Thermohaline Lens in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea

George ZODIATIS

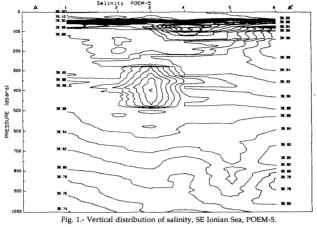
National Centre for Marine Research, ATHENS (Greece)

The Meddies-Mediterranean salt lenses consider to be the most well investigated T,S inversion caused by the intrusion of the LIW to the North Atlantic Ocean (ARMI and ZENK, 1984).

1999). In contradiction to the above, the present task attemps to spequlate on the existence of a cool and less saline inversion of the T.S water characteristics in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea similar to that mentioned by FEDOROV et al. (1986). During the POEM-5 cruise, late summer 1987 in the SE Ionian Sea - south of Greece

mainland, a well developed lens of cool and less saline water was found at the intermediate

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The intense cooling of the surface water, during the previous winter 1987, in conjuction with the circulation caused the generation of well developed thermohaline dome; wheareas water from deeper layers rised to the uppers. Later the variability of the circulation allowed the intrusion of the LIW into the area of study. Finally, the latter activity caused the isolation of a patch of less saline and cool water forming by this way the observed lens. Such type of water creature, where the T, S characteristics within the lens differs from the surrounding, create conditions for the study of the fine thermohaline structure of the water. The high gradient layers alternation at the lens boundaries promote the develop of the convective instability. The main mechanism responsible for the formation of the lensity rate consequence and linking gradient layers was the double diffusive activities. As indicators of the double diffusional instability processes possibility and intensity are the density ratio-Rg and Turner angle-Tu. The vertical profile of Tu (Fig. 2) indicates that on the lens upper boundary salt fingers convective instability occurs, while at it under boundary diffusive convection instability. Both were responsible for the vertical salt and heat transfer across interfaces. Its worthy to mention that these fluxes are twice as less to those of T,S stepwise structure observed in the Cretan Sea (ZODIATIS, 1991). observed in the Cretan Sea (ZODIATIS, 1991).

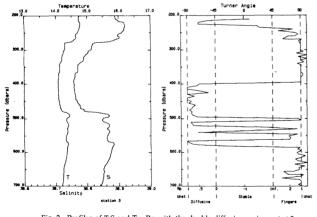


Fig. 2.- Profiles of T,S and Tu; Rp with the double diffusive regimes at st.3, SE Ionian Sea, POEM-5.

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