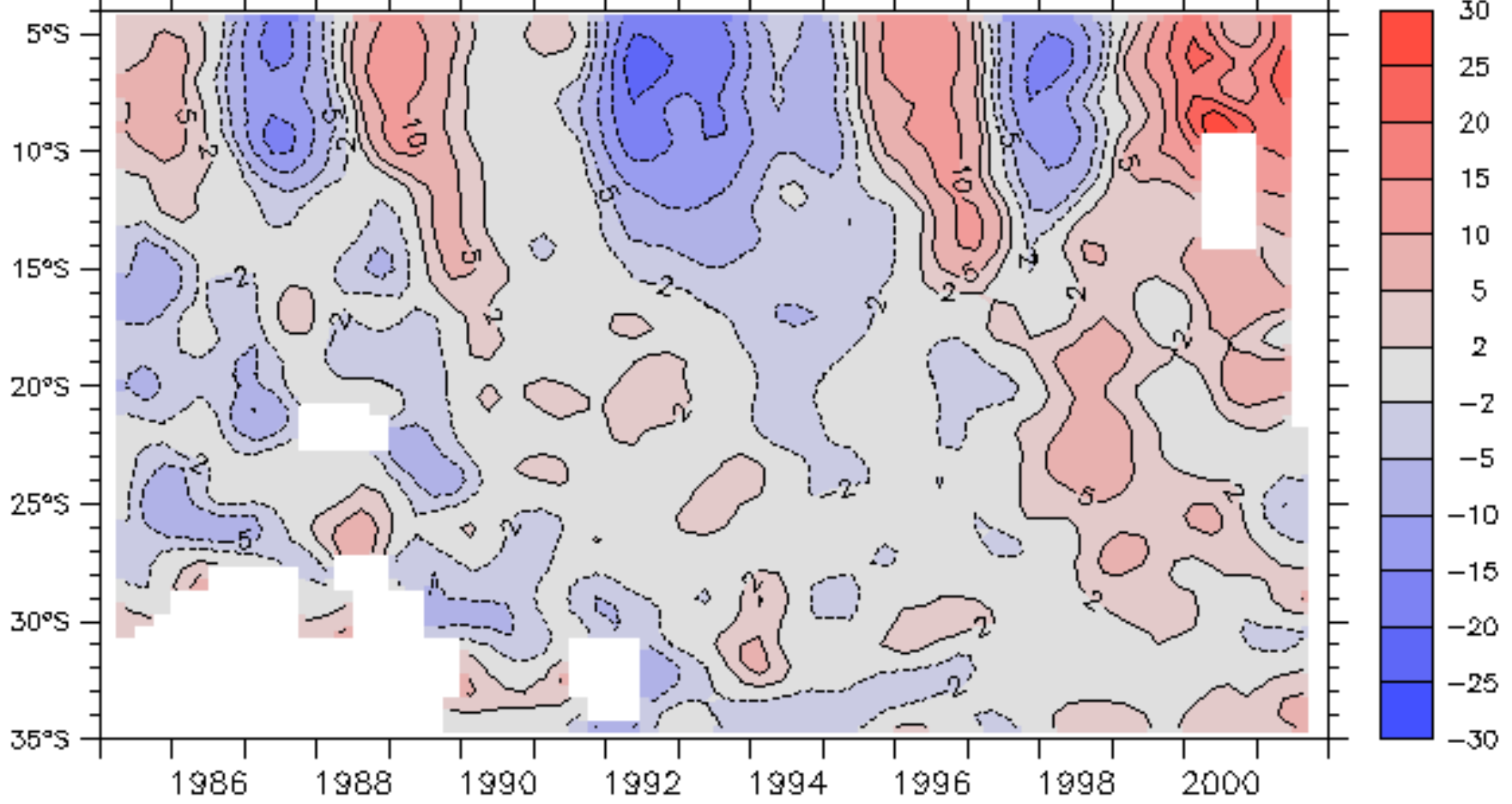
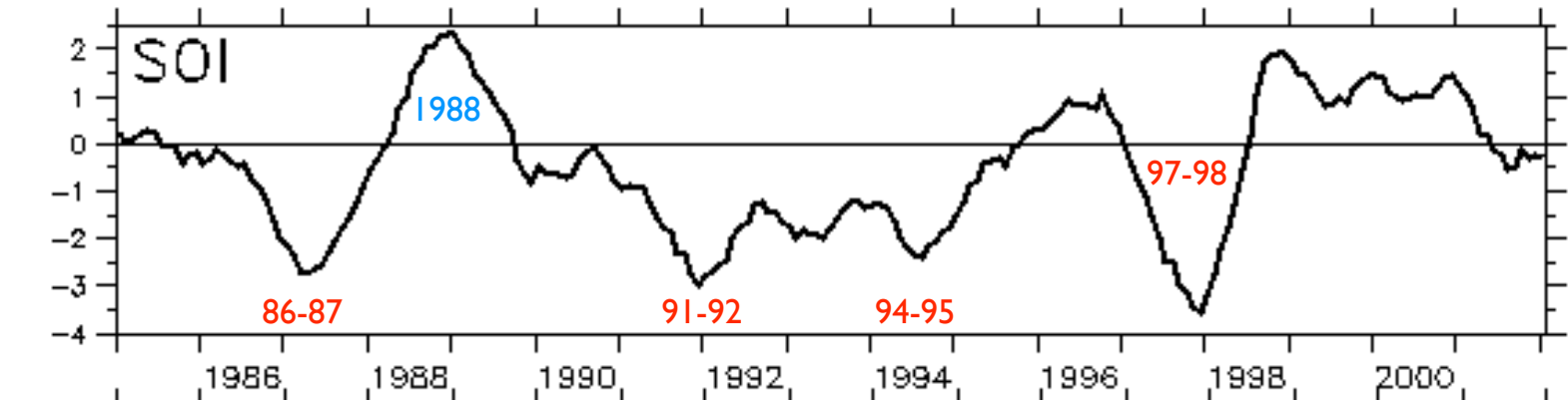
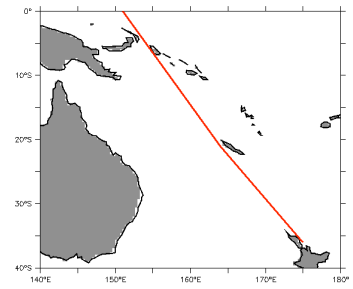
# Composante perpendiculaire

