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Evolution of Oceanic Near Surface Stratification in Response to an Autumn Storm

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ABSTRACT

18 Understanding the processes that control the evolution of the ocean surface
19 boundary layer (OSBL) is a prerequisite for obtaining accurate simulations of
20 air-sea fluxes of heat and trace gases. Observations of the rate of dissipation of
21 turbulent kinetic energy (ϵ), temperature, salinity, current structure and wave-
22 field over a period of 9.5 days in the NE Atlantic during the Ocean Surface
23 Mixing, Ocean Submesoscale Interaction Study (OSMOSIS), are presented.
24 The focus of this study is a storm which passed over the observational area
25 during this period. The profiles of ϵ in the OSBL are consistent with profiles
26 from large eddy simulation (LES) of Langmuir turbulence. In the transition
27 layer (TL), at the base of the OSBL, ϵ was found to vary periodically at the
28 local inertial frequency. A simple bulk model of the OSBL and a parametrisa-
29 tion of shear driven turbulence in the TL are developed. The parametrisation
30 of ϵ is based on assumptions about the momentum balance of the OSBL and
31 shear across the TL. The predicted rate of deepening, heat budget and the in-
32 ertial currents in the OSBL were in good agreement with the observations,
33 as is the agreement between the observed value of ϵ and that predicted using
34 the parametrisation. A previous study reported spikes of elevated dissipation
35 related to enhanced wind-shear alignment at the base of the OSBL after this
36 storm. The spikes in dissipation are not predicted by this new parametrisation,
37 implying that they are not an important source of dissipation during the storm.

38 1. Introduction

39 The ocean surface boundary layer (OSBL) is a critical interface in the Earth system, through
40 which heat, freshwater, momentum and trace gases are fluxed between the atmosphere and the
41 ocean (Belcher et al. 2012; Rippeth et al. 2014). Because of its importance, there is strong interest
42 in understanding the processes that determine the characteristics and evolution of the OSBL (e.g.
43 Kilbourne and Garton (2015); Aijaz et al. (2017)).

44 Mixing by turbulence in the OSBL tends to produce a layer with relatively weak vertical gra-
45 dients in temperature and salinity which will be referred to as the well-mixed layer (WML). The
46 WML is separated from the deeper ocean by a stratified transition layer (TL). Current shear across
47 the transition layer may be associated with near inertial waves (NIW) (Plueddemann and Weller
48 1999), which are a ubiquitous feature of the surface ocean (Pollard 1980; D’Asaro 1985), and
49 are a significant energy source driving turbulent mixing in the ocean (Alford 2003; Watanabe and
50 Hibiya 2002). The generation of inertial motions in the OSBL is highly intermittent, with storms
51 providing an important source of energy (D’Asaro 1985; Large and Crawford 1995).

52 The shear associated with the NIW is concentrated across the stratified transition layer (Pollard
53 and Millard 1970; D’Asaro 1985), which is often in a state of marginal stability, with a Richard-
54 son number $O(1)$, so that the shear may result in the generation of turbulence in the TL (Johnston
55 and Rudnick 2009; Rippeth et al. 2005, 2009). Observations reported by Burchard and Rippeth
56 (2009); Lenn et al. (2011); Brannigan et al. (2013); Lincoln et al. (2016) suggest that the genera-
57 tion of turbulence within the transition layer is a result of surface wind and current shear alignment
58 which produces enhanced shear at the base of the WML. Using a one-dimensional model, Plued-
59 demann and Farrar (2006) showed that the energy input into the NIW is balanced by the downward

60 propagation of NIW energy, and the local dissipation due to shear generated turbulence within the
61 TL.

62 Generation of turbulence by shear across the TL is particularly efficient when the rate at which
63 near surface winds rotate due to the motion of a storm, matching the inertial period of the wind-
64 driven currents (Large and Crawford 1995; Dohan and Davis 2011; Chen et al. 2015). This reso-
65 nance condition allows large shears to build at the base of the well-mixed layer, which can lead to
66 the growth of a stratified shear layer below the WML, without significant impact on the thickness
67 of the WML (Dohan and Davis 2011; Johnston et al. 2016; Chen et al. 2016).

68 Skillingstad et al. (2000) used large-eddy simulation (LES) to look at shear production in the TL
69 for resonant and non-resonant situations. Compared to resonant conditions, the predicted current
70 shear and turbulence were significantly smaller for non-resonant conditions. Grant and Belcher
71 (2011) have derived a parametrisation for the magnitude of the maximum shear production and
72 dissipation at the base of the WML, due to resonant wind forcing.

73 Here we present measurements of the dissipation rate, ϵ , temperature and salinity of the wa-
74 ter column, obtained by an Ocean Microstructure Glider over a period of 9.5 days. The mea-
75 surements were obtained during the process cruise of the OSMOSIS (Ocean Surface Mixing and
76 Submesoscale Interaction Study) project in the North East Atlantic in September 2012.

77 During the period of the observations a significant storm occurred. The aim of this study is to
78 investigate the processes responsible for the evolution of the OSBL during the storm. To achieve
79 this aim we will combine the profiles of ϵ from the microstructure glider, with supporting data, to
80 test a new parametrisation for OSBL mixing.

81 This paper is arranged as follows: Section 2 gives a description of the observational campaign
82 together with the methods used to collect the data. Section 3 provides a description of the main

83 experimental results, Section 4 describes the turbulence measurements in the transition layer, and
84 Section 5 concludes the paper with a discussion of the key results.

85 **2. Observations and Modelling**

86 The observations used in this study were collected during a multidisciplinary cruise aboard the
87 Royal Research Ship Discovery (Allen et al. 2012), as part of the NERC OSMOSIS project. The
88 cruise took place in the vicinity of the Porcupine Abyssal Plain (PAP) observatory (48.69°N,
89 16.19°W) which is to the south west of the UK. The site is representative of the open ocean, with
90 a water depth of ~ 4800 m. The measurements were made from the evening of the 17th September
91 2012, to the evening of the 27th September (year days 260 to 270).

92 The observations to be discussed were obtained using: 1) an Ocean Microstructure glider
93 (OMG); 2) a TRIAXYS directional wave buoy; 3) ship borne measurements of meteorological
94 data and 4) water velocities from an ADCP.

95 *a. Ocean Microstructure Glider (OMG)*

96 The OMG was a *Teledyne Webb Research* Slocum coastal electric glider equipped with an un-
97 pumped SeaBird CTD sensor and a *Rockland Scientific International* MicroRider microstructure
98 package. The OMG microstructure package samples shear microstructure, from which estimates
99 of the dissipation rate, ϵ , of turbulent kinetic energy (TKE) were determined (Fer et al. 2014;
100 Palmer et al. 2015). During the OSMOSIS cruise, the glider profiled between the sea surface and
101 ~ 100 m depth, capturing 1420 profiles over 9.5 days. A profile was obtained approximately every
102 10 minutes, with a 20 minute gap for data upload every 10 profiles.

103 Spikes in the raw OMG microstructure shear data were removed by hand, after which the dis-
104 sipation was calculated in bins of approximately 1 m vertical resolution following the methods

outlined in Merckelbach et al. (2010), Fer et al. (2014) and Palmer et al. (2015). Close to the ocean surface the dissipation estimates can be contaminated by glider motions induced by surface waves. To account for this, the near surface portion of the glider dissipation profiles have been truncated to exclude data from the surface to the deepest of: a) the significant wave height; b) the point where the glider speed drops below one standard deviation from the median (for this deployment); and c) the point where the glider pitch changes by more than one standard deviation from the median value (for this deployment). Typically the cutoff depth is about 5m.

Conductivity, temperature and depth (CTD) were provided by standard payload sensors (Sea-bird Electronics) housed in the central section of the OMG and are used to calculate salinity and density. CTD data were collected at 1 Hz during periods when the MicroRider was operative. Errors in salinity and density may occur due to inconsistencies between temperature and conductivity sensors, which are partly attributable to the physical separation of sensors and different response times, both of which can be simply corrected for. The raw temperature data from the un-pumped CTD sensor was low pass filtered (using a 3rd-order Butterworth filter), subsequently corrections to account for thermal inertia in the conductivity cell were made following the methods of Lueck and Picklo (1990) using modified parameters according to Palmer et al. (2015).

Temperature and salinity were then calibrated against CTD profiles obtained from the ship. Between year days 269 - 270.4, the un-pumped CTD sensor on the glider failed, and for this period temperatures have been obtained from the MicroRider probe. To ensure the MicroRider temperatures were consistent with the CTD temperatures a regression was made between the two instruments when they showed the same structure, between the deep water ($75 - 100m$) and surface waters ($1 - 20m$), and was used to reconstruct temperature when the CTD failed. It was not possible to reconstruct the missing salinity data.

128 *b. The TRIAXYS Wave Buoy*

129 The TRIAXYS directional wave buoy was deployed on the 7th September and recovered on
130 the 27th September 2012, providing spectral energy data from 0 to 0.64Hz in frequency bins of
131 0.01Hz, with directional-dependence resolved to 3° divisions, captured every 20 minutes. The
132 Stokes drift, U_{s0} , is the integral of the third moment of the energy spectrum, and is estimated
133 following Webb and Fox-Kemper (2011), namely:

$$U_{s0} = \frac{16\pi^3}{g} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\infty (\cos\theta, \sin\theta) \omega^3 F^2(\omega, \theta) d\omega d\theta \quad (1)$$

134 where ω is the wave frequency and θ the directional-angle. In practice the wave buoy has a
135 physical cut-off frequency after 0.64Hz, such that the highest frequency components of the wave
136 field are not resolved. Thus for each time stamp and direction, a best-fit tail is extrapolated from
137 the cut-off frequency using a minus 5th order power law (Phillips 1977). This directional patch
138 for the unresolved tail is added to the resolved spectra and similarly integrated over frequency.
139 Non-directional Stokes drift data used in this study are taken as the absolute values of the total
140 directional Stokes drift, given at 20 minute intervals.

