

Investigating Eddies in North Atlantic RAFOS Float Data

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1 INTRODUCTION

Sub-surface eddies are an important ocean phenomenon, but one we know relatively little about due to the difficulty of finding, tracking and measuring them. The aim of this study is to investigate eddies using data from RAFOS floats deployed as part of the WOCE Atlantic Circulation and Climate Experiment (ACCE; Bower et al., 2000). Specific objectives are to determine the geographical distribution of cyclonic and anticyclonic eddies and whether there is any order to this distribution; calculate the proportion of cyclonic to anticyclonic eddies in different regions, determine their prevalence and discover any differences between them; investigate eddy interactions; and determine eddy translation mechanisms for the observed features.

2 DATA

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and the University of Rhode Island (URI) between them launched over 100 RAFOS floats at intermediate depths in the North Atlantic between November 1996 and July 1998 (Figure 1). WHOI floats were deployed on three separate cruises in the Mediterranean Water at the eastern boundary (November 1996 and November 1997) and at the sub-polar front (to the west of the Mid Atlantic Ridge; June 1997 and October 1997). Apart from four floats deployed at 34.8°W (two at 46.3°N and two at 52.8°N) in early summer 1997, the URI floats were deployed to the west of the Mid Atlantic Ridge along 37°W between 49°N and 54°N in early November 1997 and July 1998. The launch (and surface) positions and dates for each float analyzed in this study are listed in Table 1.

The floats measure pressure, temperature and times of arrival (TOAs) from moored sound sources. The distinct advantage of RAFOS floats over other types of float is that they record TOAs once per day, therefore we have daily positions for them and they can be used to look at flows/features with periods of just a few days. Figure 2 shows the trajectories of all the floats, with URI floats in blue, WHOI eastern boundary floats in green and WHOI sub-polar front floats in red.

2.1 Versions of data used

WHOI float data version 'G' were used, the only edit made was to remove record number 456 from float track 377. URI 'final' float tracks were used, recovered from ftp site <po.gso.uri.edu>, directory

<pub/downloads/sandy/ACCE> on the 7th December 2000. No adjustments were made to the URI data. All the individual float tracks can be seen in Appendix 1.

3 METHODS

An eddy is defined by two or more consecutive loops in the same direction within the float trajectory, and it is assumed that each looping trajectory measures a discrete eddy. Cusps are counted as being due to eddy motions as long as they are in a part of the trajectory which has at least two full loops. These looping trajectories, “loopers”, reveal quasi-circular eddy features containing trapped fluid, which have periods of rotation of up to 50 days.

Each float trajectory was visually examined for eddies. This is obviously a subjective process, allowing the possibility that loops were mischaracterised. It should also be noted that floats may have been in an eddy, but not show any looping or cusps in the track. If, for example, the float is positioned in the center of the eddy, then the float trajectory will show only the direction of propagation of the eddy with no loops in it; if the eddy is propagating rapidly (with respect to its period of rotation) then you might just see cusps, rather than loops; if the propagation speed is very fast compared to the rotation then the float trajectory could even be a straight line.

Once the individual looping trajectories were identified (see Appendix 2), they were checked to determine whether any were actually looping in the same eddy. Eddies were separated into cyclonic and anticyclonic and then numbered in order of decreasing number of loops (eddies with the same number of loops were ordered by decreasing number of days spent looping). For each looping trajectory, the number of loops was estimated visually, and then used to calculate the period of rotation. This is not necessarily the period of rotation of the core of the eddy because the period varies with radius. The period of looping is the same as the period of rotation of the eddy at the same radius. Details of all anticyclonic and cyclonic looping trajectories are given in tables 2a and 2b respectively.

To make a meaningful estimation of the proportion of cyclones to anticyclones in different regions, as well as counting the number of individual eddies observed, the number of looping records as a percentage of the total number of records in each area was calculated and are shown in table 3. The results are given in the following section.

