

Tidally-induced dispersion of the Storfjorden overflow plume onto the West Svalbard Shelf

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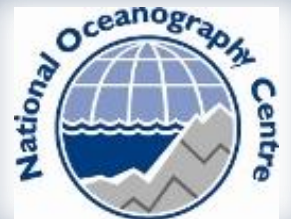
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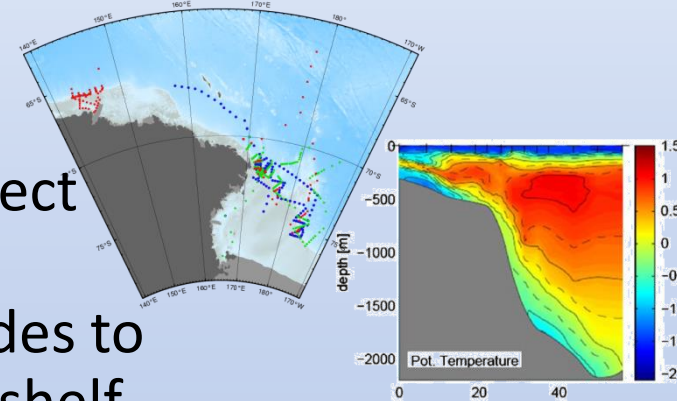


EGU2013-4912



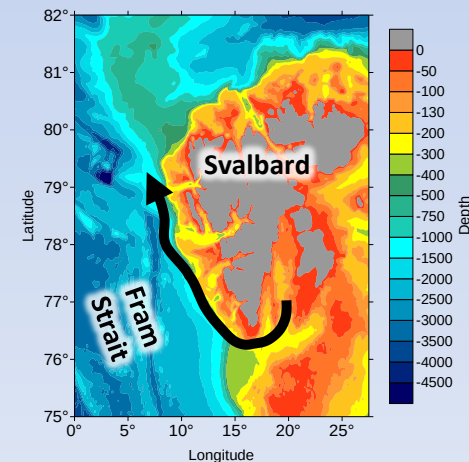
Dense water overflows and tides

- Scarce data until observations of thick dense bottom layer during **AnSlope** project (Gordon et al., 2004; Padman et al., 2009)
- Analytical & idealised models showed tides to increase plume height and augment off-shelf transport (Ou et al., 2009; Guan et al., 2009)



This study: Svalbard, Arctic Ocean

- Realistic model setup
 - Compare simulations with and without tides.
- Which phys. processes explain the differences?
- Can previous findings be applied to Svalbard?

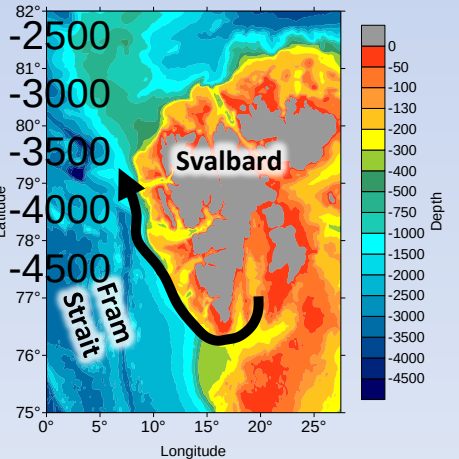
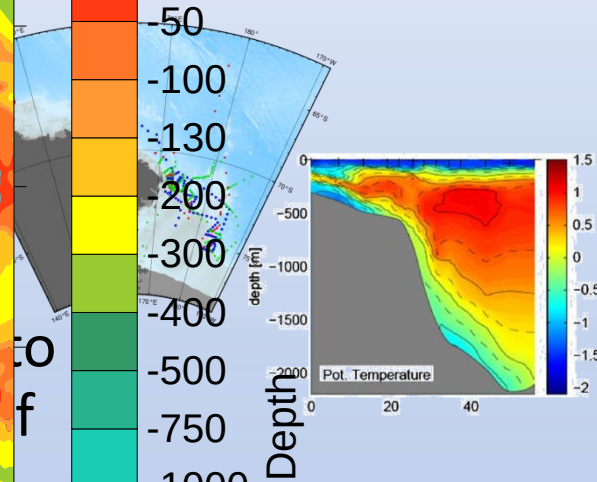
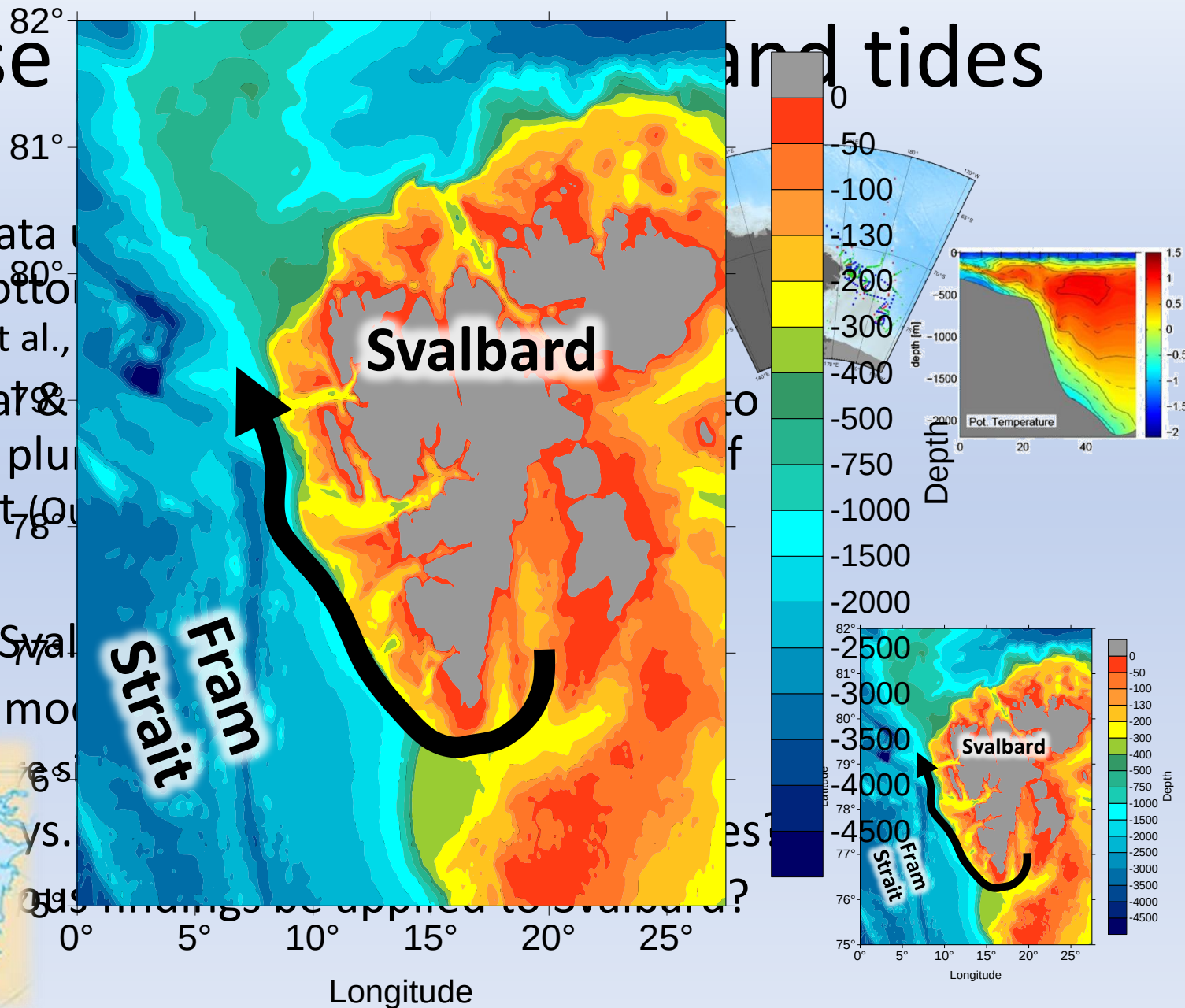
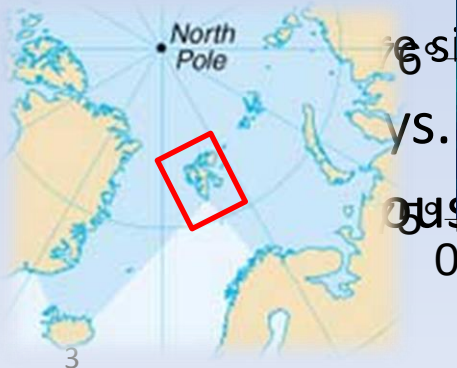