141 *c. Ship Data*

142 Atmospheric data were sampled throughout the cruise, using the ship's continuous recording
143 instrumentation. Wind speed, direction, atmospheric pressure, air temperature, relative humidity,
144 up-welling and down-welling shortwave irradiances were all measured at a height of 18m above
145 mean sea surface. In all cases raw data was recorded at 10s intervals. Quality control, de-spiking
146 and smoothing was applied to all data following Inall and Audsley (2012). The u and v components
147 of the wind were smoothed, and obvious spikes removed manually. The remaining data was then
148 interpolated onto a regular grid and a 120s median smoothing window applied.

The surface (air) friction velocity was calculated using:

$$u_{*a}^2 = C_D W_{10}^2 \quad (2)$$

where u_{*a} is the friction velocity on the air side of the air-ocean interface. The drag coefficient, C_D , and 10m wind speed, W_{10} , were obtained iteratively by applying a log-law boundary layer to adjust for measurement height (Beardsley and Pawlowicz 1999).

The surface buoyancy flux, B_0 , was calculated from the net surface heat flux, H_0 as:

$$B_0 = -C_T g \frac{H_0}{\rho C_p} \quad (3)$$

where $C_T = 1.6 \times 10^{-4} K^{-1}$ is the thermal expansion coefficient, $g = 9.81 ms^{-2}$ is gravitational acceleration, ρ is the water density and $C_p = 3993 J kg^{-1} K^{-1}$ is the specific heat capacity of water.

The net surface heat flux was calculated using:

$$H_0 = SW + IR + SH + LE \quad (4)$$

with shortwave radiation (SW) from the total incident radiation (TIR) sensors on-board, the long-wave (IR) radiation obtained from re-analysis data (National Oceanography Centre/University of Southampton, 2008) and the sensible (SH) and latent (LE) heat fluxes obtained using the TOGA COARE 2.0 algorithm (Fairall et al. 1996). To account for shading of the irradiance sensors, values of the TIR were created by taking the maximum value recorded by the port and starboard sensors.

Currents were determined with an RDI Ocean Surveyor 75 kHz Vessel Mounted-ADCP, configured to sample over 120 second intervals with 96 bins of 8 m length, giving a standard deviation of $1.1 cms^{-1}$. The instrument calibration and calculations of the GPS accuracy are documented in the D381 Cruise report (Allen et al. 2012). During some high wind/wave events data drop-out was apparent in the ADCP current profile data, probably due to cavitation below the ship's hull. This data was identified and masked for any 120s epoch that was more than 35% incomplete between

168 the surface and 200 m depth, this systematically removed most of the bad data, however the data
169 around these incidents should be treated with caution.

170 *d. Modelling*

171 The dissipation rates in the transition layer obtained from the OMG glider, will be compared
172 with a simple parametrisation of the dissipation due to shear production. The parametrisation is
173 based on results from LES, and the derivation of the parametrisation is given in Appendix A.

174 A simple bulk model of the OSBL is used to determine the inertial currents in the OSBL, and
175 the evolution of the mixed layer depth. The model is described in Appendix B. The thickness of
176 OSBL is assumed to increase through entrainment, with two parametrisations of entrainment con-
177 sidered. The first assumes that entrainment is driven by a combination of convective and Langmuir
178 turbulence (this will be referred to as the Langmuir model). Parametrisation of entrainment due to
179 Langmuir turbulence have been proposed by Grant and Belcher (2009), McWilliams et al. (2013)
180 and Li and Fox-Kemper (2017) . The second parametrisation assumes that entrainment is due to a
181 combination of convective and conventional shear turbulence (referred to as the shear model). The
182 parametrisation for shear turbulence is taken from Grant and Belcher (2009), which is similar to
183 the parametrisation due to Li and Fox-Kemper (2017).

184 It is generally thought that Langmuir turbulence is important in the OSBL (McWilliams et al.
185 1997; D'Asaro 2014), and so in the main part of the paper the results from the Langmuir model
186 will be shown. However, since data on the occurrence of Langmuir turbulence is limited, and there
187 is uncertainty as to when it may be a poor representation of turbulence in the OSBL, the results
188 from the shear model will be considered in section 5.

189 The model is forced using ERA-Interim data, that includes wave data. The friction velocity,
190 surface Stokes drift and buoyancy fluxes from ERA-Interim are in very good agreement with the

191 estimates obtained from the on-board meteorological measurements and the Stokes drift obtained
192 from the TRIAXYS wave buoy. Differences in the surface fluxes obtained from ERA-Interim
193 and from the ship data contribute to the uncertainties in making comparisons between the model
194 and the observations. In lieu of formal estimates of the surface flux errors, it was decided to use
195 ERA-Interim to force the models, and where necessary, the ship based flux to derive estimates of
196 entrainment fluxes from the observations.

197 The initial temperature and salinity profiles that are used to initialise the bulk model were ob-
198 tained from the glider and resolved to a grid of 1 m. These profiles were used to provide the tem-
199 perature and salinity structure below the OSBL, which was assumed to remain constant through
200 the storm period. The initial depth of the WML was taken to be 35 m, the same as the average
201 mixed layer depth obtained from the glider profiles at the beginning of the storm.

202 **3. Surface Forcing and the Evolution of the OSBL**

203 Figures 2(a) and (b) show timeseries of the surface friction velocity, Stokes drift and the surface
204 buoyancy flux obtained from the ship and buoy data over the full 9.5 days of the glider deployment.
205 Time-depth cross sections of temperature and the turbulent dissipation rate are shown in Figs. 2(c)
206 and (d), where the cyan line shows the mixed layer depth determined from the temperature profiles,
207 defined as the level at which the temperature is 0.2°C lower than the temperature at a depth of 10m
208 (de Boyer Montégut et al. 2004). The blue line shows the depth of the base of the transition
209 layer, which is the depth below the MLD of the deepest isopycnal that lies wholly within one
210 standard deviation of the mean mixed layer depth (see Eq. 1 in Johnston and Rudnick (2009)).
211 This definition assumes that the transition layer thickness is related to the vertical displacements
212 of the MLD and deeper isopycnals. These displacements have been found to be similar to the
213 RMS displacement of a typical open ocean internal-wave spectrum (Johnston and Rudnick 2009;

214 Munk 1981) which suggests that internal waves are heaving the MLD and deeper isopycnals into
215 and out of contact with surface-intensified mixing, creating the transition layer defined here.

216 The first 5 days (days 261 to 266) of the period are characterised by relatively low winds, and an
217 average buoyancy flux which is negative, i.e. the ocean is gaining heat. During this early period
218 the surface buoyancy flux shows a strong diurnal cycle. Although the mixed layer depth, obtained
219 from the temperature profiles, is approximately constant with time, the depth of the OSBL implied
220 by the thickness of the layer in which the dissipation rate is high, shows marked diurnal variations.

221 During the daytime, large values of TKE dissipation are generally limited to a layer near the
222 surface, that is less than about 10m deep. During the night, large values of TKE dissipation extend
223 down to the stable layer at the base of the WML, and is consistent with the turbulence generated
224 by the loss of buoyancy at the surface. This pattern of a shallow, stable OSBL during the day,
225 followed by a deeper convective OSBL at night is repeated over several days, with the exception
226 of day 263, when the depth of the OSBL remains large during the day coinciding with elevated
227 winds and reduced buoyancy flux.

228 Between days 266 and 270, a significant storm passed through the area, with maximum winds
229 speeds reaching $\sim 20 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ and significant wave heights of $\sim 6\text{m}$. The beginning and end of the
230 storm are marked by the green lines in Fig. 2. During the storm the sensible and latent heat fluxes
231 at the surface increase, with an average buoyancy flux for the period of the storm which is negative,
232 indicating cooling of the surface waters.

233 Figure 2(c) shows that the stratification at the base of the OSBL weakens during the storm. Tem-
234 perature profiles obtained during the storm are shown in Fig. 3. During the storm the WML and
235 the transition layer tend to cool, although there is significant variability between the profiles, which
236 is probably associated with submesoscale variations, which are present in the area throughout the

237 year (Thompson et al. 2016). Over the period the mixed layer depth increases from about 32m to
238 41m while the depth of the base of the TL increases by about 4m.

239 Just prior to the start of the storm (\sim day 266.5) there is a change in salinity of $\sim 0.3 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$
240 below the OSBL (not shown), that coincides with the temperature change at this depth (Fig. 2(c)),
241 however during the storm the changes in salinity are generally small ($\sim 0.05 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$). At the
242 start of the storm, Fig. 2(c) shows that there is a warming of the WML, that is accompanied by a
243 reduction in the MLD.

244 The changes in temperature and salinity at the start of the storm may be due to advection, asso-
245 ciated with horizontal changes in temperature, or changes in the position of glider relative to the
246 horizontal gradients (Thompson et al. 2016). However, during the storm the data suggest that it is
247 reasonable to consider that advective processes can be neglected, and that changes in the OSBL
248 are primarily due to the surface forcing.