## 1989

### Courant Equatorial Sud



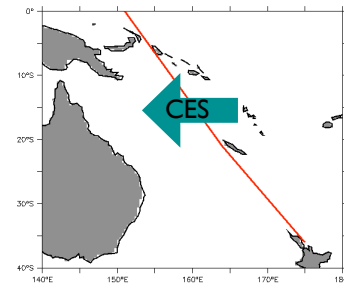
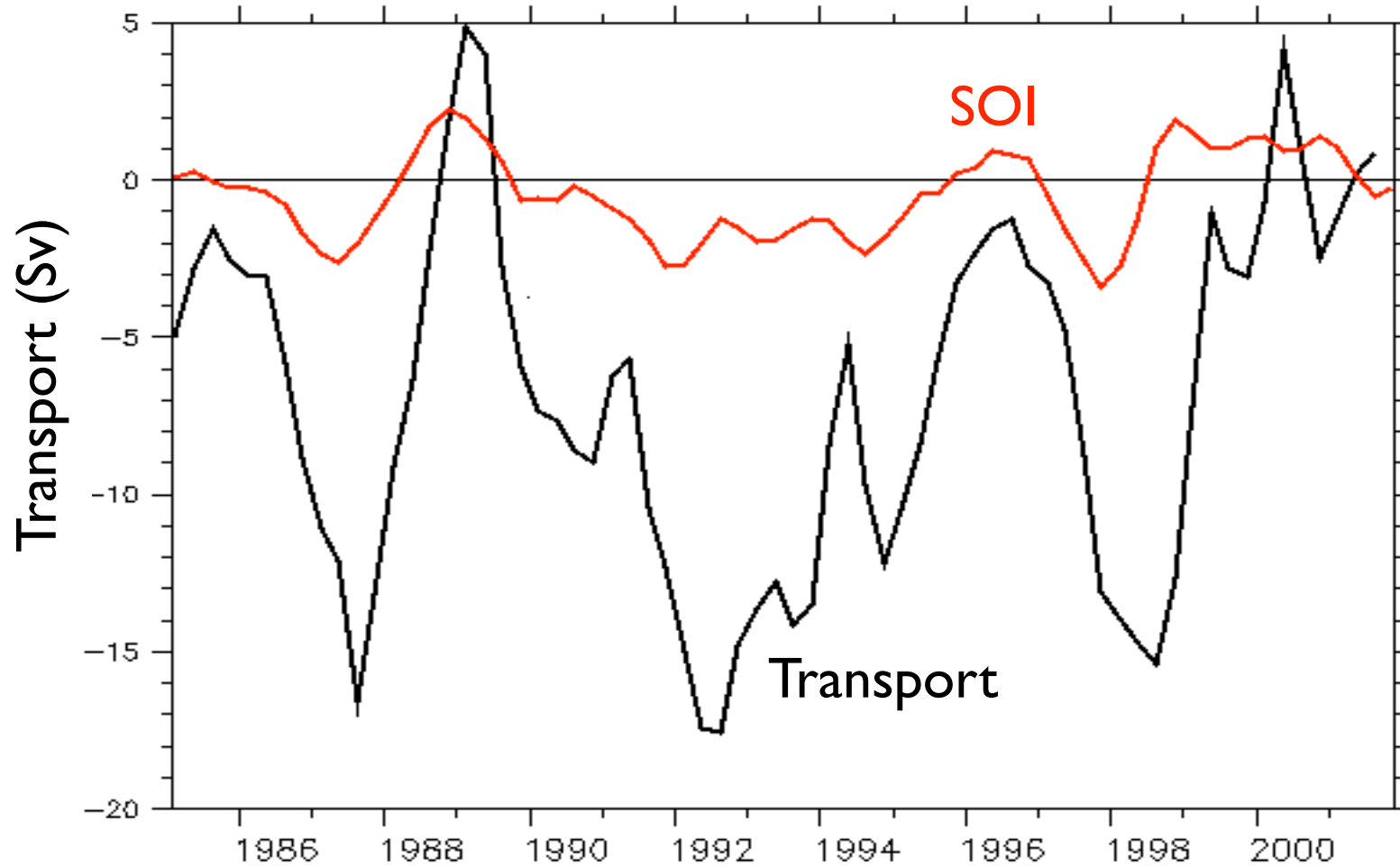
# Dynamic Ht anomalies on the Auckland–Bismarck Strait XBT track





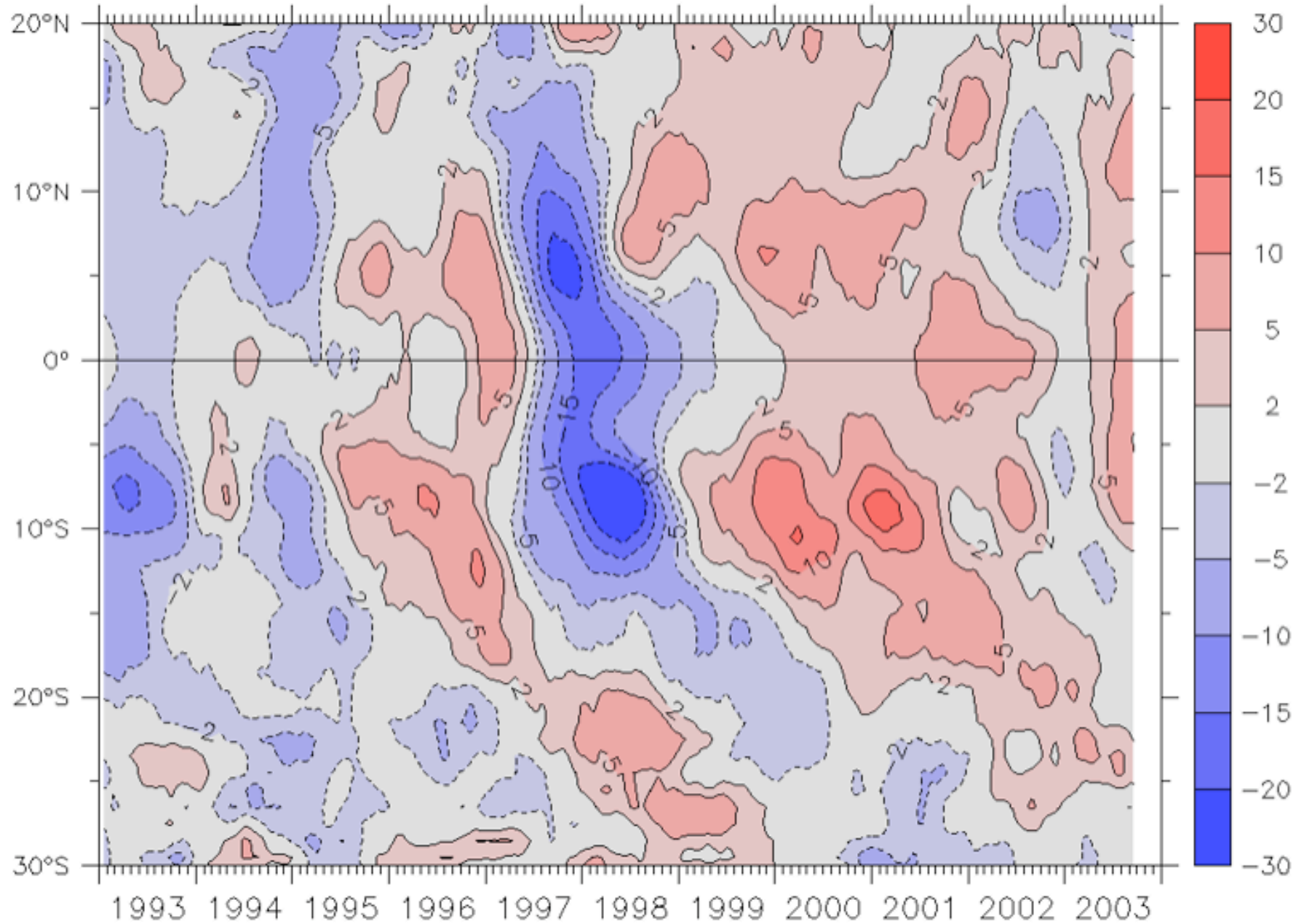
# Transport entre NC et les Îles Salomon

