

What do we know about the Loop Current in the Gulf of Mexico from recent observations?



Join SECOORA for a webinar, December 10 at 12 PM ET, with Dr. Peter Hamilton from NC State University.

Dr. Hamilton will discuss what has been learned from recent major observational studies in the Gulf of Mexico that involve satellite remote sensing, in-situ moorings and both deep and surface drifters. Major results include explanations of circulation processes that lead to separations of Loop Current eddies, and the radiation of deep energetic flows into the northwestern Gulf of Mexico.

The Loop Current, a part of the western boundary current (i.e. the Gulf Stream) system of the Atlantic Ocean, is of major importance to the circulation of the Gulf of Mexico. The Loop Current enters the Gulf flowing north through the Yucatan Channel, and exits through the Florida Straits between Key West and Cuba, in a clockwise loop.

Loop Current intrusions into the eastern Gulf sometimes may extend as far north as the Alabama/Mississippi continental slope, but also can retreat to a position where the flow is a direct path between the Yucatan Channel and the Florida Straits. At between 4- and 18-month intervals, an extended Loop Current irregularly sheds large clockwise rotating eddies into the western basin, strongly influencing flows there as well as on the Louisiana/Texas and Mexican continental slopes.

This webinar will discuss what has been learned from recent major observational studies that involve satellite remote sensing, in-situ moorings (measuring currents, temperature and salinity), and both deep and surface drifters. Major results include explanations of circulation processes that lead to separations of Loop Current eddies, and the radiation of deep energetic flows into the northwestern Gulf of Mexico.

Speaker



Peter Hamilton

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