249 The track of the glider during the storm is shown in Fig. 1, and is consistent with the presence
250 of inertial oscillations during the storm. The glider track shows clockwise rotations, which have a
251 period of ~ 14.7 hours, which is close to the local inertial period of 15.9 hours at the latitude of
252 the PAP site.

253 Figure 4 compares the velocity predicted by the bulk model (see Appendix B) and observed
254 currents from the ship's ADCP. In the model it is assumed that the current below the OSBL is
255 zero, and so there are no tidal or geostrophic currents. To isolate the wind-driven part of the
256 current in the WML, Fig. 4 show the difference between the ADCP measured currents in the
257 WML and at 49m, the base of the transition layer.

258 The model predicts that inertial oscillations grow in amplitude from the start of the storm, and
259 are superimposed on a mean wind-driven current. Towards the end of the storm the amplitude of
260 the inertial oscillations is $\sim 0.1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$.

261 The observed north-south component of the current (Figure 4b) shows clear inertial oscillations
262 from day 268, when the ship ADCP data is available. The amplitude of the observed oscillations
263 are similar to those predicted by the model. The presence of oscillations is not as clear in the east-
264 west component of the current. Because of the problems with the quality of the ADCP data during
265 the storm, it is not clear whether the low amplitude of the oscillations in the east-west component
266 of the current is real. With this caveat, the amplitude and timing of the inertial oscillations obtained
267 from the model appear to be reasonable.

268 Figure 5 shows a time-depth cross section of the dissipation rate during the storm. The depth
269 of the boundary between the high and low dissipation rate increases through the storm. However,
270 in addition to the increase in the depth of the OSBL, there are also oscillations in the depth of the
271 boundary superimposed on the overall increase.

272 The depth of the base of the OSBL, obtained from the bulk model, is shown by the dashed
273 line in Fig. 5. The depth of the OSBL from the model increases steadily with time, due to
274 entrainment. The magnitude of the deepening is consistent with the overall increase in the depth
275 of the OSBL implied by the dissipation rate, although the model does not reproduce the higher
276 frequency variation in the depth of the WML shown by the dissipation rate. The high frequency
277 variations in the depth of the WML are probably not due to a stabilising influence surface buoyancy
278 flux during daytime. The effects of stabilising surface fluxes on the depth of the OSBL are not
279 included in the model, since in strong winds these effects should be small. In addition, the shoaling
280 of the boundary layer due to a stabilising surface buoyancy flux would not lead directly to changes
281 in the depth of the stable WML determined from the temperature profiles, apparent in Fig. 2(c)
282 and (d).

283 Figure 6(a) shows the timeseries of the temperatures obtained from the glider, and the temper-
284 atures obtained from the Langmuir model, averaged over the depth of the OSBL. Between days

285 265, just before the start of the storm, and day 270, at the end of the storm, the upper ocean cools
286 by about 1°C . However, the cooling rate is not constant with time, and during latter part of day
287 267, for example, the near surface temperature actually increases.

288 From day 268, until the end of the storm, the change in the temperature of the OSBL obtained
289 from the bulk model is similar to the observed change. However, before day 268 the model does
290 not reproduce the variation in the temperature. For example, the rapid cooling observed at the
291 start is not reproduced by the model, and the model does not reproduce the local minimum in
292 the observed temperature on day 267. These variations in the observed temperature are probably
293 due to the presence of submesoscale variations in temperature (Thompson et al. 2016; Whitt and
294 Taylor 2017).

295 Figure 6(b) shows an expanded view of the period from day 268 to the end of the storm, when
296 the winds are strongest. During this period the fluctuations in the observed temperatures about the
297 general cooling trend are small, making this a good period to evaluate the heat budget of the OSBL.
298 The observed cooling, estimated from a linear fit to the observed temperatures, is $-0.45 \pm 0.05^{\circ}\text{C}$
299 (shown by the red line in Fig. 6b). The cooling predicted by the model is -0.38°C . The overall
300 heat budget of the OSBL that is implied by the model is therefore consistent with the observed
301 budget.

302 The cooling in the model is due to the surface heat flux and the entrainment flux. The en-
303 trainment flux obtained from the model is -250 Wm^{-2} . This is in reasonable agreement with
304 an entrainment flux of about $-285 \pm 65 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$, estimated from the observed cooling, assuming
305 it is only due to the surface and entrainment fluxes. In the Langmuir model it is assumed that
306 entrainment is due to a combination of convective and Langmuir turbulence. During this period,
307 the entrainment flux in the model is primarily due to the Langmuir turbulence, which contributes

about -200 Wm^{-2} to the total entrainment. The entrainment flux due to convective turbulence is about -60 Wm^{-2} .

The Langmuir model, described in Appendix B, appears to be able to reproduce the evolution of important features of the OSBL, such as its thickness and cooling, during the storm. The Langmuir model assumes that entrainment is associated with Langmuir turbulence. Results obtained by assuming shear and convective turbulence is responsible for entrainment will be considered in section 5.

4. The Transition Layer

a. The Storm Period

Figures 7(a) and (b) show the dissipation profiles from the glider for two periods, days 266.25 to 267.8 when the winds are increasing, and days 268.25 to 269.8 when the winds were strongest. The glider profiles have been scaled by w_{*L}^3/h_{ml} , where $w_{*L} = (u_{*w}^2 U_{s0})^{1/3}$ is the velocity scale for Langmuir turbulence and h_{ml} is the depth of the WML (Grant and Belcher 2009). The structure for the OSBL from the dissipation profiles is consistent with the temperature profiles shown in Fig. 3, in that both sets of profiles show that the OSBL has two layers, the well-mixed layer and the stratified transition layer. The thickness of the transition layer appears to decrease between the two periods, due to the deepening of the WML, from 31.5m to 36m, while the depth of the base of the transition layer remains at about 47m.

A profile of the dissipation rate from one of the LES of Langmuir turbulence used in Grant and Belcher (2009) is also shown in Fig. 7(a) and (b). In the WML the LES profile is in reasonable agreement with the observed profiles. The LES dissipation rate profile decreases more rapidly with depth in the transition zone than the observed dissipation, although this difference is less marked

330 in the second period, due to the reduction in the thickness of the transition layer. The reduction
331 in the thickness of the transition layer happens because, while the base of the well-mixed layer
332 deepens, the depth of the base of the transition layer remains approximately constant. However,
333 the thickness of the transition layer remains larger than the thickness of the transition layer in
334 the LES profiles. Below the transition layer the observed dissipation rates are much larger than
335 from the LES. This is because the dissipation rates below the transition layer in the real ocean are
336 generally less than the noise level of the microstructure probe.

337 Skyllingstad et al. (2000) and Grant and Belcher (2011) have used LES to study the development
338 of shear layers at the base of the WML. Skyllingstad et al. (2000) considered two cases. In the first,
339 the surface stress rotated at the inertial period, and remained aligned with the current direction.
340 Large shears developed across the TL, which increased in thickness. In the second case, the
341 direction of the surface stress was kept constant, and the direction of the currents in the OSBL
342 rotated relative to the surface stress. The shear and production of TKE at the base of the WML were
343 much smaller than in the first case. The storm considered in this study corresponds to the second
344 (non-resonant) case in Skyllingstad et al. (2000), since the winds associated with the present storm
345 did not rotate at the inertial frequency.

346 To make a link between the inertial shear and the turbulence in the transition layer, a comparison
347 is made with a simple parametrisation of the maximum dissipation rate due to shear production at
348 the base of the WML and the dissipation rates from the glider. This parametrisation is tuned using
349 the LES (to determine the coefficients alpha and beta) which is described in Appendix A, and is
350 given by,

$$D = 0.3 \exp\left(-4.5 \frac{f h_{bl}}{u_{*w}}\right) \left(MAX \left\{ \frac{u_{*w}^2 (\langle \mathbf{U} \rangle_{ml} - \mathbf{U}_{ext})}{h_{bl}}, 0 \right\} + \beta MAX \left\{ f U_{s0} \delta \frac{(\langle \mathbf{V} \rangle_{ml} - \mathbf{V}_{ext})}{\Delta h}, 0 \right\} \right) \quad (5)$$

where D is the maximum in the dissipation rate, $\langle \mathbf{U} \rangle_{ml}$ and $\langle \mathbf{V} \rangle_{ml}$ are the components of the current parallel and perpendicular to the direction of the surface stress, averaged over the depth of the WML, \mathbf{U}_{ext} and \mathbf{V}_{ext} are the current components below the OSBL, u_{*w} is the water-side surface friction velocity, h_{bl} is the depth of the boundary layer. The surface friction velocity is defined by, $u_{*w}^2 = -\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{w}'}_0$, where $\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{w}'}_0$ is the surface value of the momentum flux, U_{s0} is the surface Stokes drift, δ is the Stokes penetration depth and f is the Coriolis parameter.

The first term in the brackets, after the exponential function, on the right-hand side of Eq. 5 represents the dissipation due to shear production by the current shear in the direction of the surface stress, and is the same as the parametrisation given by Grant and Belcher (2011) for the resonant conditions. The second term represents the shear production that is associated with the current shear perpendicular to the surface stress. Although $\overline{\mathbf{v}'\mathbf{w}'}$ at the surface is zero, it increases rapidly with depth, and reaches maximum value just below the surface. The gradient of $\overline{\mathbf{v}'\mathbf{w}'}$ above the maximum is assumed to be balanced by the Stokes-Coriolis force (Polton et al. 2005). The non-zero value of $\overline{\mathbf{v}'\mathbf{w}'}$ within the OSBL leads to the production of TKE from the lateral shear at the base of the WML. Each of the components of the shear production must be greater than zero, i.e. the shear terms in the TKE budget do not act as a sinks for the TKE.