Dense and tides

- Scarce data on dense bottom
- Analytical & increase plus transport (Gordon et al., 1980)

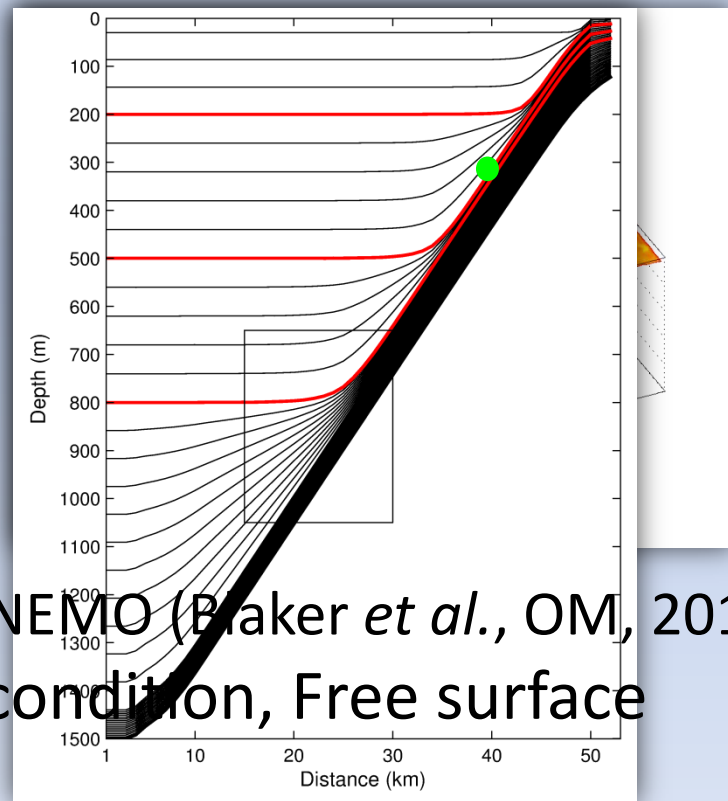
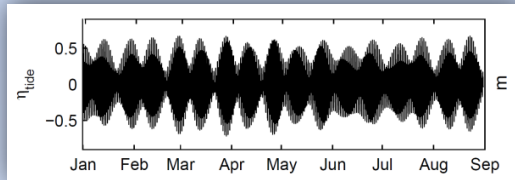
This study: Svalbard

- Realistic model



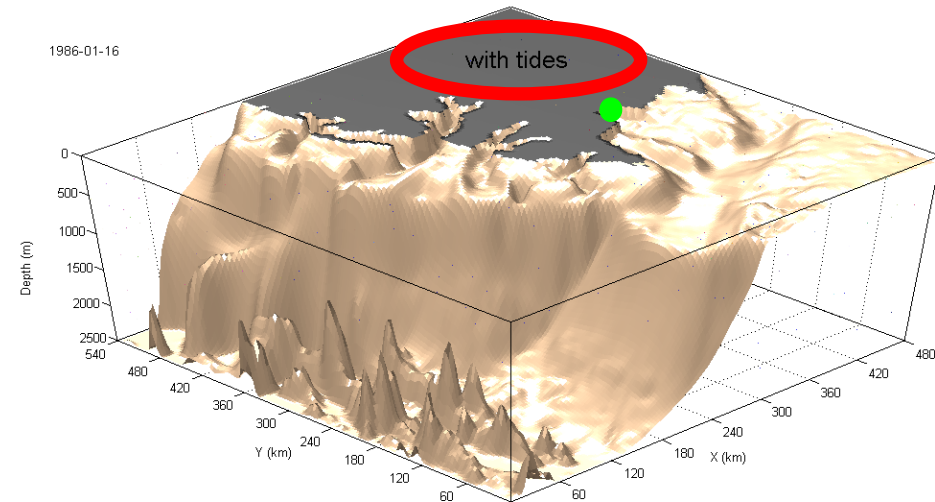
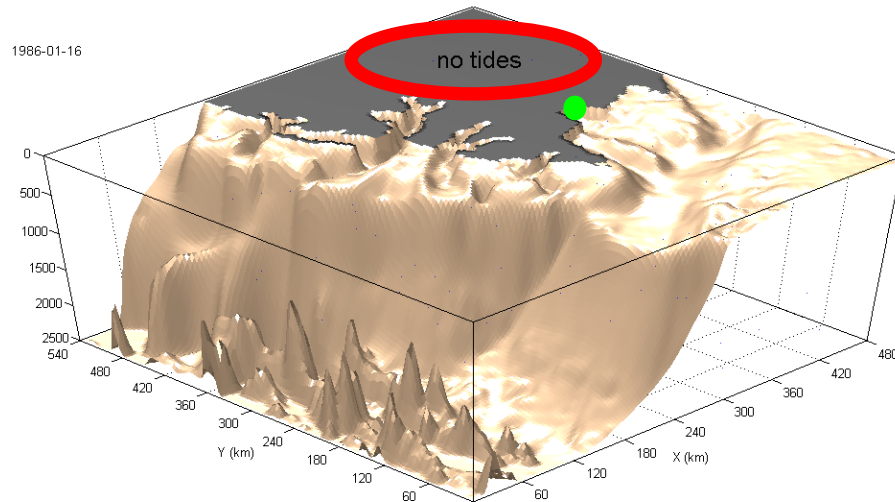
NEMO-Shelf v3.2 (O'Dea *et al.*, 2012)