4 RESULTS

Of the 113 ACCE floats analyzed, 69 (61%) were caught in eddies at some point in time. The entire data set represents 159.1 float years of data, of which 24.8 years are looping records, therefore 15.6% of the data set is characterized by "loopiness". This is the same percentage as found by Richardson (1993) in his census of eddies in North Atlantic SOFAR float data. Figures 3 and 4 show all the anticyclonic and cyclonic looping trajectories, or "loopers"; the beginning of each track is marked with a circle and labeled with the eddy ID and float number (details for which are given in Table 2). Approximately half (51%) of the loopers are anticyclonic, and half (49%) are cyclonic.

From the 108 individual loopers identified (Table 2), there are 96 unique eddies; 49 anticyclonic and 47 cyclonic. There are several eddies (4 anticyclonic and 3 cyclonic) with more than one float caught in them (shown in figure 5). Some of these occurrences are due to the fact that floats were launched very close together in both space and time (e.g. eddies ac6, ac9 and ac12).

An interesting multiple-float-eddy is c4. URI floats 537, 544 and 558 were all launched on 25th July 1998, and although they didn't follow the same exact pathways (in fact, URI-558 went a completely different route from the other two floats), they all ended up making their way through the Charlie Gibbs Fracture Zone and started looping in eddy c4 between the 8th and 20th February 1999 (approximately 200 days into their mission). From figure 6 it can be seen how the floats simultaneously loop cyclonically with different radii depending on the distance of the float from the centre of the eddy. The floats all looped with periods of between 14.5 and 15.5 days, suggesting that the part of the eddy sampled is in solid body rotation.

Table 3 shows the geographical differences in the number of cyclones and anticyclones observed in four different regions in the North Atlantic. In the Iceland Basin and Rockall Trough (Area 2), where nearly 40% of the eddies are found and the highest percentage of records that loop are also found (20.4%), again roughly half of these eddies are anticyclonic (51.4%) and half are cyclonic (48.6%). The smallest number of eddies is found in the Irminger Basin (Area 1), just under 15% of the total number, and 57% of them are anticyclones. A higher percentage of anticyclones (63.2%) is also found in the West European Basin (Area 3), where 20% of the total eddies are observed. The only region that has a higher proportion of cyclones is the Newfoundland Basin (Area 4), where there are a relatively high number of eddies (27% of the total) and over 60% of them are cyclonic.

It should be noted that the number of eddies found in each region is strongly linked to the number of records in that region. The majority of the floats were launched in Area 4 (Newfoundland Basin and Mid Atlantic Ridge), and most floats made their way through the Iceland Basin (Area 2), resulting in far more records in these areas. However, it is the ratio of cyclones to anticyclones that is the most interesting result in Table 3, and this doesn't depend on the number of float records in a particular area.

There are both stationary and translating eddies observed in this data set; the longest record for a stationary eddy is 251 days (eddy ac6, WHOI floats 413, 418 and 420, just to the west of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge), and for a translating eddy is 502 days (eddy ac3, float WHOI-326, at the eastern boundary). Most of the loopers characterized as stationary have very few loops, which could explain why they don't seem to be translating; the record isn't long enough. There are, however, a few exceptions (e.g. ac6, ac15, c12, c15). These eddies could be constrained by the topography or perhaps by the ambient flow.

4.1 Eddy trajectories

We are interested in determining what governs eddy translation; is it the eddy rotation direction, the mean currents or the topography for example? An eddy can self advect due to its rotational velocity and the value of f/H (Nof, 1981; Cushman-Roisin et al., 1990); anticyclones in a south-westward direction and cyclones north-westward (assuming that f/H contours are aligned zonally).

Figure 7 shows vectors connecting start and end points of the looping trajectories, for records of at least 30 days length and containing at least 3 loops. There are three anticyclonic eddies (ac3, ac9 and ac31) that move southwestward from the Goban Spur. This is the direction that anticyclones would be expected to travel purely due to their rotation direction. Eddy ac3 was identified as a meddy by Bower et al. (1999) due to its high heat and salt content. Although its heat and salt content are not as high as those of a classic meddy generated near Cape St Vincent or west of Lisbon (Bower et al., 1997), we will assume that this identification is correct and continue to refer to this feature as a meddy. It is possible that the other two features are also meddies, their properties and pathways being indicative of these eddies.