Figure 8(a)-(d) shows a comparison of timeseries of observed and predicted dissipation rate at different depths relative to the base of the WML. Figure 8(a) shows the dissipation rate 5m above the base of the WML, i.e. within the lower part of the WML. The dissipation rate at this depth

gradually increases with time, as the surface wind increases. The curve in Fig. 8(a) shows the
dissipation rate calculated from,

$$\varepsilon = 0.05 \frac{w_{*L}^3}{h_{ml}} + 0.4B_0 \quad (6)$$

where the first term on the right-hand side is the dissipation rate due to Langmuir turbulence
at the base of the WML. Grant and Belcher (2009) show for Langmuir turbulence the dissipation
rate around the base of the WML is $\sim 0.1 w_{*L}^3/h_{ml}$, and the lower value for the coefficient in Eq.
6 reflects the rapid variations of the dissipation rate with depth around the base of the WML.
The second term is the dissipation rate due to the convective turbulence, which is assumed to
be constant with depth (Lombardo and Gregg 1989). There may be periodic variations in the
dissipation rate at this level, but if they are present they are not clear.

The magnitude of the dissipation rate in the TL decreases with increasing depth (see Fig 7). In
addition, in the layer 5m to 10m below the base of the WML, the magnitude of the dissipation
rate shows clear oscillations in time, the amplitude of the oscillations decreasing with depth. The
black curves in Figs. 8(b)-(d) show the dissipation rates obtained from Eq. 5, assuming that
the thickness of transition layer is 10m. The decrease in the amplitude of the oscillation in the
dissipation rate with depth below the WML, is consistent with the amplitude of the oscillations
going to zero around the base of the TL. Since Eq. 5 gives the dissipation rate at the base of the
WML, to capture the decrease in the dissipation rate within the TL, the values obtained from Eq.
5 have been multiplied by 1.0, 0.5 and 0.25 in Figs. 8(b) to (d). The magnitude of these factors is
reasonable given that the dissipation rate tend to zero at the base of the TL, but having to use them
means that a precise value of the coefficient in Eq. 5 can not be assessed using the data. A more
complete parametrisation of the dissipation rate due to shear production in the TL would specify
the depth dependence of the dissipation rate in the TL.

392 From the start of the storm, until the middle of day 268, the predicted dissipation rates from
393 Eq. 5 are in good agreement with the observations. At 5m below the base of the WML, the
394 observations show some high dissipation rates, which may reflect the presence of the relative large
395 dissipation rates just above this depth. After day 268.5, the dissipation rates calculated from Eq.
396 5 are about a factor of two larger than the observed dissipation rates, as shown by the red curves
397 which show results from Eq. 5, multiplied by the factors given above and divided by two. The red
398 curves match the observations during this period.

399 The bulk model does not give any information on the structure of the transition layer, and in
400 estimating the dissipation rates from the parametrisation the thickness of the transition layer has
401 been assumed to be a constant 10 metres. However, Figs. 7(a) and (b) show that the thickness of
402 the transition layer decreases through the storm, and this may explain why, when matched to the
403 dissipation rate before day 268.5, the parametrisation overestimates the dissipation rate after day
404 268.5. A more sophisticated model and parametrisation would be needed to predict the evolution
405 of the structure of the TL.

406 Grant and Belcher (2011) found that the magnitude of the buoyancy flux at the base of the
407 WML, due to the shear production of turbulence, was $\sim 33\%$ of the dissipation rate obtained from
408 Eq 5. Using this with Eq. 5 suggests that the heat flux at the base of the WML due to shear
409 production between days 268.25 and 269.8 is $\sim -30\text{Wm}^{-2}$. This is about 12% of the entrainment
410 flux attributed to convective and Langmuir turbulence in the Langmuir model. This implies that
411 for this storm the effects of shear turbulence on the evolution of the OSBL were small.

412 This analysis shows that (i) the evolution of the dissipation rate within the TL follows a different
413 behaviour to the evolution of the dissipation rate within the ML, (ii) that the oscillations in the
414 dissipation rate are coherent through the TL, (iii) that the period of the oscillations is close to the
415 local inertial period, about 15.9hours.

416 *b. Post Storm Shear Spikes*

417 Burchard and Rippeth (2009) observed that enhanced turbulence was linked to alignment of
418 the shear across the base of the OSBL with the direction of the surface wind. They called these
419 periods of enhanced shear, shear spikes. The observations used by Burchard and Rippeth (2009)
420 were obtained on the continental shelf, with a water depth of $\sim 100\text{m}$, where the currents were
421 affected by tides. Brannigan et al. (2013) showed that shear spikes were present in the open ocean,
422 although were unable to show that they were associated with periods of enhanced turbulent mixing.
423 The models of Burchard and Rippeth (2009) and Brannigan et al. (2013) predict the occurrence of
424 periods of enhanced shear, and so increased likelihood of shear instability. However, they do not
425 predict the dissipation rate associated with the shear spikes.

426 Rumyantseva et al. (2015) observed similar shear spikes, with enhanced turbulence, at the PAP
427 site on day 271, after the storm and shortly after the microstructure glider had been recovered. The
428 surface winds were much lighter on day 271 than during the storm, but the currents continued to
429 show the large amplitude inertial oscillations generated by the storm. Rumyantseva et al. (2015)
430 measured the dissipation rate using an MSS90 microstructure profiler, and found that dissipation
431 rates increased by over an order of magnitude during the shear spikes, reaching a magnitude of
432 $\sim 10^{-7} \text{ W kg}^{-1}$.

433 The model simulation was continued to cover the period of the observations of Rumyantseva
434 et al. (2015) (not shown). The dissipation rates estimated from Eq. 5 for day 271 were much
435 smaller than the observed dissipation rates during the shear spikes. The temperature-depth cross
436 section given in Rumyantseva et al. (2015) suggests that the thickness of the pycnocline is smaller
437 than it was during the storm, and that the temperature change across the pycnocline is smaller.
438 The appearance of spikes in the dissipation rate during this period may be due to these changes,

439 although they don't explain why Eq. 5 doesn't apply during this period. This point will be consid-
440 ered further in section 5.

441 **5. Discussion**

442 We have presented measurements of the dissipation rate in the North Eastern Atlantic which
443 were obtained using a microstructure glider. During the period when the glider was deployed a
444 storm passed over the area, and the data from the microstructure glider showed that there were
445 oscillations in the dissipation rate in the transition layer at the base of the OSBL. The period of the
446 oscillations was close to the local inertial period. The main aim of the study has been to compare
447 the behaviour of the dissipation rate in the transition layer with a simple parametrisation of the
448 dissipation associated with the production of TKE due to inertial oscillations in the current shear.
449 The parametrisation was derived using results obtained from LES.

450 Reliable measurements of the current shear were not available, and to determine the current shear
451 needed by the parametrisation, a simple bulk model (described in Appendix B) was used (Niiler
452 and Kraus 1977). This model included a parametrisation of entrainment, which for the results
453 shown in the previous sections assumed that turbulence in the OSBL was due to a combination
454 of convective and Langmuir turbulence. In addition to predicting the currents during the storm,
455 the model also predicted the evolution of the temperature and the depth of the base of the OSBL,
456 which could be compared with the observations.

457 The change in the depth of the OSBL base, and the cooling of the OSBL obtained from the model
458 were in reasonable agreement with the observed changes (Figs. 5 and 6). The agreement suggests
459 that the assumption that Langmuir turbulence was present in the OSBL, and the parametrisation
460 of entrainment by Langmuir turbulence obtained from LES are reasonable.

461 However, variations in the near surface temperature, which are probably due to the presence of
462 submesoscale variability (Thompson et al. 2016), make it difficult to conclude from this compari-
463 son that the Langmuir turbulence must be present. In particular, the observed cooling of the OSBL
464 may have been affected by advection, and it is possible that the observations are consistent with
465 other assumptions about entrainment. It is useful to compare the results from the Langmuir model
466 with results obtained from a model in which entrainment is assumed to be due to conventional
467 shear driven turbulence.

468 Over the last 1.5 days of the storm the cooling from the Langmuir model is -0.38°C , which
469 is similar to the observed cooling of $-0.45 \pm 0.05^{\circ}\text{C}$. The model suggests that entrainment is a
470 significant term in the heat budget of the OSBL, and the agreement between the modelled and
471 observed cooling depends on the parametrisation of entrainment.

472 The parametrisation for entrainment can be changed for one in which entrainment is assumed
473 to be driven by convective and conventional shear turbulence (see Appendix B). Using this model,
474 the cooling obtained over the same period is -0.31°C . The reduction in the cooling is due to
475 the parameterised entrainment flux being smaller than that in the Langmuir model. The entrain-
476 ment flux due to shear turbulence, obtained from the shear model, is $\sim -116\text{Wm}^{-2}$ compared to
477 $\sim -250\text{Wm}^{-2}$ from the Langmuir model. The cooling from the shear model is just about con-
478 sistent with the observations, particularly if the observed cooling is influenced by more than just
479 the surface and entrainment fluxes. In addition to the uncertainties associated with the observa-
480 tions, the constants used in the parametrisation are derived from LES, and may differ from values
481 that might be obtained from direct observations. From this comparison it is not possible to con-
482 clude that the Langmuir model is better than the shear model, although the Langmuir model gives
483 reasonable results.