- 3km horizontal resolution, 50 levels
- s_h -vertical coordinate system (Wobus *et al.*, 2013, OM)
- IBCAO v3 bathymetry
- DFS4.1 meteo forcing
- TPXO7.2 tidal data
- GLS turbulence scheme
- Open boundaries
 - Forcing from 1/12° global NEMO (Blaker *et al.*, OM, 2012)
- No-slip bottom boundary condition, Free surface
- Parameterised overflow
 - Injection of dense water behind sill (●), 4 scenarios for S_{sill}



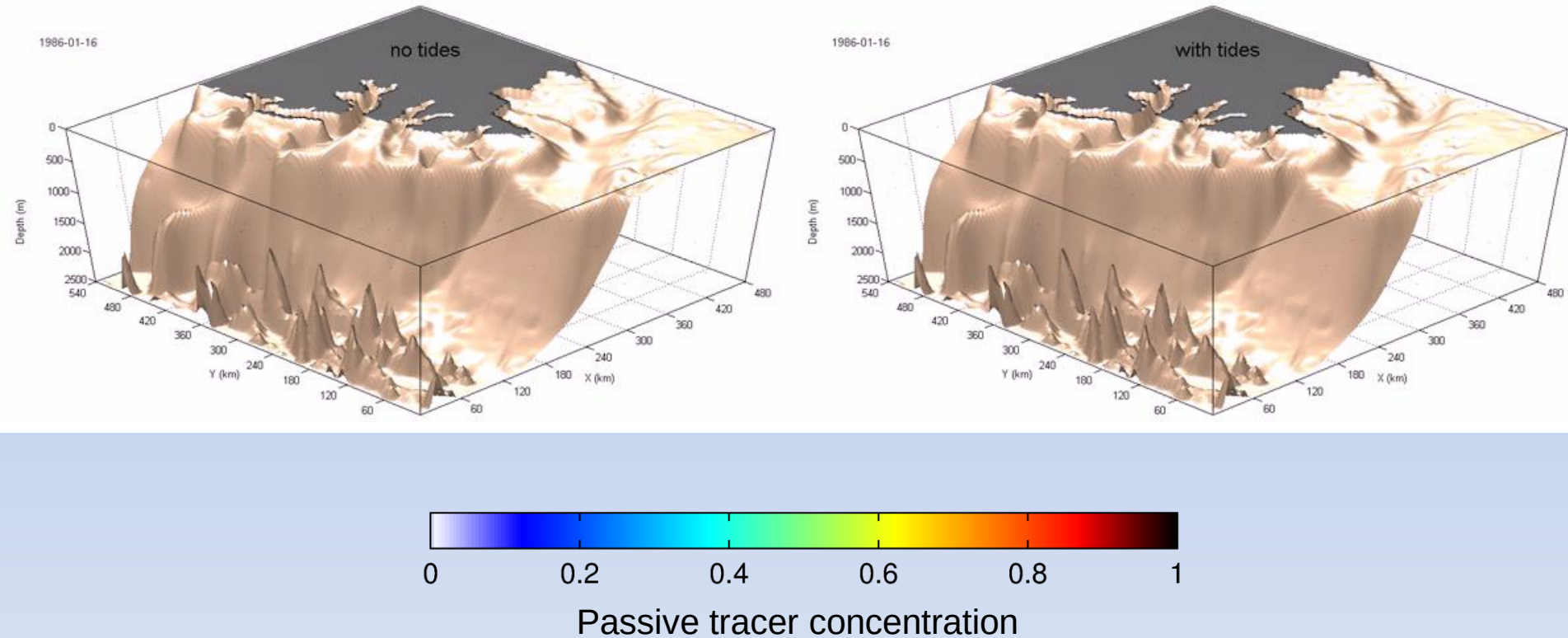
Comparison non-tidal vs tidal

● = parameterised dense water overflow

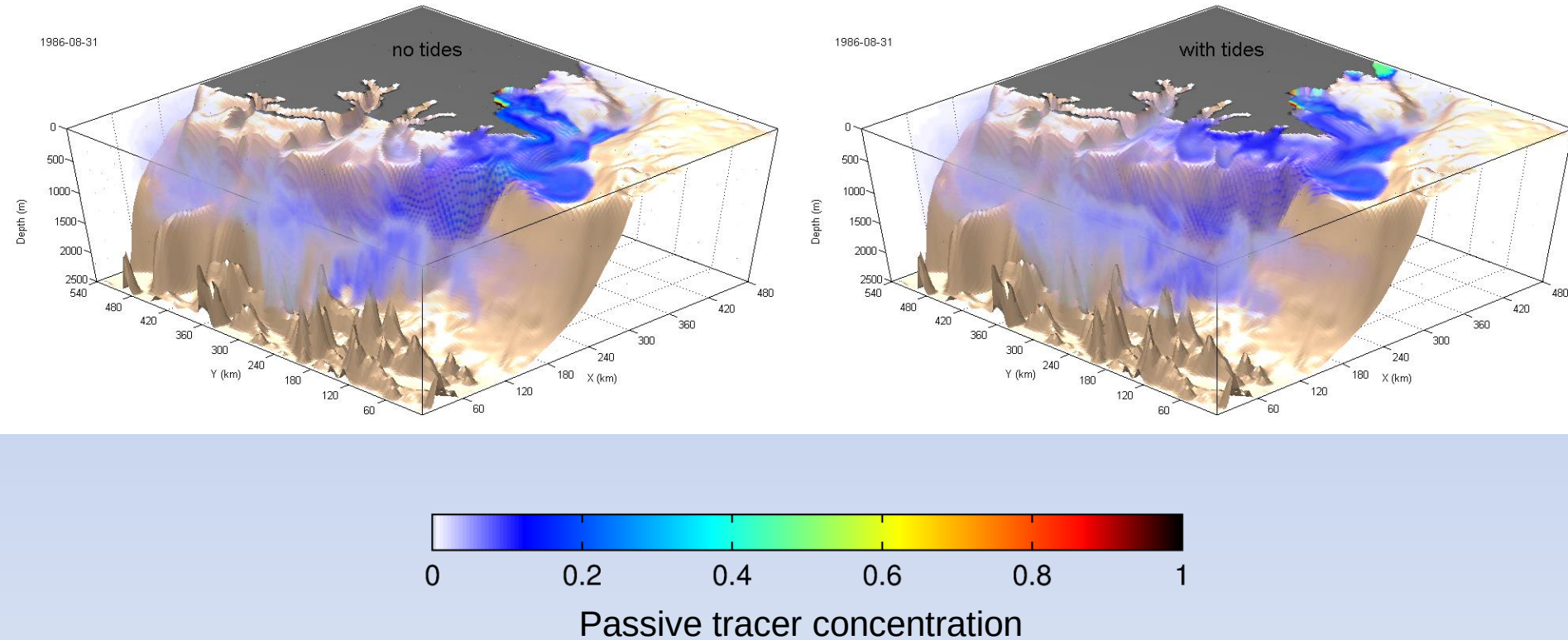


Passive tracer concentration

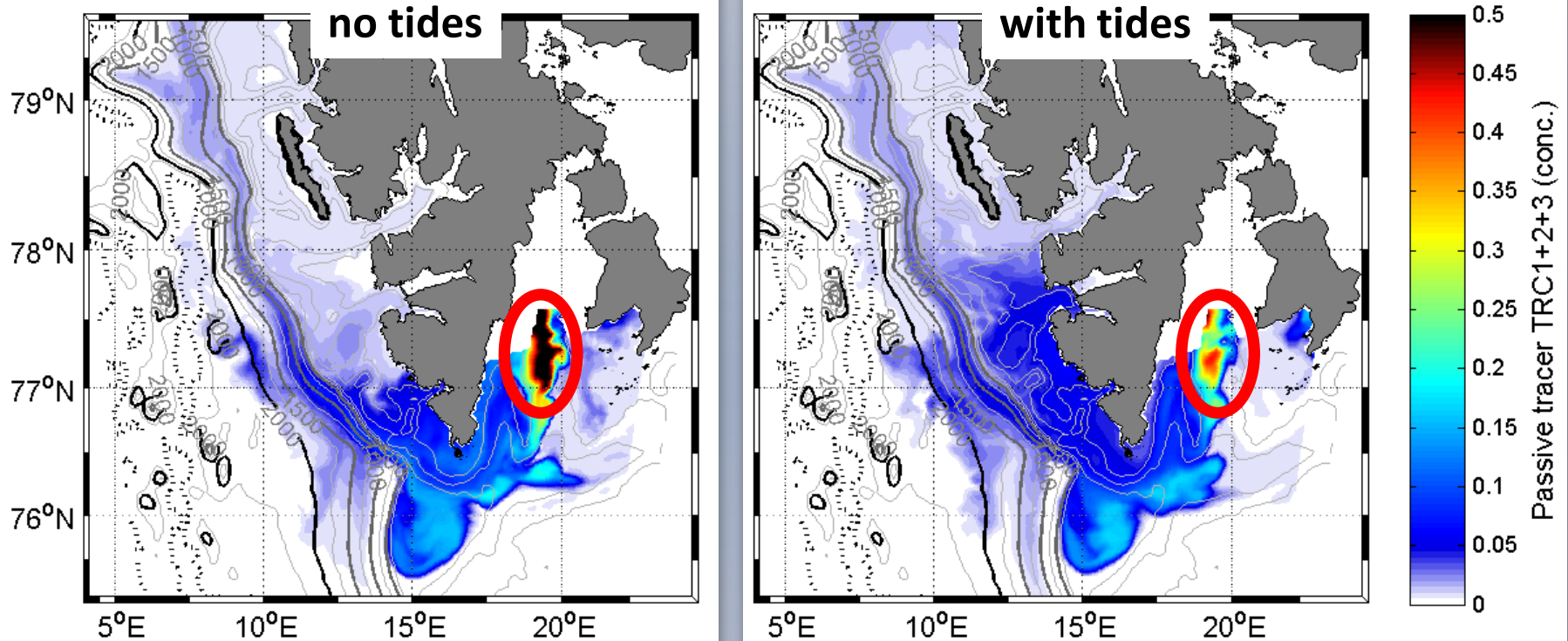
Comparison non-tidal vs tidal



Comparison non-tidal vs tidal