$$\int \int u_g dz dy \quad (10^{\circ}\text{S} - 20^{\circ}\text{S}, 0 - 400\text{m})$$



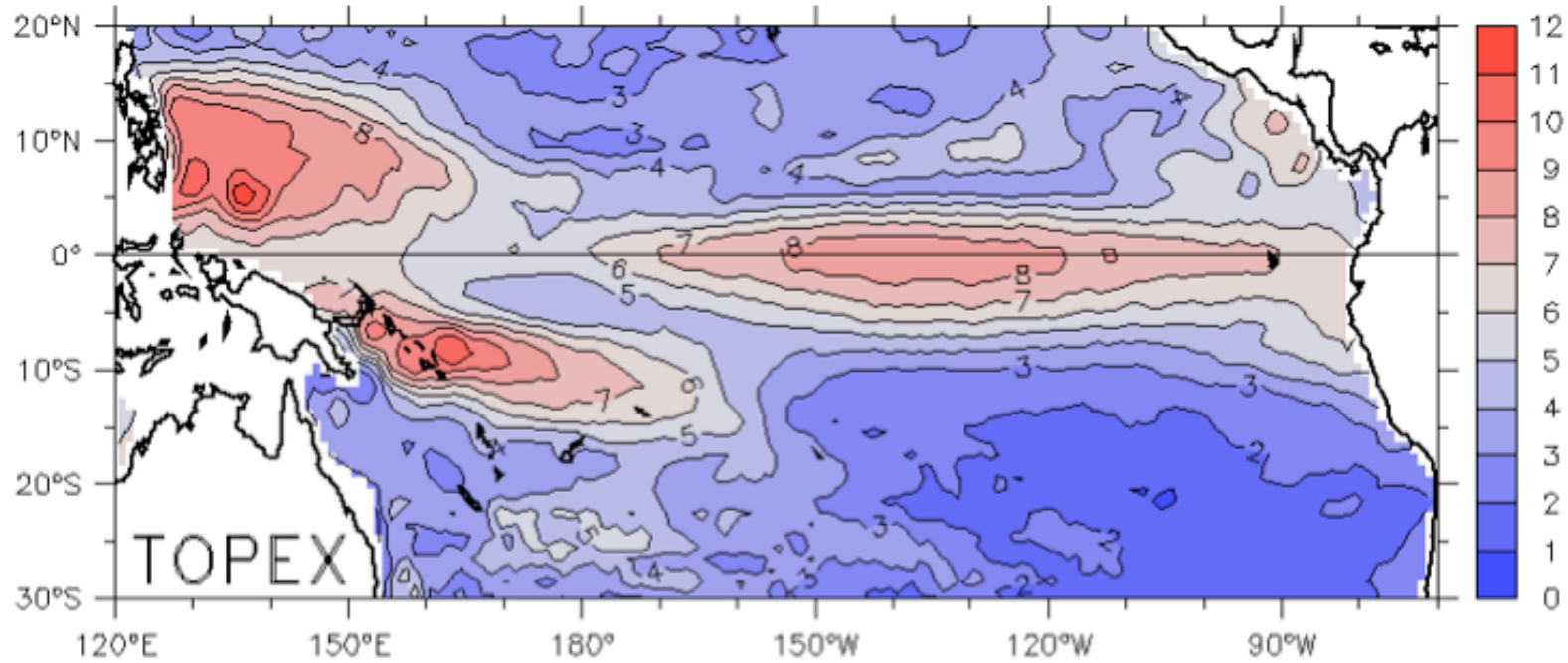
Correlation of transport and the SOI = 0.70