The other anticyclones and many of the cyclones appear to be travelling in directions consistent with the general circulation pattern: northwestward in the northern Bay of Biscay (c16); northwestward across the southern Rockall-Hatton Plateau (ac8); northward along the western edge of the Rockall-Hatton Plateau (c13); anticlockwise around the Iceland Basin (ac24, ac19, ac2, ac4, ac11, ac13, c14, c3); anticlockwise

around the Irminger Basin (ac18, ac17, ac16, ac10, c7); and eastward through the Charlie Gibbs and Faraday Fracture Zones (ac27, ac5, c5, c17, c19, c21, c12, c22).

Eddy c1 crosses the southern Irminger Basin north-westward, which is consistent with eddy propagation due to its cyclonic rotation, but perhaps surprising when one considers the flow patterns in this area. The path of this eddy may indicate a “shortcut” of the subpolar circulation across the entrance of the Irminger Basin. The mechanism for propagation of cyclonic eddies in the West European Basin (c9, c11, c20) is more difficult to fathom. It seems possible that c9 is advected southwestward by recirculation of the boundary flow that may separate at the Goban Spur, or possibly linked to an anticyclone that was formed at the Goban Spur, while c20 appears to be following the topography along the western edge of the Basin. In general, the motion of many of the eddies seems to be consistent with the general flow field, whilst some appear to be self-advecting. It seems likely that a combination of these mechanisms is involved in eddy propagation, however, we have insufficient information to determine the individual contributions of each to the final eddy velocity.

4.2 Eddies in the Iceland Basin

The time sequence for the year-long anticyclone (ac1) in the Iceland Basin is shown in Figure 8. WHOI float 389 became trapped in an eddy (ac1) in October 1998 and remained looping anticyclonically at the same location (56.5°N, 28.5°W) for over three months. In mid-December 1998, URI float 569 became caught by a separate anticyclone at 57°N, 26°W, which then traveled towards ac1 and appears to have merged with it in January 1999. This eddy, whilst remaining in the same general vicinity, propagated in an apparently random fashion. In August 1999 another URI float (576) became caught by the eddy, but evidently much further from the center than float 569. It would also seem that at this distance from its center, the eddy was not in solid body rotation as the looping period is much longer (16 days, rather than 7 days for float 569). The entire record of this particular anticyclone is over 13 months long.

Figure 9 shows the time sequence of all float trajectories as well as highlighting the looping trajectories (anticyclonic in red and cyclonic in blue) in the Iceland Basin. It is interesting to note how many of the floats follow the topography of the region; floats drifting into the region from the south split either side of higher topography and propagate up the deeper channels into the Iceland Basin; floats can also be seen closely following the contours of the Rockall-Hatton Plateau.

There appear to be several instances of anticyclones co-existing alongside cyclones, forming dipoles. In March/April 1999, ac2 and c15 (59°N, 20°W) appear to be a dipole, although ac2 does move away from c15 after a short while. Another dipole occurs in the same month at 55°N, 30°W (c6 and ac13). In May 1999, ac38 and c47 form a dipole at 60°N, 24°W. Both eddies have a period of around 5 days.

The floats illustrate other instances of eddy/flow interaction. In August 1998 a float made a single loop around c41, and in May to August 1999, several floats passing by ac1 were deflected from their pathways and translated around the eddy, some making a complete loop before carrying on northeastwards. By looking at these occurrences more closely, we estimate that anticyclone ac1 is roughly 90 km in diameter.