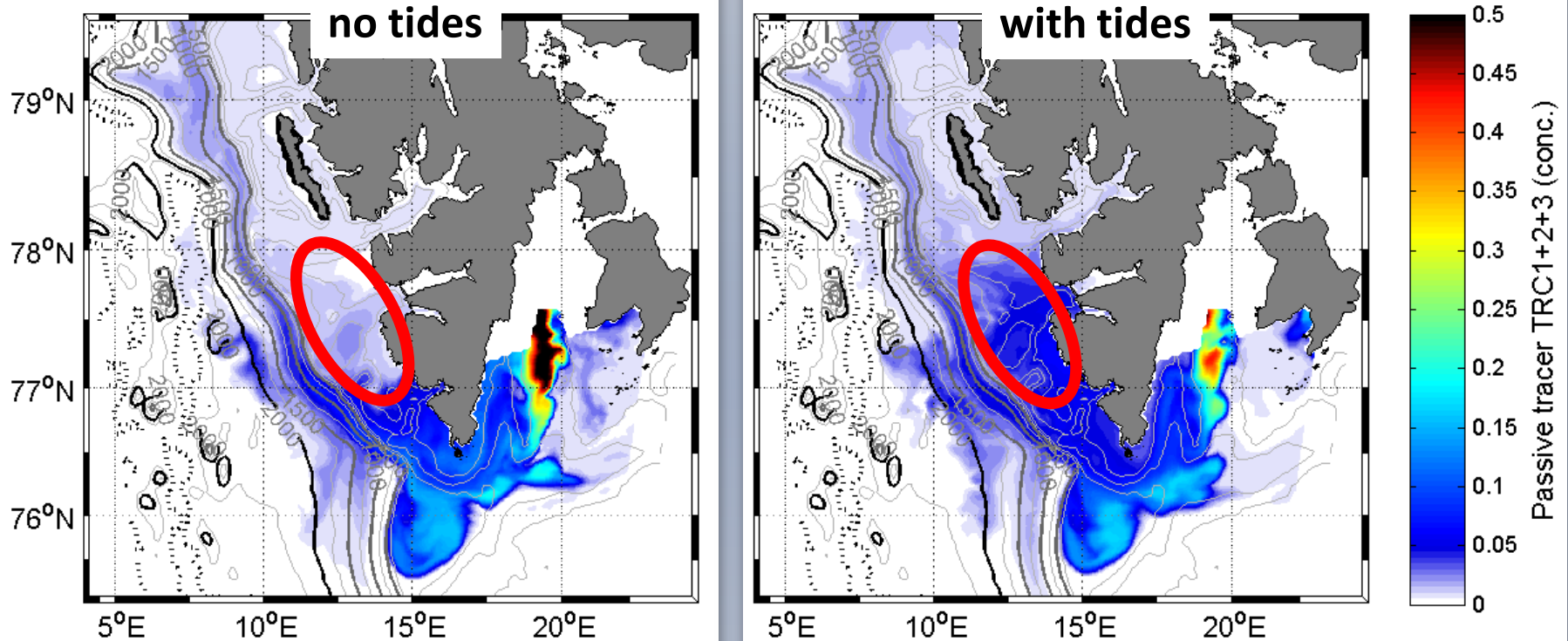


Comparison non-tidal vs tidal



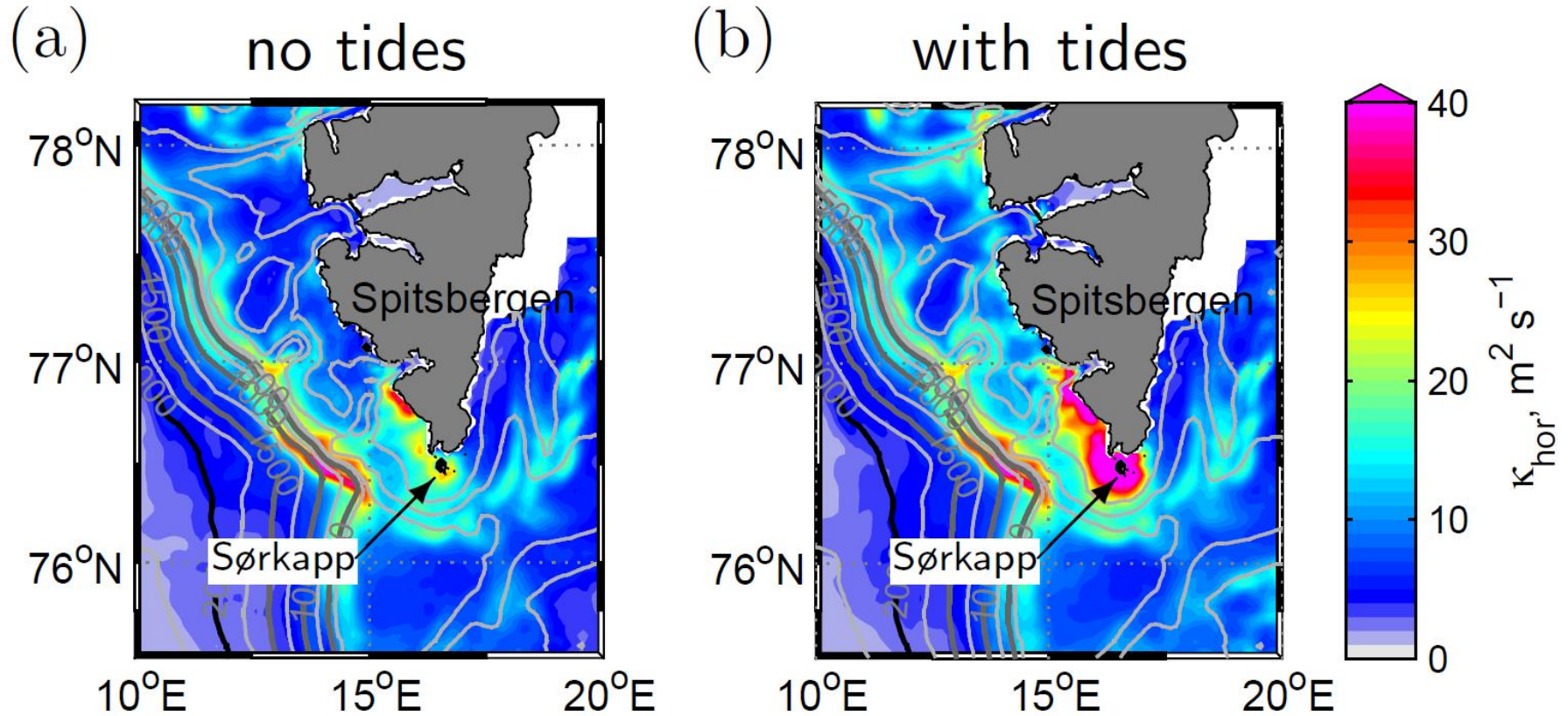
- Tidal effect #1:
Increase drainage of dense water from the fjord

Comparison non-tidal vs tidal



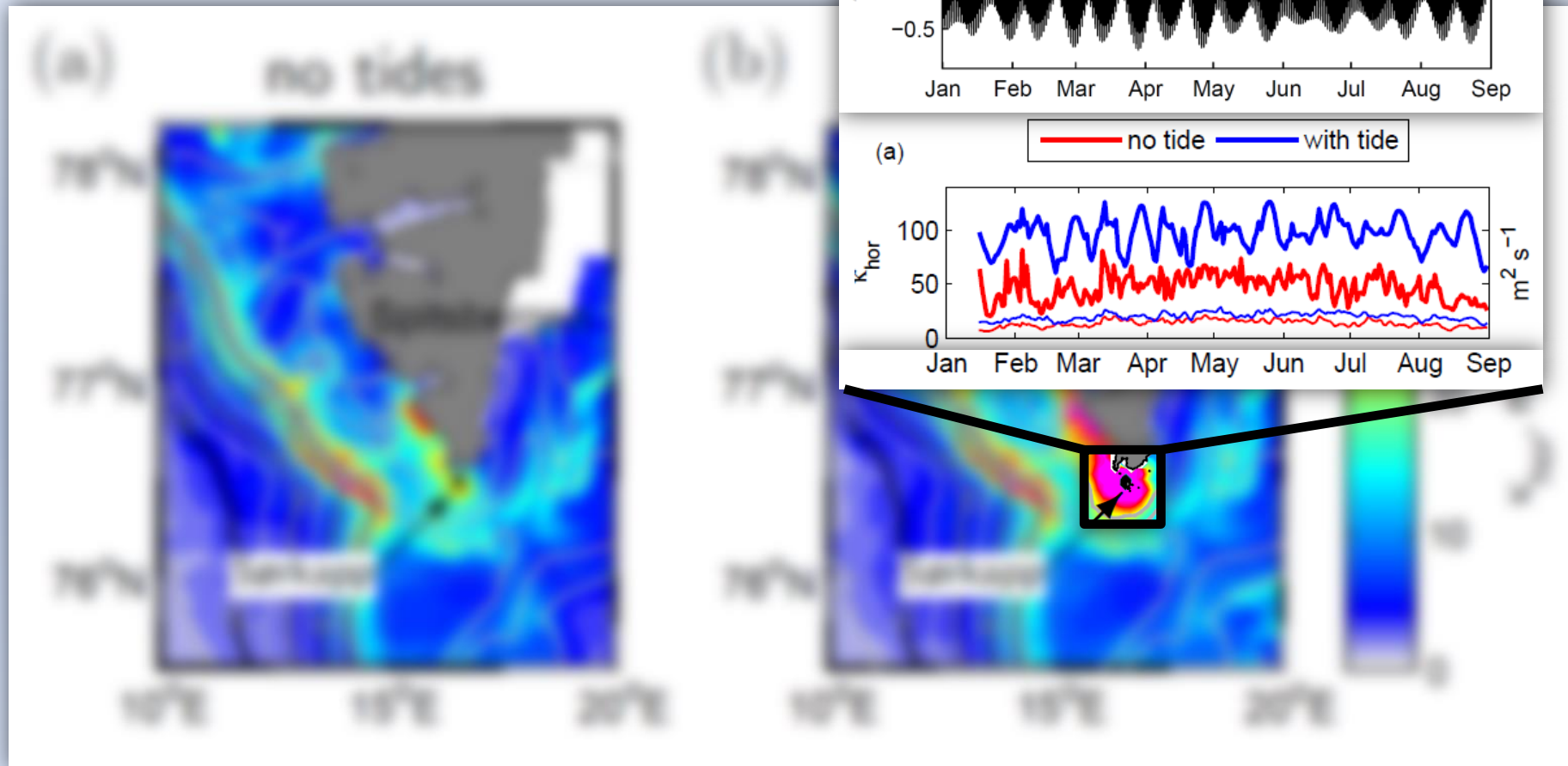
- Tidal effect #2:
Higher concentration of overflow water on shelf
(plume is wider, flow is dispersed)