484 The change in the thickness of the OSBL during the storm obtained from the models also de-
 485 pends on the parametrisation of entrainment. For the Langmuir model the change in the thickness
 486 of the OSBL over the storm is about 8.8m, while for the shear model the change 5.4m. Figure 5
 487 shows that there is significant variability in the depth of the OSBL base, in addition to the overall
 488 increase in the thickness. This variability may be associated with the submesoscale variability in
 489 the area of the observations. The presence of this variability in the thickness OSBL in the ob-
 490 servations means it is not possible conclude that the Langmuir model is better than shear model,
 491 although again the results from the Langmuir model are reasonable.

492 What might be needed to come to a more definite conclusion? The differences between the
 493 two models used here increase with time, and in a storm of longer duration it is possible that the
 494 differences in the cooling and the change in the depth of the OSBL might become large enough for
 495 a more definite conclusion to be reached. With glider technology it should be possible to obtain
 496 more data during storms to help confirm the general presence of Langmuir turbulence in such
 497 situations, and the usefulness of LES in developing parametrisations, through studies such as this.

498 The agreement between the non-dimensional dissipation rates within the OSBL with the results
 499 from LES of Langmuir turbulence, given by Grant and Belcher (2009), cannot be used as support
 500 for the presence of Langmuir turbulence during the storm. The reason is that, when scaled with
 501 u_{*W}^3/h_{ml} , Grant and Belcher (2009) showed that when the Langmuir number is ≈ 0.3 , the non-
 502 dimensional profiles agree with profiles of LES of conventional shear turbulence. Sutherland et al.
 503 (2014) have presented observations which suggest that the dependence of the non-dimensional
 504 dissipation rate on the Langmuir number is consistent with that found by Grant and Belcher (2009),
 505 but the variation in Langmuir number in the present data is not sufficient to confirm this.

506 The parametrisation of the dissipation rate given in Eq. 5 was obtained by assuming the base
 507 of the TL corresponds to the base of the OSBL, and that the profiles of $\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{w}'}$ and $\overline{\mathbf{v}'\mathbf{w}'}$ go to

508 zero at the base of the OSBL/TL. The dissipation rate in the TL varies with time because of the
509 interaction between the boundary layer stresses and the time varying shear across the TL due to
510 the inertial oscillations of the currents within the OSBL. In the LES, which were used to develop
511 the parametrisation of the dissipation rate (Eq. 5), the bulk Richardson number for the TL was
512 between 0.2 and 0.4 (Grant and Belcher 2011), and the thickness of the shear layer increased
513 with time. However, during the storm, the bulk Richardson number of the TL was ~ 4 when
514 the turbulence dissipation was a maximum, and rather than increasing with time, the thickness of
515 the transition layer decreased with time (see Fig. 7). Despite these differences in the stability of
516 the TL, the comparison shown in Fig. 8 suggests that the Eq. 5 is a reasonable parametrisation,
517 although it is not obvious why this should be.

518 A possible reason why Eq. 5 works during the storm is that the TL is not an isolated shear
519 layer, but is connected to the well-mixed region of the OSBL through the transport of turbulent
520 kinetic energy into the upper part of the TL. Studies of entrainment in the sheared convective
521 atmospheric boundary layer show that shear production of turbulence in the inversion can occur
522 for gradient Richardson number significantly above $1/3$ (Haghshenas and Mellado 2019), similar
523 to the situation during the storm. Haghshenas and Mellado (2019) found that as the shear increases,
524 the gradient Richardson number tends to a value of about $1/3$, similar to the values in the LES
525 (Grant and Belcher 2011). While the present situation is not directly comparable to entrainment
526 in the atmospheric boundary layer, the interaction between the well-mixed layer and the transition
527 layer through the transport of TKE may help explain why the results obtained with Eq. 5 are
528 reasonable. Further studies are needed to improve our understanding of processes in the transition
529 layer.

530 In this study the parametrisation for the dissipation in the TL has only used diagnostically,
531 and the effects of the shear generated turbulence were not included in the bulk model. This is

reasonable since the shear production of turbulent kinetic energy during this storm was relatively low, but in a more complete model, in which the effects of the shear production of TKE are included, a representation of the evolution of the transition layer may be possible. In particular, the evolution of the depth of the transition layer, which was simply specified in the present study, would need to be modelled.

The microstructure glider was recovered after the end of the storm, but further measurements of the dissipation were obtained after the storm using a profiler deployed from the Discovery (Rumyantseva et al. 2015), finding evidence of shear spikes (Burchard and Rippeth 2009; Lenn et al. 2011; Brannigan et al. 2013; Lincoln et al. 2016). Shear spikes are associated with the generation of turbulence within the transition layer, as a result of surface wind and current shear alignment which produces enhanced shear. The dissipation rate during the shear spikes was $\approx 10^{-7} \text{ W kg}^{-1}$, which is similar to the peak dissipation rates due to shear production that were observed in the TL during the storm. However, during the post-storm period the surface winds were much lighter than winds during the storm, and the dissipation rates implied by the present model are negligible, due to the dependence of the dissipation rate on fh_{bl}/u_{*w} .

The rate of work by the surface stress acting on the inertial currents in the OSBL is $u_{*w}^2 U/h_{\text{bl}}$, where U is the current parallel to the surface stress, averaged over the depth of the OSBL, (Grant and Belcher 2011). This can be thought of as the divergence of a flux of mean kinetic energy, where the surface flux is $u_{*w}^2 U$. For the post-storm period, currents from the model give $u_{*w}^2 U/h_{\text{bl}} \approx 10^{-7} \text{ W kg}^{-1}$. The coincidence in the magnitude of the dissipation rate during the shear spikes and the rate at which work is being done by the surface stress acting on the inertial currents suggests that the turbulence associated with shear spikes arises directly from the breakdown of the shear at the base of the OSBL. Since the turbulence is assumed to occur because of the work done on the mean flow by the surface stress, there is no contribution to the production of TKE from the component

556 of the current that is perpendicular to the surface stress. This is in contrast to the parametrisation
557 given in Eq. 5 where the production of TKE by the lateral shear is assumed to occur, as the steady-
558 state momentum balance of the OSBL implies $\overline{\mathbf{v}'\mathbf{w}'}$ is not zero below the surface. The changes in
559 the properties of the pycnocline that occurred after the storm, which should have reduced the bulk
560 Richardson number, would make the generation of turbulence from the simple breakdown of the
561 shear possible.

562 The data presented in this study has been analysed using a one-dimensional framework, and any
563 effects due to submesoscale processes have been neglected. Whitt and Taylor (2017) have recently
564 presented results from a large-domain LES (horizontal domain 1.9x1.9 km) of the storm in this
565 study. By coincidence their domain size was comparable to the diameter of the circular path taken
566 by the glider during the storm (see Fig 1a).

567 This simulation shows submesoscale features, with scales of order 1km, develop during the
568 storm, and help to maintain stable stratification within the mixed layer. The variability in the
569 temperatures measured by the glider, shown in Fig. 6, may be due to this submesoscale variability.
570 Whitt and Taylor (2017) also found that turbulence levels showed significant horizontal variability
571 that was related to the submesoscale variability in the stratification. Given these results, it is
572 reasonable to ask if the one-dimensional approach used here is valid.

573 The results of this study suggest, that despite the presence of submesoscale variability, the one-
574 dimensional assumption is reasonable. Dissipation rates within the bulk of the OSBL are consis-
575 tent with scaling results from LES. The bulk model produced reasonable estimates for the cooling
576 of the OSBL, and the increase in the thickness of the OSBL. While the presence of submesoscale
577 variability may have made it difficult to decide which form of turbulence was present in the WML
578 (Langmuir or shear), the evolution of the OSBL could be described reasonably well using a one-
579 dimensional framework.

6. Summary

This paper has used observations from a microstructure glider, together with a simple bulk model of the OSBL and dissipation in the transition layer, to help understand the turbulence and evolution of the OSBL during a storm. The key results from this study are,

- The OSBL has a two layer structure, a well mixed layer separated from the deeper water by a stratified transition layer. The flow in the transition layer is turbulent, with the dissipation rate showing periodic variations, with a period close to the local inertial period (~ 15.9 hours).
- A parametrisation of the dissipation rate due to shear turbulence was developed using results from LES. The dissipation rates obtained from the parametrisation were in reasonable agreement with the dissipation rates obtained by the microstructure glider in the TL. The Richardson number for the TL was about 4, suggesting that it was too stable for shear turbulence to develop. It is possible that the transport of TKE from the WML into the TL plays a role.
- The evolution of the thickness of the OSBL and its heat budget were obtained using a simple bulk model in which entrainment was assumed to be due to Langmuir turbulence. The parametrisation of entrainment due to Langmuir turbulence was obtained from LES. The model results suggest that cooling of the OSBL due to entrainment was significant. Although the observations are consistent with this model, and the presence of Langmuir turbulence, the duration of the storm was not long enough conclude that this model was better than one in which entrainment is assumed to be due to conventional shear turbulence.
- The parametrisation of the dissipation rate developed in this study did not predict the occurrence of dissipation due to shear spikes after the storm. It is not clear why, but it was noted that the observed dissipation rate during the shear spikes was comparable to the rate of work

done by the surface stress on the mean currents in the OSBL, and that changes to the pycnocline probably made the breakdown of the shear likely. However, further work is needed to understand the generation of turbulence associated with shear spikes.