4.3 Eddies upstream of the Charlie Gibbs and Faraday Fracture Zones

The area just upstream (i.e. to the west) of the Charlie Gibbs and Faraday Fracture Zones (at 52°N and 50°N respectively) is abundant with eddies (see figures 3 and 4). A time sequence of the looping trajectories in this area is shown in figure 10. By the end of October 1997, 3 floats have become trapped in an anticyclone (ac6; at 50°N, 35°W) which lasts for at least 9 months, positioned over slightly higher topography than its surroundings. During these 9 months, floats are trapped in a number of cyclones surrounding ac6. In March 1998, 2 of the cyclones (c2 and c5) which have been relatively stationary for the preceding 2 months, propagate eastwards around the perimeter of ac6, as though they are being advected by the larger eddy. The cyclone c2 comes to a halt just to the northeast of ac6 and remains at that location for the following few months, even acquiring one of the floats that was previously in ac6, showing just how close these two eddies are. In late July 1998, eddies ac12 and c19 form a dipole at 52°N, 37°W. In September 1998 c19 and another cyclone, c21, propagate southeastwards in the same way that c2 did six months earlier. Although there are no floats left in ac6 to verify it, it looks from the background float trajectories (figure 11) as though ac6 could still be present, which also explains the movement of the cyclones (c19 and c21) once they come within close proximity of the large, stationary anticyclone (ac6).

The float trajectories shown in figure 11 give a very good sense of what the flow is doing in this region. The timings of the different float deployments can clearly be seen (pre-July '97, Oct '97, Nov '97, July '98) and the fact that many floats were deployed very close together gives an excellent view of the circulation at these times. Throughout the sequence, floats can be seen heading for and going through the Charlie Gibbs and Faraday Fracture Zones, showing these as preferred routes for flow crossing the Mid Atlantic Ridge. These background floats highlight how flow passing close to an eddy can get deflected by that eddy (e.g.

flow to the north and south of ac6 in November 1997). They also indicate the continuing presence of eddies in spite of the fact that no floats remain in the eddy (e.g. flow around ac6 and c2).

It appears that some of these eddies occur when the flow becomes constrained by the topography, for example c12 and ac15 are stationary eddies pressed up against the western flank of the Mid Atlantic Ridge. It is unclear why ac6 remains at its location; the eddy is over slightly higher topography surrounded by channels (figure 11, July/August 1998). It could be hypothesised that the deep flow is constrained to pass through the restricted channels of the fracture zone which constrains the shallower flow to follow a similar path; these enforced meanders then trap embedded eddies which thus appear to be trapped by the topography. So the eddies could actually be trapped by the flow, locked by a downstream feature. Alternatively, the reverse situation may occur, where an eddy becomes trapped by the topography and impacts on the ambient flow to force the flow around it. It is really a question of cause and effect.

4.4 Anticyclones in the West European Basin

Anticyclones near the Goban Spur are shown in figure 12. As already mentioned, float 326 (eddy ac3) has been identified as a meddy (Bower et al., 1999), a possible formation mechanism for which is the sharp direction change the flow undergoes as it rounds the Goban Spur. Two other WHOI floats (352 and 358) were caught in a very similar eddy, ac9, at exactly the same position as float 326, but a year later. The floats had looping periods of 18 and 14 days for approximately seven loops, they then split off from each other, propagating in a southwestward direction still looping, but float 358 had a period of 60 days. Float 319 was caught for 3 loops in eddy ac31, at the same position as the long period looping of float 358, but months earlier. Another anticyclone, ac36, was discovered by float 331 on the northern edge of the Goban Spur; the float only remained in this eddy for two and a half loops. It is possible that some of these anticyclones are also meddies. To corroborate this (or otherwise), hydrographic sections at the deployment position could be examined.

As can be seen in figure 3, the West European Basin is a very anticyclone-rich area, with over 60% of the eddies and looping records being anticyclonic (see Table 3). It also has the highest prevalence of eddies; over 20% of the records are looping. Perhaps this is due to the northward flowing, subsurface, eastern boundary current and the associated formation of anticyclones, similar to the formation of Meddies.