Horizontal diffusion $D_{hor} = \nabla \cdot (\kappa_{hor} \Re \nabla T)$



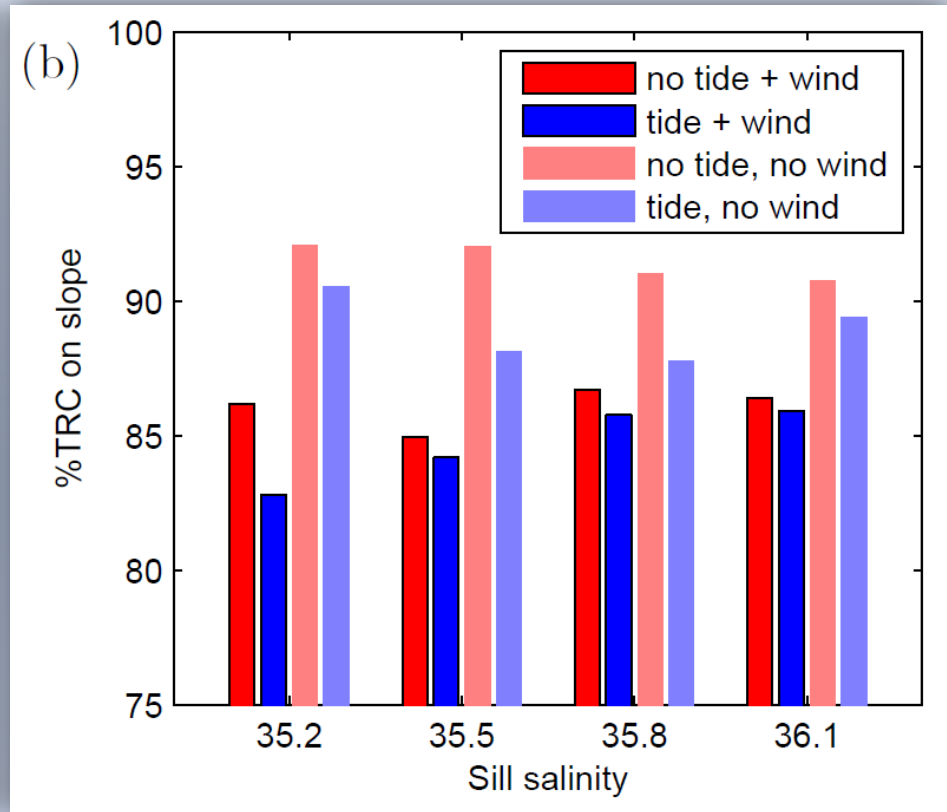
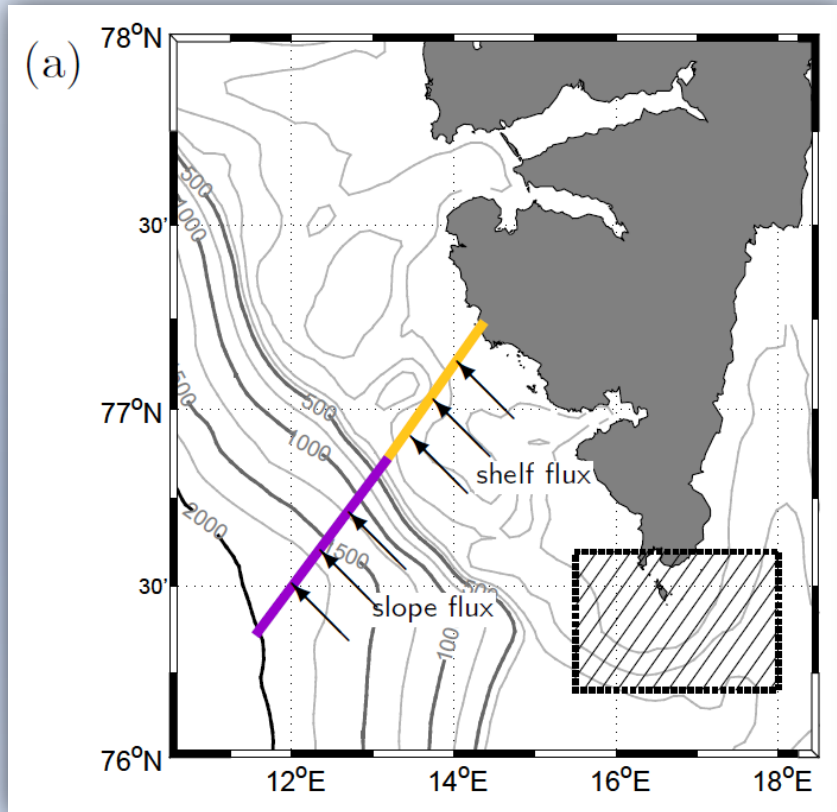
- Increased κ_{hor} around the Sørkapp
 - Tracer gradient ∇T unaffected
- ➡ Tidally enhanced horizontal diffusion