# Niveau de la mer le long de 165°E (TOPEX/JASON)

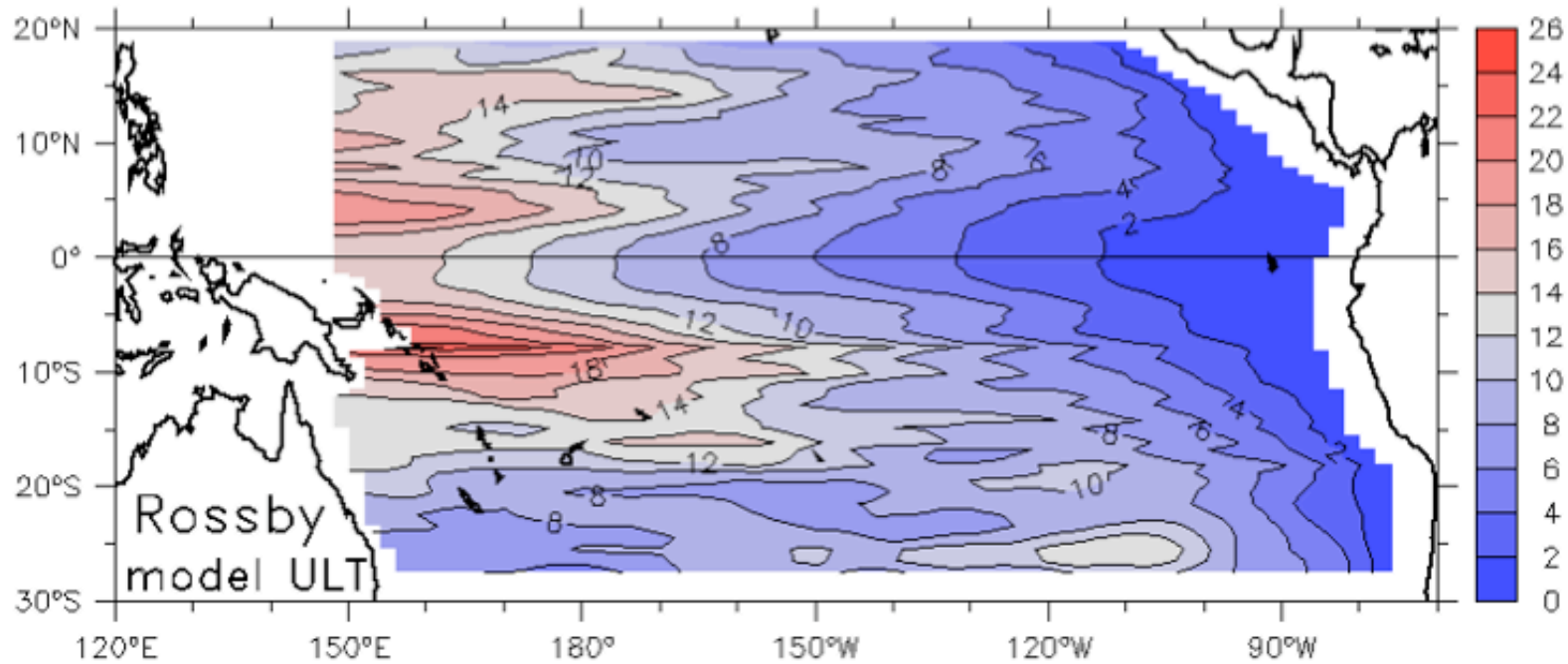


# RMS interannual variability

Compare TOPEX/JASON altimetry vs Rossby wave model

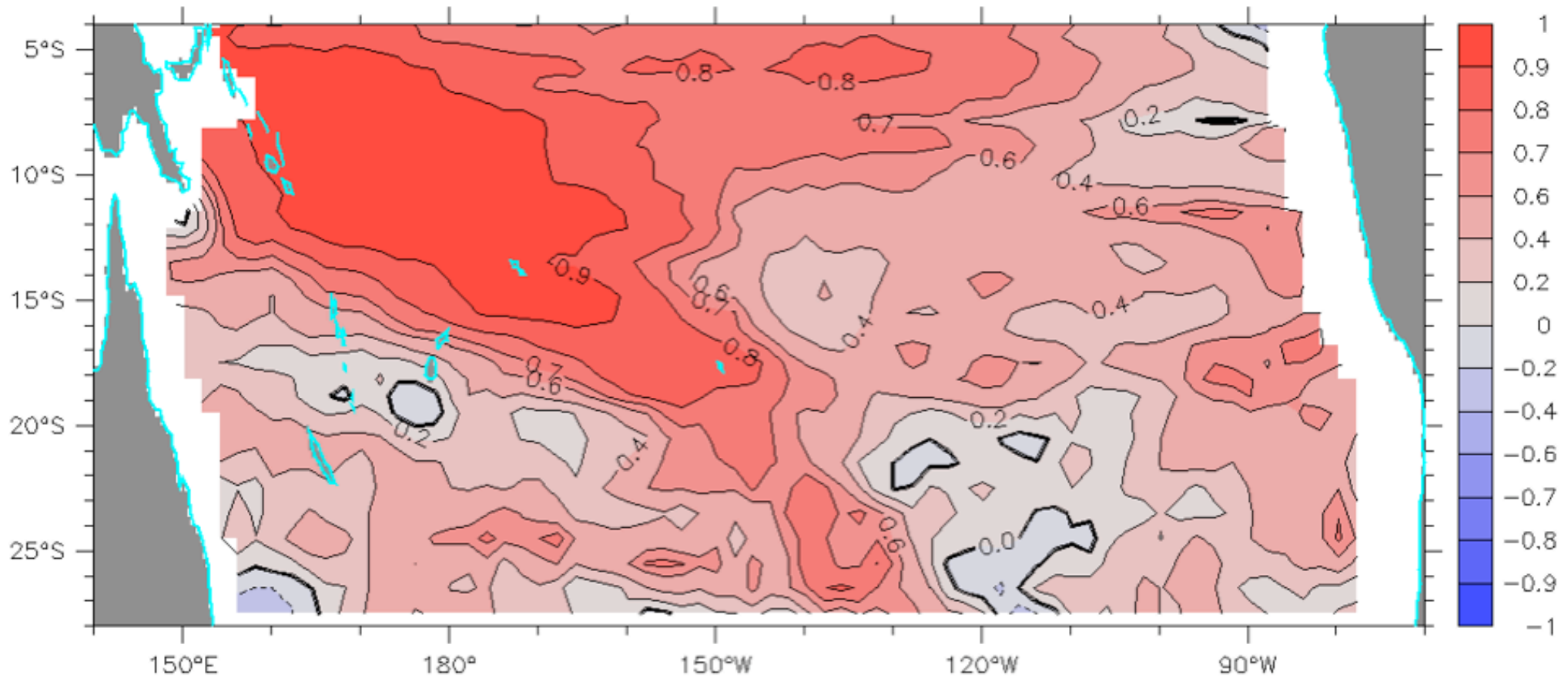


Niveau  
de la mer  
(TOPEX)  
(cm)



Profondeur  
de la  
thermocline  
(Model)  
(m)