- The parametrisations for entrainment in the bulk model were obtained from LES. Since the constants in the bulk model were obtained from the LES it was not necessary to tune the model to other observations, and the results from the study provide an example of the usefulness of LES in developing parametrisations.

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APPENDIX A

Parametrisation of shear production at the base of the OSBL

In this appendix a parametrisation of the shear production of TKE at the base of the OSBL is developed. The parametrisation is based on the work of Grant and Belcher (2011), which is extended to include the effects of inertial oscillations in the OSBL. Grant and Belcher (2011) only considered the case where the direction of the surface stress and the currents in the OSBL were aligned and constant in time (which was approximated by setting the Coriolis parameter to zero). They developed the following parametrisation for the generation of turbulence kinetic energy (TKE) by the shear,

$$S_U = -\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{w}'}_{ml} \left. \frac{\partial \mathbf{U}}{\partial z} \right|_{ml} \sim \frac{u_{*w}^2 (\langle \mathbf{U} \rangle_{ml} - \mathbf{U}_{ext})}{h_{bl}} \quad (\text{A1})$$

where, S_U is the shear production, \mathbf{U} is the component of the current in the direction of the surface stress, $\partial \mathbf{U} / \partial z|_{ml}$ is the shear at the base of the well-mixed layer, $\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{w}'}_{ml}$ is the turbulent momentum flux at the base of the well-mixed layer, u_{*w} is the surface friction velocity of water, $\langle \mathbf{U} \rangle_{ml}$ is the average velocity in the well-mixed layer, h_{bl} is the depth of the boundary layer and \mathbf{U}_{ext} is the current velocity at the base of the boundary layer. The surface friction velocity is defined as, $u_{*w}^2 = -\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{w}'}_0$, where $\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{w}'}_0$ is the surface value of the momentum flux.

When the currents and surface stress rotate, the total shear production is,

$$S = -\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{w}'}_{ml} \left. \frac{\partial \mathbf{U}}{\partial z} \right|_{ml} - \overline{\mathbf{v}'\mathbf{w}'}_{ml} \left. \frac{\partial \mathbf{V}}{\partial z} \right|_{ml} \quad (\text{A2})$$

where, S is the total shear production, \mathbf{V} is the component of the current perpendicular to the surface stress, $\overline{\mathbf{v}'\mathbf{w}'}_{ml}$ is the lateral component of the momentum flux, at the base of the well-mixed layer, (and $\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{w}'}_{ml}$ is the component in the direction of the surface momentum flux) and $\partial \mathbf{V} / \partial z|_{ml}$ is the shear in the lateral component of the current, at the base of the well-mixed layer.

Following Grant and Belcher (2011), $\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{w}'}_{ml}$ is parameterised as $-u_{*w}^2 (1 - h_{ml}/h_{bl})$, where h_{ml} is the depth of the mixed layer (which for the LES results is defined as the level of the minimum buoyancy flux), and $\partial \mathbf{U} / \partial z|_{ml} \propto (\langle \mathbf{U} \rangle_{ml} - \mathbf{U}_{ext}) / (h_{bl} - h_{ml})$, so that the first term of Eq. A2 is given by Eq. A1.

At the surface, $\overline{\mathbf{v}'\mathbf{w}'}_0 = 0$, but within the WML $\overline{\mathbf{v}'\mathbf{w}'}$ is positive (in the northern hemisphere), with a maximum in the lower part of the OSBL (Zikanov et al. 2003). The maximum value of $\overline{\mathbf{v}'\mathbf{w}'}$ can be estimated by considering the balance between the Coriolis force on the near surface drift and stress gradient. The magnitude of the near surface drift is about 3% of the windspeed (Wu

1983), and in the open ocean is mainly due to the Stokes drift that is associated with the surface waves (Wu 1983). Taking the depth of the maximum in $\overline{\mathbf{v}'\mathbf{w}'}$ to be $\sim \delta$, where δ is the Stokes penetration depth, the balance between the stress gradient and the Stokes-Coriolis force gives,

$$\overline{\mathbf{v}'\mathbf{w}'}_{ml} \sim f u_{s0} \delta \quad (\text{A3})$$

where f is the Coriolis parameter, u_{s0} is the surface Stokes drift.

Using Eq. A3 the shear production associated with the velocity component perpendicular to the surface stress can be parameterised as,

$$S_v = -\alpha \beta f u_{s0} \delta \frac{(\langle \mathbf{V} \rangle_{ml} - \mathbf{V}_{ext})}{\Delta h} \quad (\text{A4})$$

where $\langle \mathbf{V} \rangle_{ml}$ is the average of \mathbf{V} over the well-mixed layer, \mathbf{V}_{ext} is \mathbf{V} at the base of the OSBL, Δh is the thickness of the pycnocline and β is a coefficient.

The total shear production is the sum of S_u from Eq. A1 and S_v from Eq. A4, and is given by,

$$S = \alpha \left(MAX \left\{ \frac{u_{*w}^2 (\langle \mathbf{U} \rangle_{ml} - \mathbf{U}_{ext})}{h_{bl}}, 0 \right\} + \beta MAX \left\{ f u_{s0} \delta \frac{(\langle \mathbf{V} \rangle_{ml} - \mathbf{V}_{ext})}{\Delta h}, 0 \right\} \right) \quad (\text{A5})$$

The results from the LES are consistent with the shear production associated with each of the velocity components having to be greater than zero, which is represented in Eq. A5 by the *MAX* functions.

Figure A1(a) shows the timeseries of maximum shear production from the LES, compared to the parameterised shear production determined from Eq. A5. The time in Fig. A1 has been normalised by the inertial period, $T_I = 2\pi/f$. The LES used to obtain the estimates of the shear production was the same as the simulations described in Grant and Belcher (2011), but with the Coriolis parameter set to $0.25 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$. The averages over the well-mixed layer, the thicknesses

660 of the well-mixed layer and the shear layer that are needed to calculate the shear production from
661 Eq. A5 were also determined from the LES for this comparison.

662 For the first $0.4 T_I$ the shear production from the LES is large and approximately constant. From
663 $0.4 T_I$ to $0.7 T_I$ the shear production decreases, becoming constant after $0.7 T_I$. Before $0.7 T_I$, rea-
664 sonable agreement between the shear production obtained from Eq. A5, and the shear production
665 from the LES, is obtained with $\alpha = 0.2$ and $\beta = 1.5$.

666 Before $0.7 T_I$ the time variation on the shear production is associated with the rotation of of the
667 inertial current with respect to the surface stress. After $0.7 T_I$ the shear production associated with
668 the inertial shear is zero, and the shear production is due to current shear in the well mixed layer
669 that is associated with Langmuir turbulence (Grant and Belcher 2009).

670 The value of $\alpha = 0.2$ in the parametrisation of the shear production is smaller than $\alpha = 0.4$
671 obtained by Grant and Belcher (2011), and suggests that α is a function of a non-dimensional
672 parameter. The most obvious candidate for this non-dimensional parameter is fh_{bl}/u_{*w} , the ratio
673 of the depth of the OSBL to the Ekman depth, u_{*w}/f .

674 Figure A1(b) shows the values of α obtained by Grant and Belcher (2011), the present value and
675 the value obtained from a third LES with $f = 0.5 \times 10^{-4} \text{s}^{-1}$, as a function of fh_{bl}/u_{*w} . The param-
676 eter α decreases as fh_{bl}/u_{*w} increases. The curve in Fig. 6 shows $\alpha = 0.4 \exp(-4.5 fh_{bl}/u_{*w})$,
677 and is used as an approximate parametrisation for α in the main text.

678 The observations used in the present study are of the dissipation rate, ε rather than shear produc-
679 tion. Grant and Belcher (2011) found that the dissipation was about 75% of the shear production.
680 Assuming that this holds when the Coriolis parameter is not zero, the parametrisation of the dissi-
681 pation rate is,

$$D = 0.3 \exp(-4.5fh_{bl}/u_{*w}) \left(MAX \left\{ \frac{u_{*w}^2 (\langle \mathbf{U} \rangle_{ml} - \mathbf{U}_{ext})}{h_{bl}}, 0 \right\} + \beta MAX \left\{ fU_{s0} \delta \frac{(\langle \mathbf{V} \rangle_{ml} - \mathbf{V}_{ext})}{\Delta h}, 0 \right\} \right) \quad (A6)$$

APPENDIX B

The bulk model

In this appendix we describe the simple bulk model of the OSBL that is used in the body of the paper to understand the evolution of the OSBL shown in the observations. The inertial shear needed to estimate the dissipation is obtained using a bulk model of the OSBL. Following Niiler and Kraus (1977), this model predicts the time evolution of the buoyancy, and components of the current averaged over the OSBL. From the observations, the dissipation rate at the base of the OSBL is small, and so the model does not include the effects of shear turbulence on the evolution of the OSBL. The equations for the currents and buoyancy are,

$$\frac{\partial \langle U \rangle_{ml}}{\partial t} = -\frac{\overline{u'w'_0}}{h_{bl}} - \frac{(\langle U \rangle_{ml} - U_{ext})}{h_{bl}} \frac{\partial h_{bl}}{\partial t} \quad (B1)$$

$$\frac{\partial \langle V \rangle_{ml}}{\partial t} = -\frac{\overline{v'w'_0}}{h_{bl}} - \frac{(\langle V \rangle_{ml} - V_{ext})}{h_{bl}} \frac{\partial h_{bl}}{\partial t} \quad (B2)$$

$$\frac{\partial \langle B \rangle_{ml}}{\partial t} = \frac{(\overline{w'b'_{ent}} - \overline{w'b'_0})}{h_{bl}} \quad (B3)$$

where $\overline{u'w'_0}$, $\overline{v'w'_0}$ and $\overline{w'b'_0}$ are the surface momentum and buoyancy fluxes and $\overline{w'b'_{ent}}$ is the buoyancy flux due to entrainment. In Eqs B1 and B2, the components of the current and turbulent fluxes are relative to a fixed, geographic frame.