Horizontal diffusion



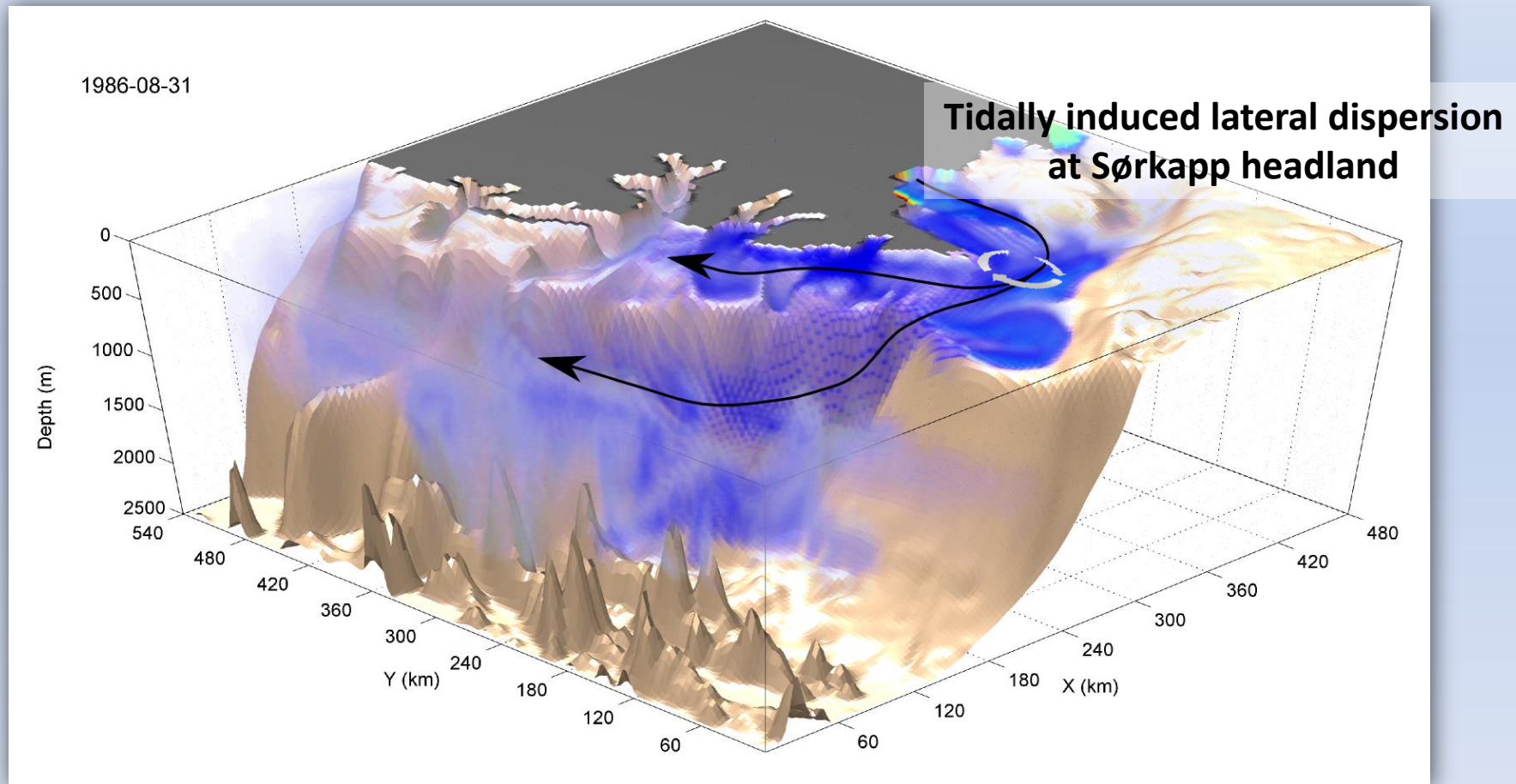
- Increased K_{hor} around the Sørkapp
 - Tracer gradient ∇T unaffected
- ➔ Tidally enhanced horizontal diffusion

Downslope fluxes

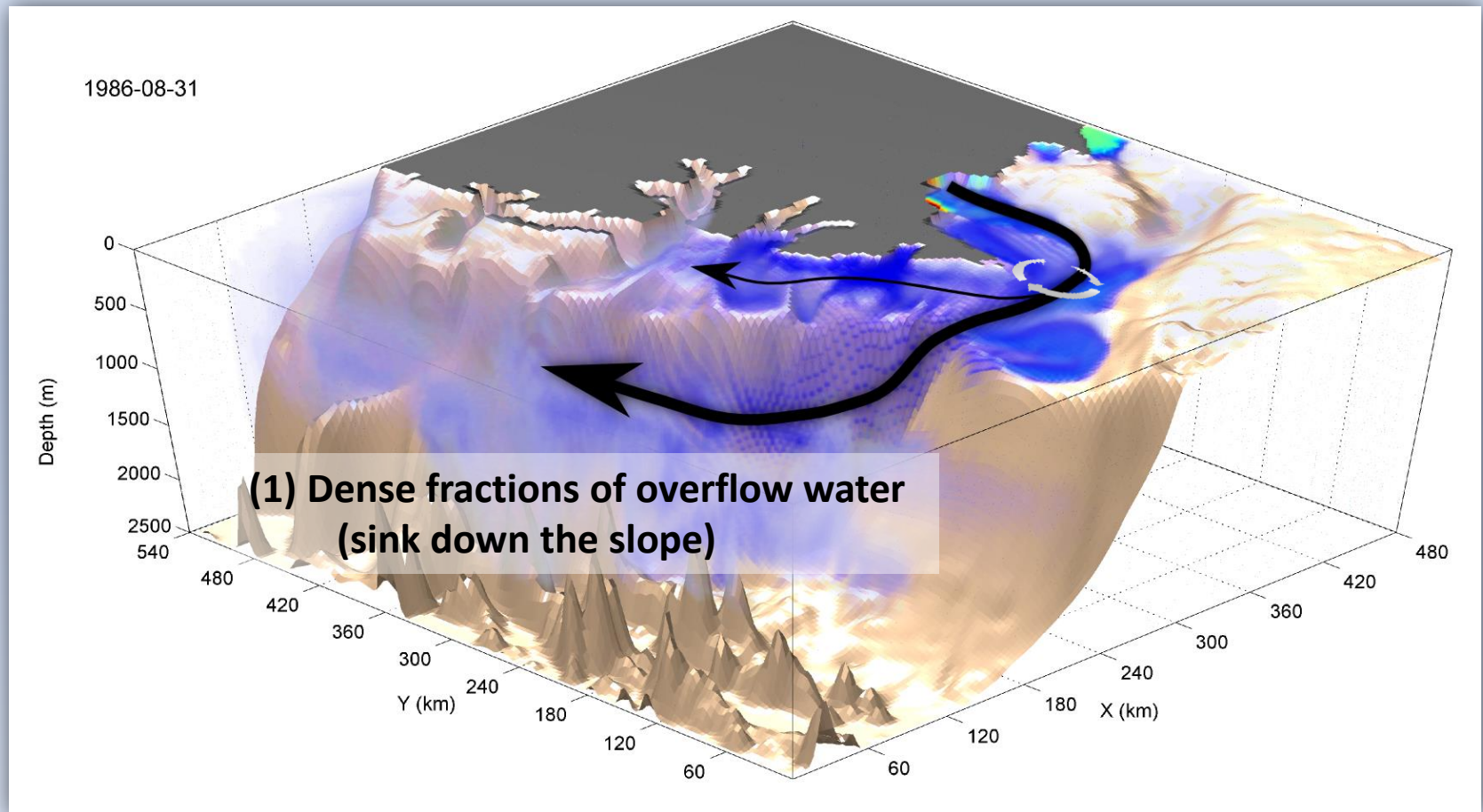


- Tides reduce downslope fluxes on deep slope (!!)
- Greater proportion of overflow water diverted onto shelf