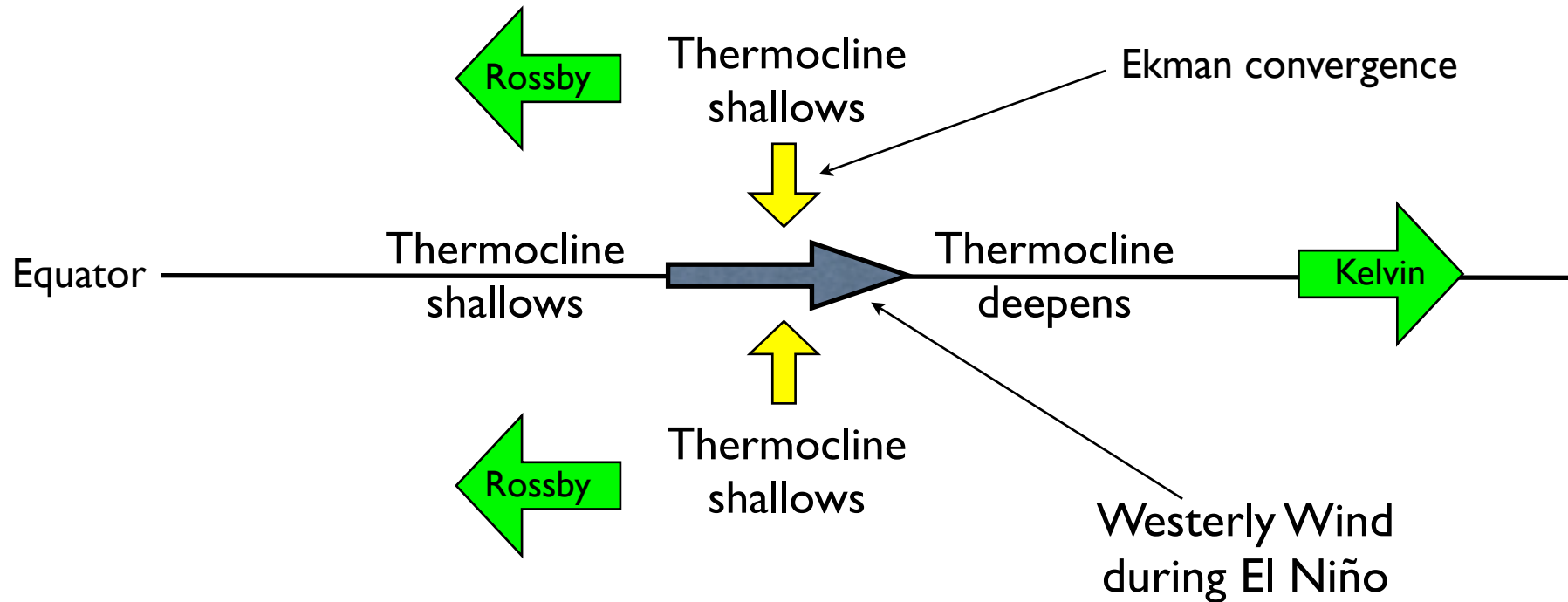
# Correlation entre TOPEX (niveau de la mer) et une modèle des ondes Rossby



Interannual variations 1991-2003

Interior winds only (no eastern boundary influence)

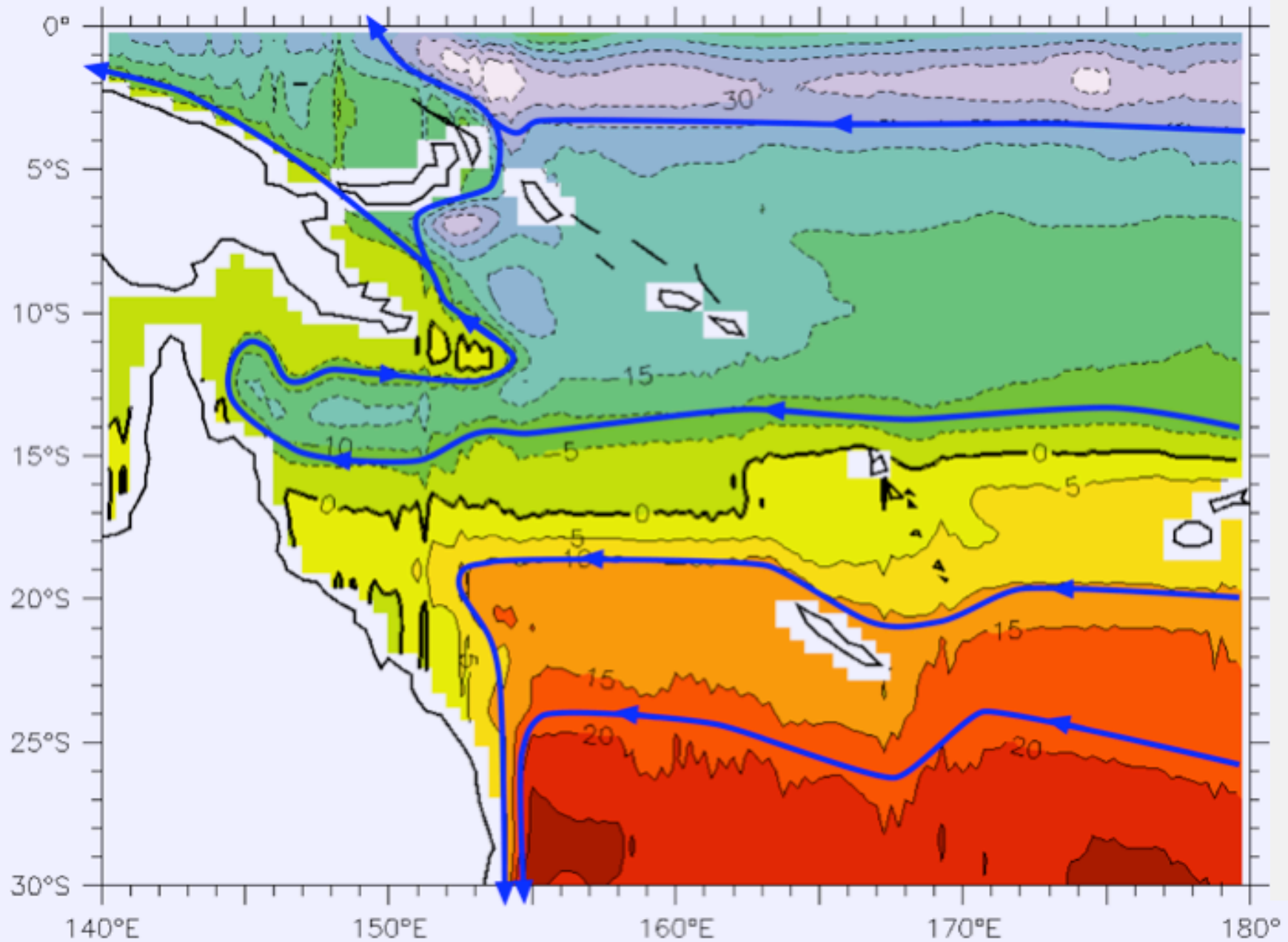
# Equatorial winds generate both Kelvin and Rossby waves



Rossby waves carry the shoaling signal generated by El Niño westerly winds to the off-equatorial western Pacific.