Following Grant and Belcher (2009), the entrainment buoyancy flux is parametrised as,

$$\overline{w'b'}_{ent} = -0.2 \overline{w'b'}_0 - 0.033 \frac{w_{*L}^3}{h_{bl}} \quad (B4)$$

where the first term on the right-hand side is the entrainment flux associated with the forcing by the surface buoyancy flux and the second term represents entrainment due to Langmuir turbulence. In Eq. B4 it has been assumed that the total entrainment due to the combination of convective and Langmuir turbulence is just the sum of the individual entrainment fluxes.

From the results in Grant and Belcher (2009), the entrainment flux due to shear turbulence can be parametrized as,

$$\overline{w'b'}_{ent} = -0.2 \overline{w'b'}_0 - 0.15 \frac{u_{*w}^3}{h_{bl}} \quad (B5)$$

The equation for the depth of the base of the OSBL is,

$$\frac{\partial h_{bl}}{\partial t} = - \frac{\overline{w'b'}_{ent}}{\Delta B} \quad (B6)$$

where, $\Delta B = \langle B \rangle_{ml} - B_{ext}$

Equation B6 describes the evolution of the depth of an entraining boundary layer in mixed-layer models (Niiler and Kraus 1977). The effects of shear turbulence are expected to be small for this storm, and so the effects of current shear on the depth of the OSBL have not been included in Eq's. B4 & B6. Given the strong winds during the storm, the shortwave irradiance was not large enough to lead to the formation of a shallow, stable boundary layer, and the model only considers the evolution of the depth of the OSBL due to entrainment.

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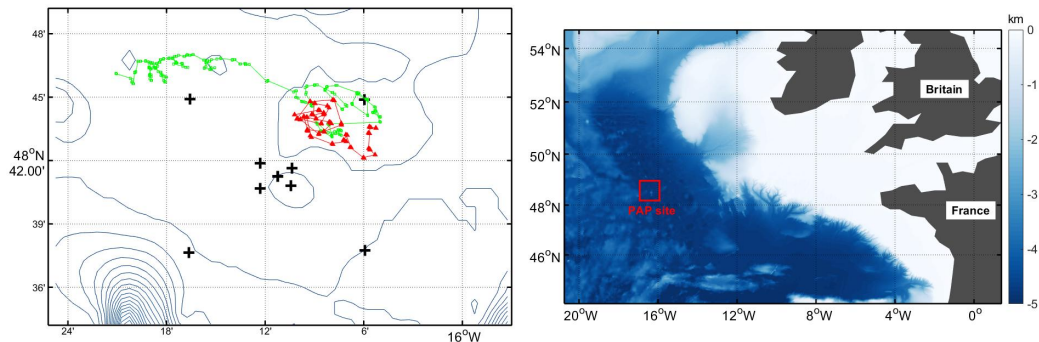


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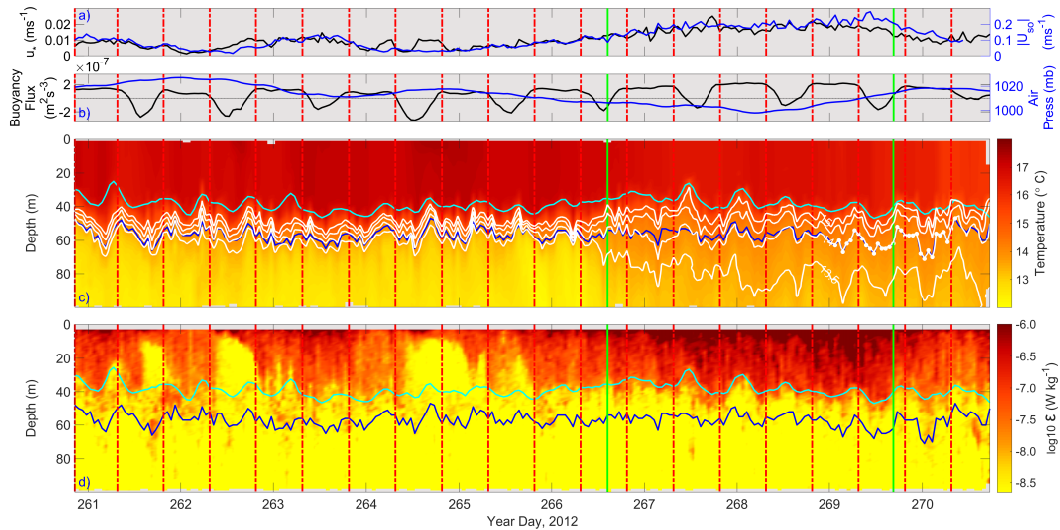


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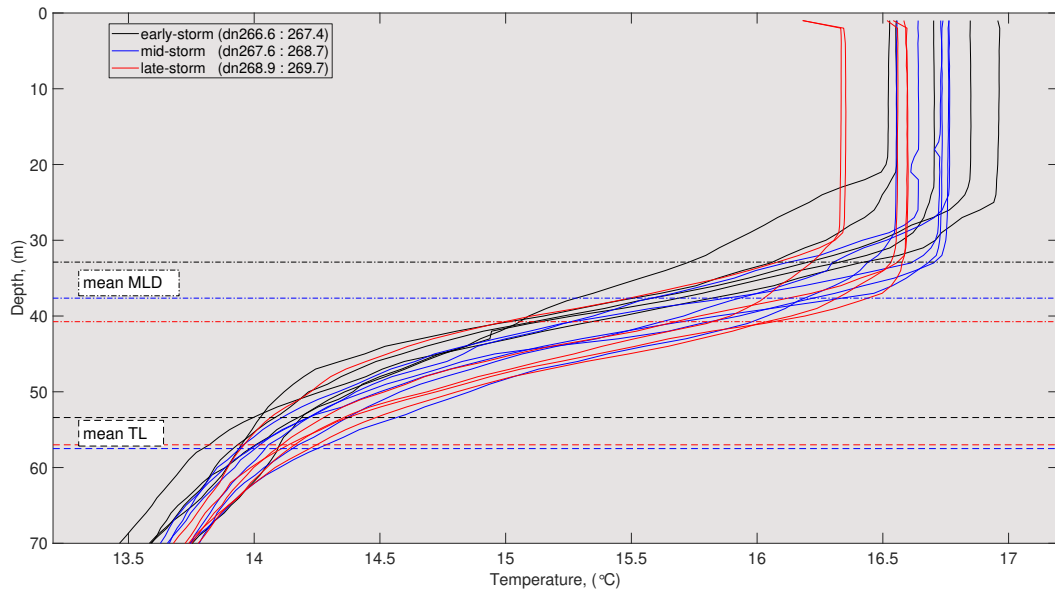
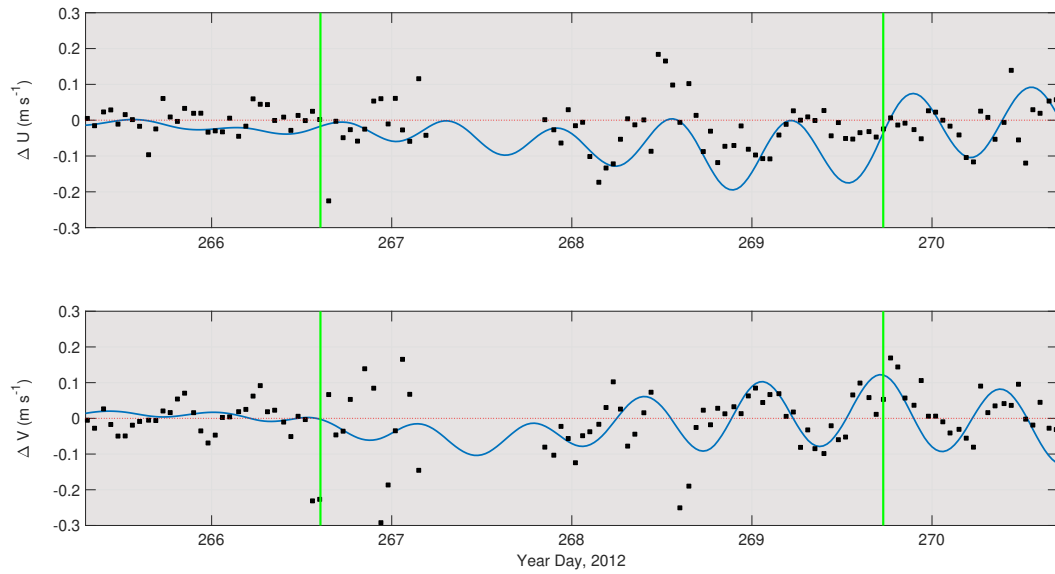
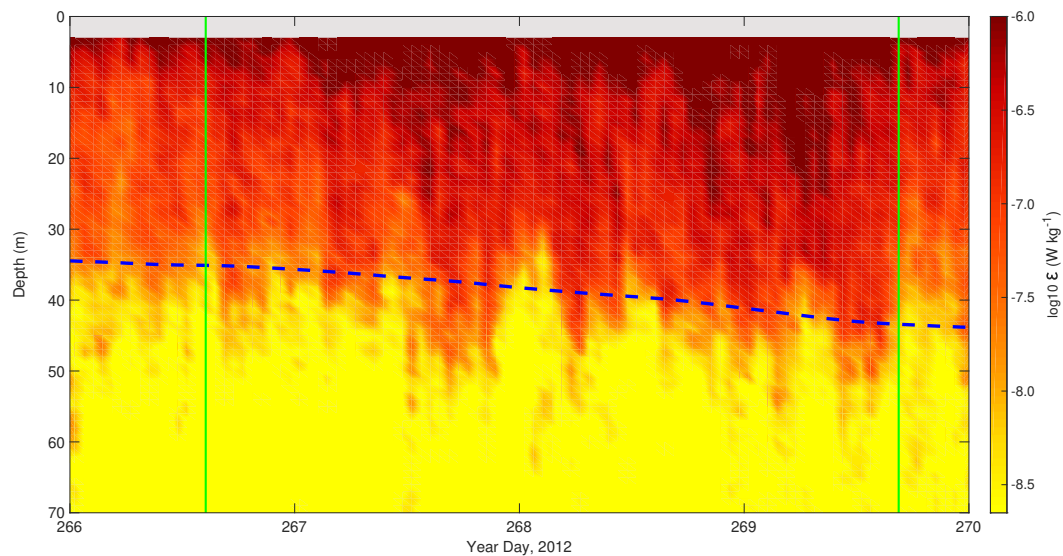