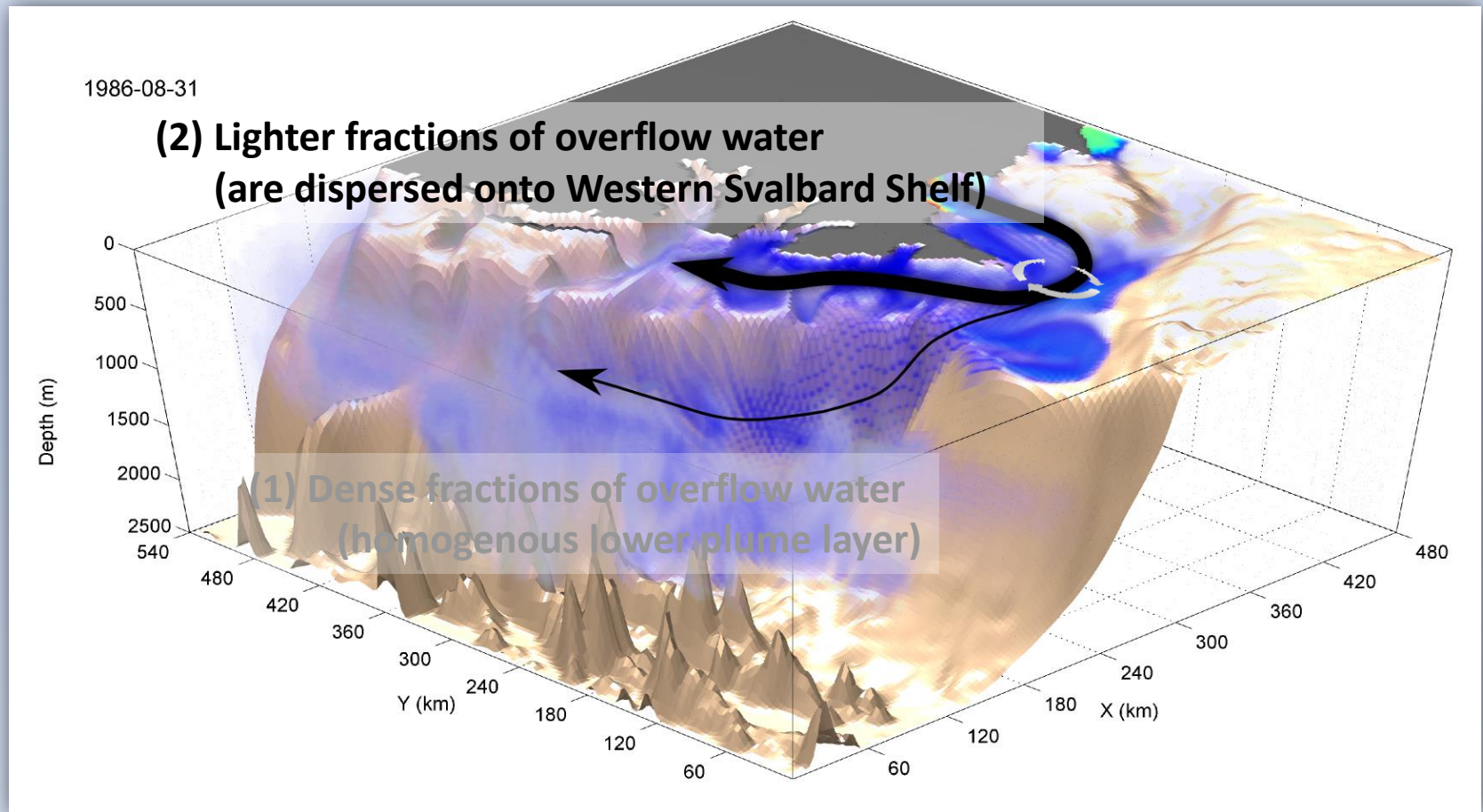
Tidally-induced branching



Tidally-induced branching



Tidally-induced branching



Conclusions

1. During shallow phase of flow (from sill to headland)
 - Thicker plume, increased off-shelf transport (Ou *et al.*, 2009)
 - → Findings of AnSlope models apply
2. During intermediate stage of the flow (at Sørkapp headland)
 - Tidal dispersion at the headland draws overflow waters away from main plume into Svalbard coastal current
 - → **Reduction** in flux of dense waters into deep Fram Strait
 - Intense overflow episodes are accompanied by increased fluxes of Storfjorden water on to the shelf and into the fjords of Western Svalbard
3. Tides are significant in models of dense water overflows
 - *see also* Postlethwaite *et al.* (OS, 2011) and Holloway & Proshutinsky (JGR, 2007)
4. **Where abrupt topography intersects the plume path, tidal effects around may alter downslope fluxes**

Ocean Science Discussions

<http://www.ocean-sci-discuss.net/10/691/2013/osd-10-691-2013.html>

Ocean Sci. Discuss., 10, 691–726, 2013
www.ocean-sci-discuss.net/10/691/2013/
doi:10.5194/osd-10-691-2013
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This discussion paper is/has been under review for the journal Ocean Science (OS).
Please refer to the corresponding final paper in OS if available.

Tidally-induced lateral dispersion of the Storfjorden overflow plume

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Received: 14 March 2013 – Accepted: 25 March 2013 – Published: 8 April 2013
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Published by Copernicus Publications on behalf of the European Geosciences Union.

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10, 691–726, 2013

Tidal dispersion of the Storfjorden overflow

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Abstract EGU2013-4912

Tidally-induced dispersion of the Storfjorden overflow plume onto the West Svalbard Shelf

We investigate the flow of brine-enriched shelf water from the Storfjorden (Svalbard) into Fram Strait and onto the Western Svalbard Shelf using NEMO, a 3D numerical ocean circulation model, in a regional setup with realistic bathymetry, full meteorology, open boundary conditions and tides. The model has 3 km horizontal resolution and 50 vertical levels in the s_h -coordinate system which is specially designed to resolve bottom boundary layer processes.

In a series of experiments varying initial plume density and wind strength we focus on the influence of the tides on the propagation of the dense water plume by turning on and off the tidal forcing at the model boundaries.

Simulations including tides consistently reveal increased horizontal diffusivity around the Sørkapp, the southernmost headland of Spitsbergen, which is in close proximity to the plume path. Due to the tides and largely independent of wind effects the plume widens and laterally disperses as it spreads into Storfjordrenna, the trough steering the plume's path from the fjord towards the continental slope. On the shallow shelf the tides also increase the vertical diffusivity and thus plume height, with wind-driven turbulence contributing to this effect.

We find that a tidally augmented exchange between the Svalbard Coastal Current and lighter fractions of overflow water leads to their propagation onto the Western Svalbard Shelf where water of Storfjorden origin may enter several large fjords. Based on our results from the Storfjorden we conclude that tidal modulation during the shallow phase of the overflow could also be important for other dense water cascades originating in shallow shelf regions.