# Fonction de courant (modèle ORCA)

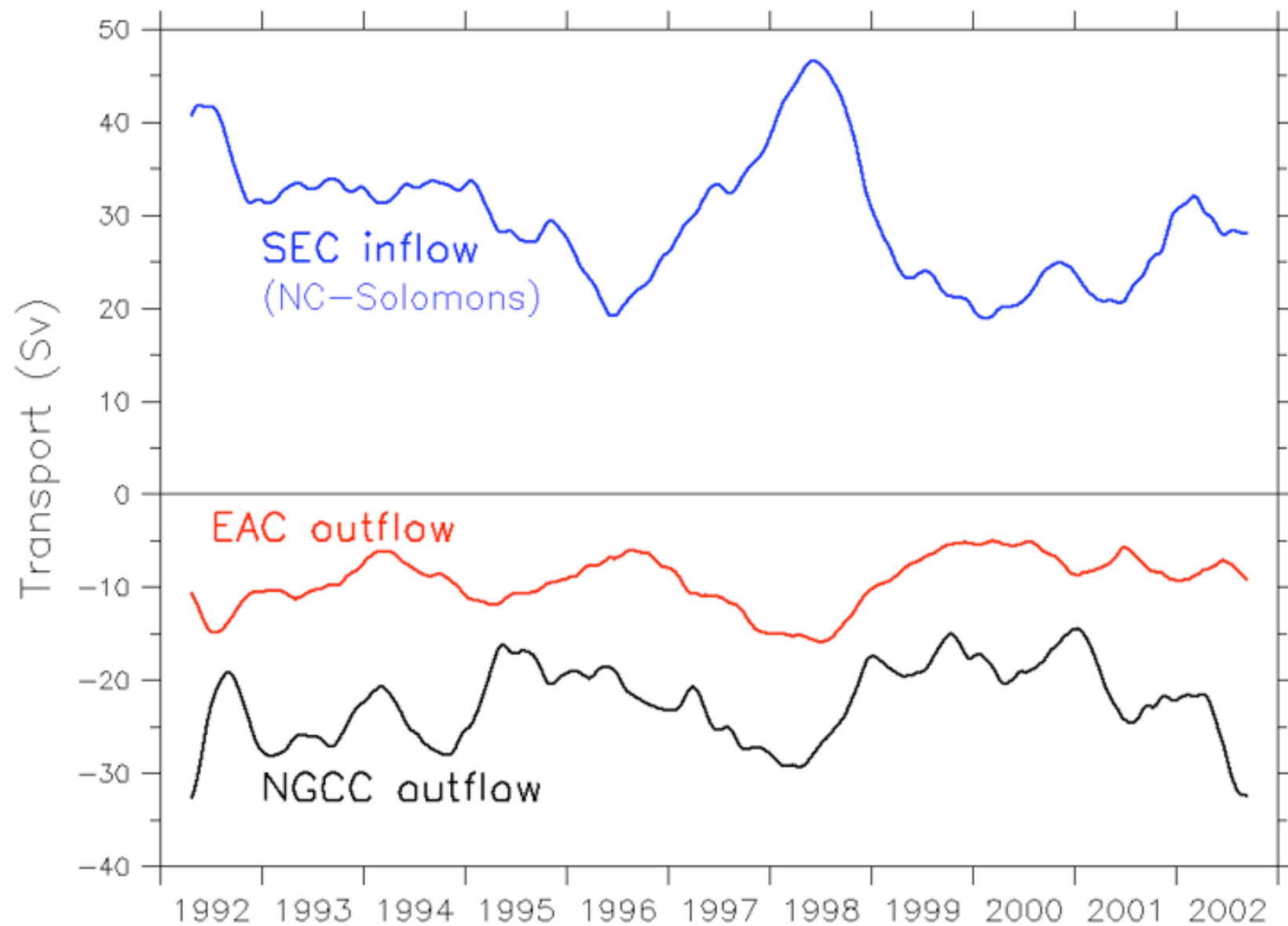


Chaque contour indique 5 Sverdrups transport

# Major in/outflows of the Coral Sea

ORCA model

Work continues .....

