

A STUDY OF EDDIES IN
HAWAIIAN WATERS

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ABSTRACT

Oceanographic observations near the Hawaiian Islands show that the ocean circulation is extremely variable and is dominated by large eddies. Eddy radius varies from 28 to 80 km. The information concerning these eddies has been consolidated and what is known about their behavior is discussed. Some of the analytical relationships that govern eddy motion of this scale have been applied to the observations. The observations and analysis show that the eddies in the lee of Hawaii are locally generated by the existing wind conditions, not by the large-scale flow through the Hawaiian Islands.