4.5 Eddy temperatures

The temperature record of float 326 in eddy ac3 is shown in figure 13. The float was deployed directly into the core of the meddy, as can be seen from the high temperature and small radius loops. After a few loops the meddy propagated southwestward, and the float may have then moved away from the center slightly, as shown by the larger radius loops and the decrease in temperature. After 375 days, the meddy moved very rapidly southward. It is assumed that the float is still in the same eddy because there are a couple of small cusps in the trajectory, and the temperature remains constant. At day 430, the meddy slowed down again and the float temperature increased, reaching temperatures equal to those at the start of the record. After day 502, the float temperature dropped and the trajectory became smooth, and it is assumed that the float left the meddy. Around day 585, the temperature increased dramatically whilst the float described a single loop, and it seems likely that another anticyclone was encountered. As the float only looped once this wasn't counted as an eddy, but it is interesting to note the increase in temperature that occurred. In general, floats record warmer temperatures and deeper pressures on entering anticyclones, and vice versa when leaving these eddies; the reverse is true for floats entering and leaving cyclones.

As a very quick attempt to determine whether there are any differences in temperature between cyclones and anticyclones, the mean temperature of each eddy was calculated and plotted in a histogram (figure 14). It can be seen that there are more anticyclones at higher temperatures, and more cyclones at lower temperatures. This suggests, as expected, that anticyclones are generally warmer than cyclones.

If time allowed, it would be useful to undertake this type of analysis for other properties, such as angular velocity, size and period, to determine whether there are any other differences between cyclones and anticyclones.

5 SUMMARY

ACCE RAFOS float data were analyzed to investigate eddies in the North Atlantic. 15.6% of the data set were in loopers (two or more consecutive loops in a float trajectory), of which 108 were observed. There were several occasions when floats were found to be looping in the same eddy. In most regions, between 14% and 15% of the data records were in loopers, however, in the West European Basin eddies seem to be more prevalent, with 20.4% of the records characterized as loopers.

Roughly half of the 96 eddies observed were anticyclonic (51%) and half were cyclonic (49%). This ratio varies by geographical region: over 60% of the eddies observed in the Irminger and West European Basins are anticyclones, while less than 40% of those found west of 27°W and south of 54°N (Newfoundland Basin and Mid Atlantic Ridge) are anticyclones. In the Iceland Basin and Rockall Trough, the ratio is roughly 50:50. In the mean, anticyclones were found to have higher temperatures than cyclones.

There are a number of observations of eddy interactions; smaller eddies being advected by larger ones and eddies touching and merging; as well as observations of flow and eddy interaction. With just a few exceptions, eddies with more than 3 loops were observed propagating through the ocean. Eddy translation appears to be governed mostly by currents, and therefore indirectly by topography, although there are a few instances (mainly the anticyclones in the West European Basin) where eddy rotation seems to be the controlling factor. It is likely that both mechanisms play a role in determining the eddies' propagation, but it is unfeasible with this data set to determine the relative contributions of each. The longer-lived stationary eddies are generally either topographically constrained or constrained by the surrounding flow.

6 FURTHER WORK

A few further calculations of eddy properties such as translation speed, azimuthal velocity, size and eddy kinetic energy would provide a more complete picture of the eddies in the ACCE RAFOS float data. These could then be used to find further similarities and differences between cyclones and anticyclones, for example, is one type of eddy more energetic than another? It would also be interesting to look at the temperature and pressure records to determine changes that occur as floats start to loop in a particular eddy.

Eddies that trapped more than one float, if looked at in detail, might provide some information on the horizontal structure of eddies. These floats could also be used, along with any floats that moved radially within an eddy, to investigate how rotational velocity varies with distance from the center of an eddy.

Temperature and salinity sections at float deployments, especially those deployments that were directly into eddies, can be used to determine the properties of those eddies. Later studies could look at correlations between surface drifters and the ACCE floats. It would also be interesting to see if any of the eddies can be seen in satellite altimetry. The combination of hydrography, RAFOS floats, drifters and satellite altimetry would be very powerful in furthering our knowledge of eddies.