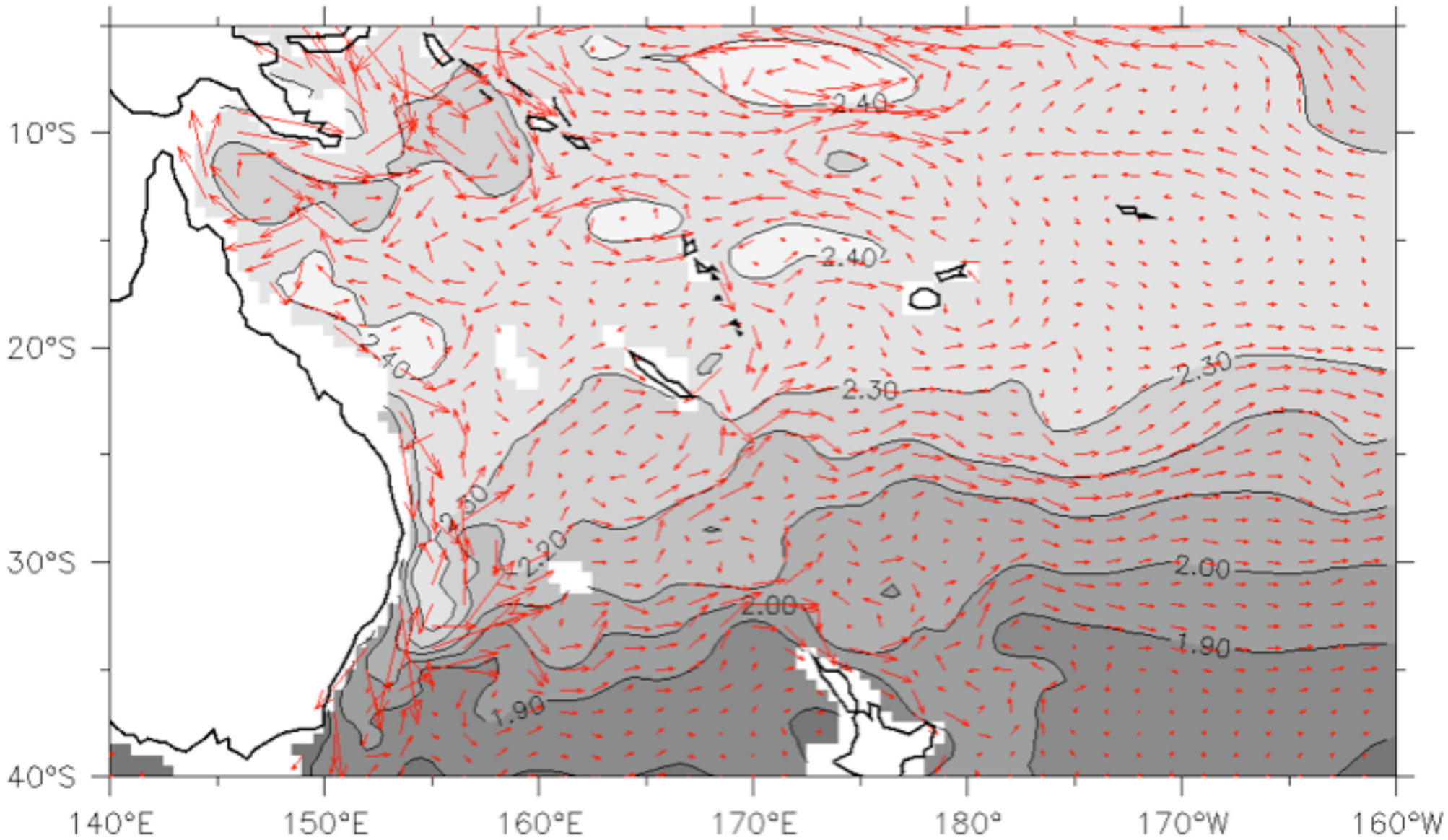


$$r_{\text{SEC/EAC}} = -0.86, \quad r_{\text{SEC/NGCC}} = -0.78$$



# Surface DH and $u_g$

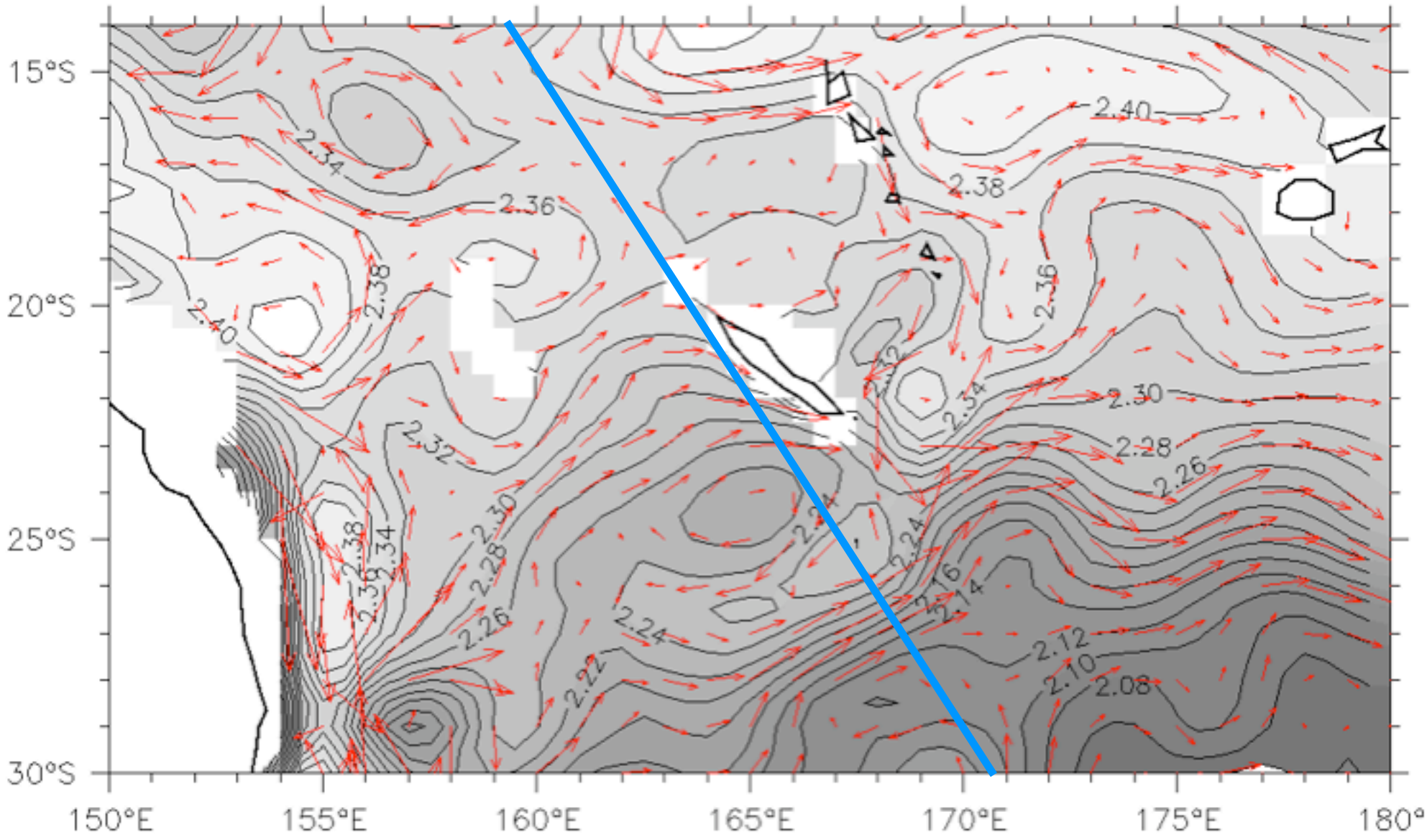
CARS data. Relative to 2000m



→ 20. cm s<sup>-1</sup>

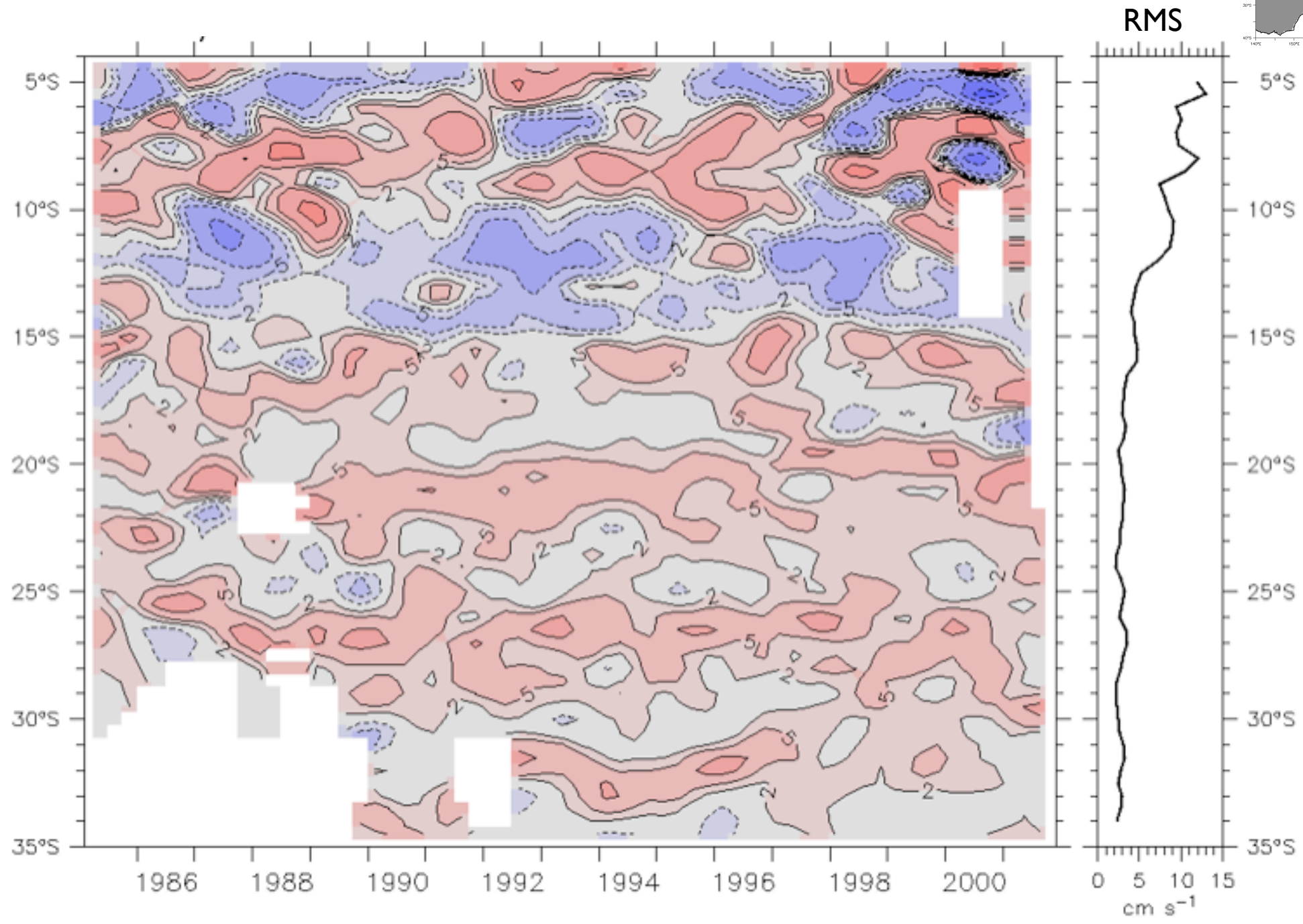
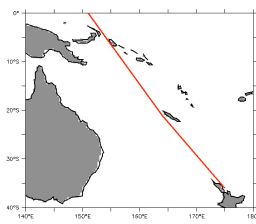
# Surface DH and $u_g$

CARS data. Relative to 2000m



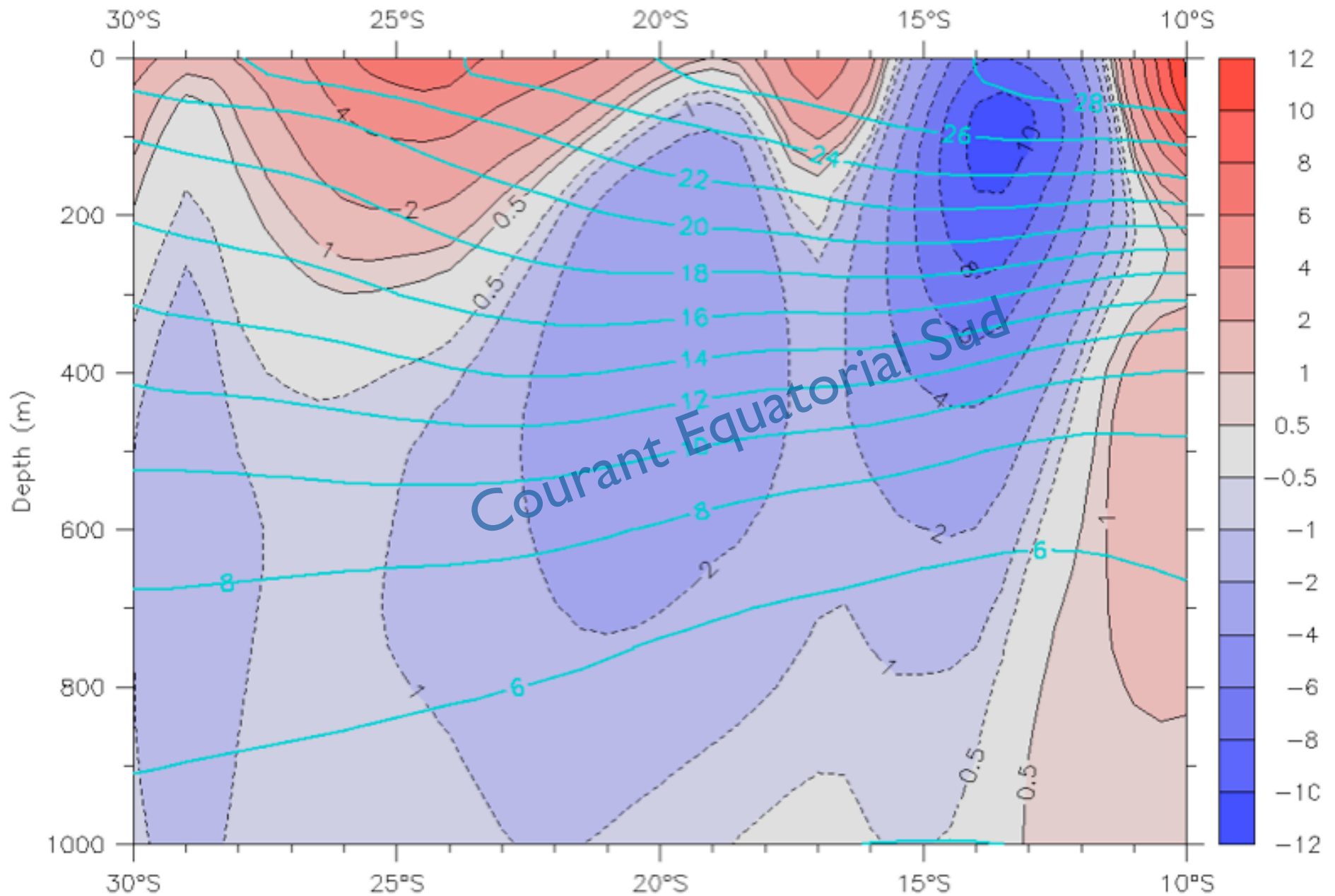
→ 10. cm s<sup>-1</sup>

# Cross-track surface velocity on the XBT track





# Courants zonales sur 170°E – 180°



Les contours bleus indiquent la temperature. Courants relatifs à 2000m

# Le travail poursuit .....

- We observe very strong interannual variability of the South Equatorial Current between NC and the Solomon Islands. This is driven by westward-propagating Rossby waves generated in the central Pacific during the height of El Nino events.
- The large increase and decrease of flow into the Coral Sea is balanced by outflows via the NGCC and the EAC, but how and why these are partitioned remains to be seen (use ORCA model, and plan an observational program).
- The strong upwind surface currents of the South Pacific need a dynamical explanation.