

of 100, and produce order-of-magnitude increases in τ . Farther downstream (Figure 1a; BP97's sections D and E), large-scale budgets indicate a weakening of the total stress to ~ 0.5 Pa (BP97), consistent with a reduction in ϵ , K_m and K_ρ as the Med approaches geostrophic equilibrium over the broad continental slope. However, the total entrainment remains substantial during much of the 140 km from Camarinal Sill [Baringer and Price, 1997a], indicating continued mixing during the Med's descent to terminal depth. Whether fine-scale topographic effects control the cumulative entrainment farther downstream remains an open question. In any event, numerical prediction of the Med's ultimate composition will likely require resolving or parameterizing the effect of turbulent dynamics over $O(1)$ km scale topographic features [Özgökmen and Fischer, 2008].

[29] There is increasing evidence that the composition of Mediterranean Outflow waters have been changing on decadal timescales [Millot et al., 2006]. It has been suggested that anthropogenic changes may lead to a warmer and less dense Med Outflow [Thorpe and Bigg, 2000]. Because mixing is sensitive to subtle changes in flow stability, it is unlikely that numerical models that use "tuned" mixing parameterizations will adequately model bulk entrainment correctly under future scenarios where the outflow interacts differently with topographic complexity. It is thus imperative that the effects of fine-scale topographic roughness be captured or accurately parameterized in GCMs [e.g., Özgökmen et al., 2004] to avoid significant errors in climate predictions [Legg et al., 2009].

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