Acknowledgements

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Figures

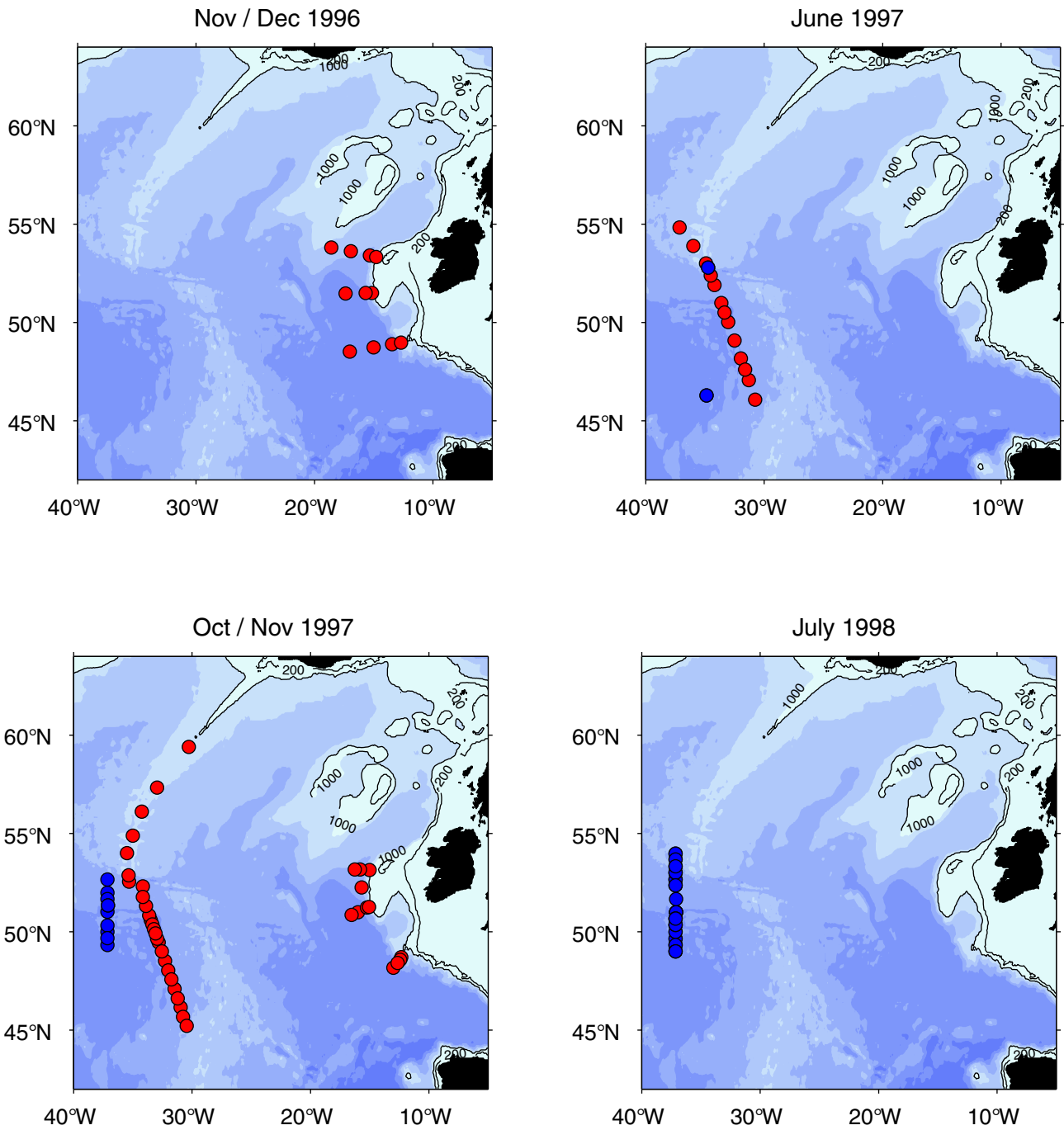


Figure 1
 ACCE float launch positions and dates. WHOI floats are in red, URI floats are in blue.
 The details (float number, launch date and position) are listed in table 1.