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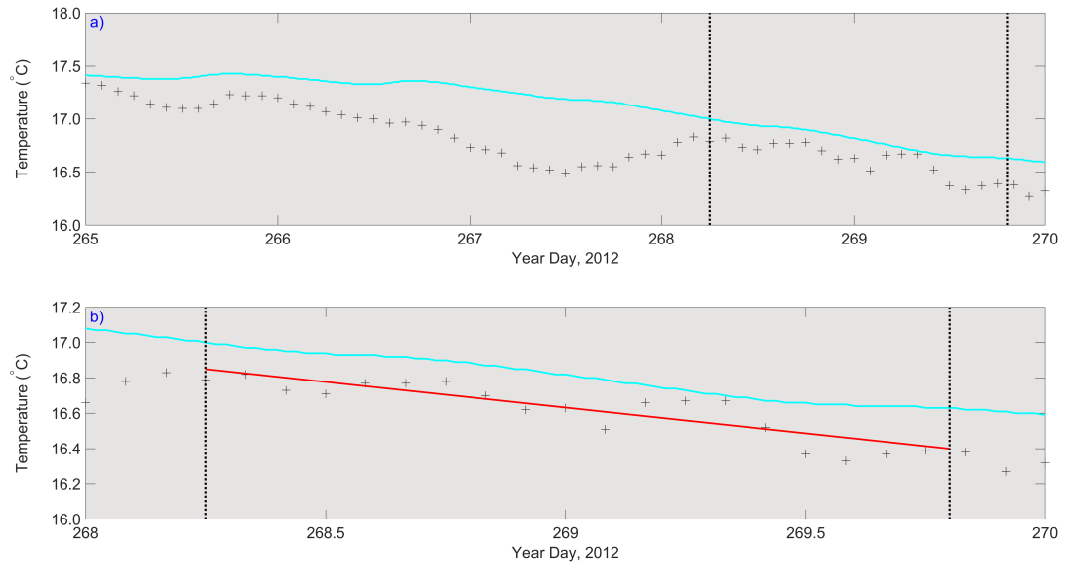


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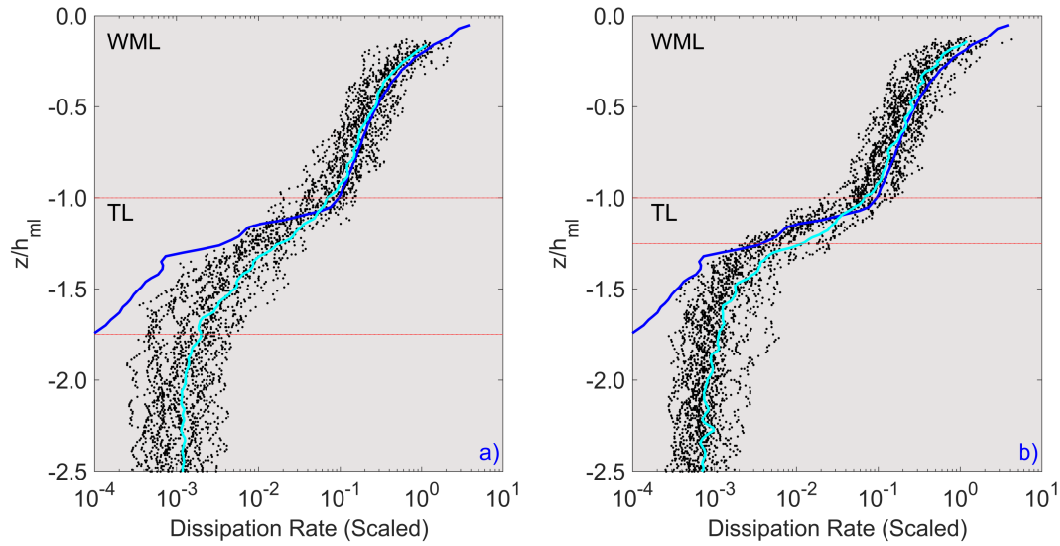


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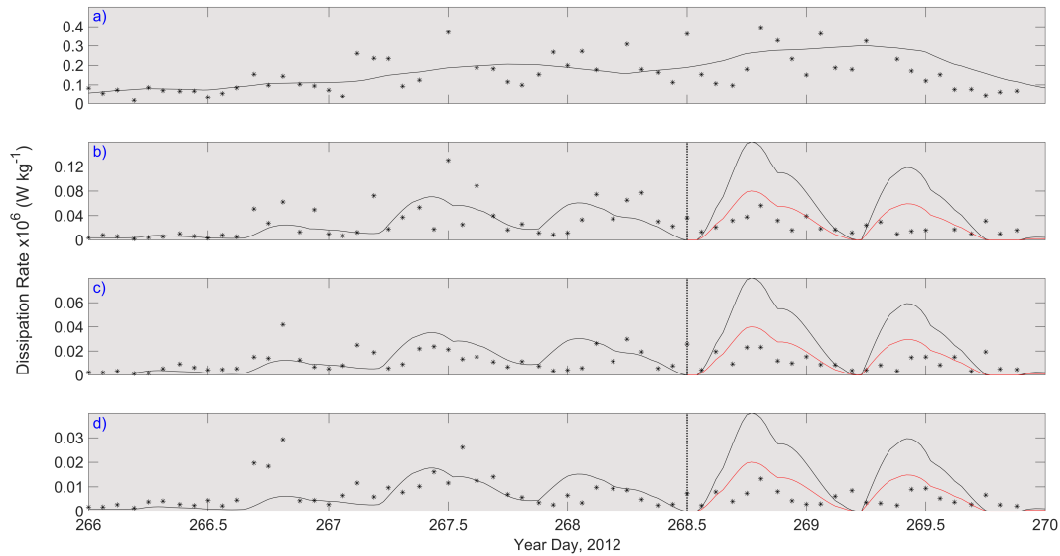
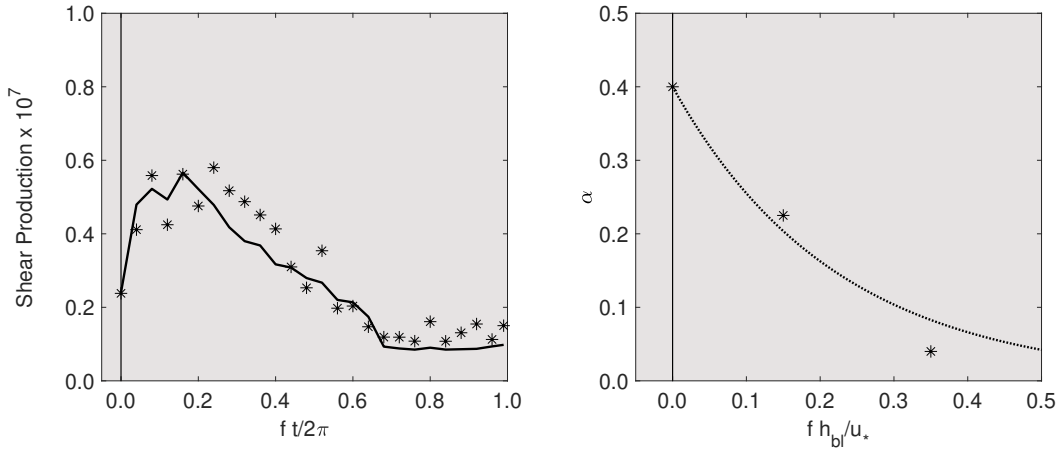


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