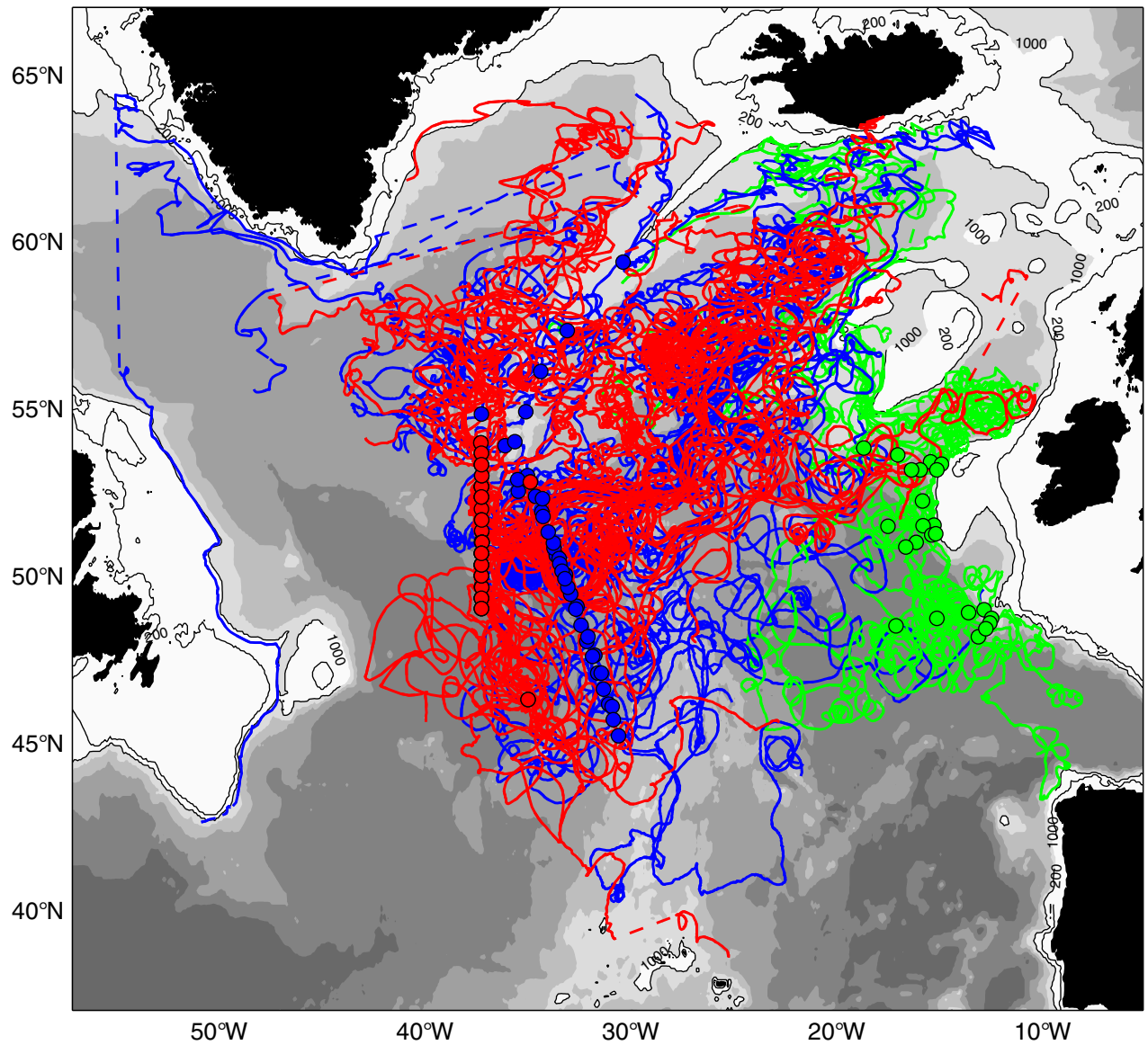


Figure 2
ACCE float trajectories. URI floats are in red, WHOI Subpolar Front floats are in blue, WHOI eastern boundary floats are in green. Circles mark the float launch positions, dashed lines indicate where tracking was lost.

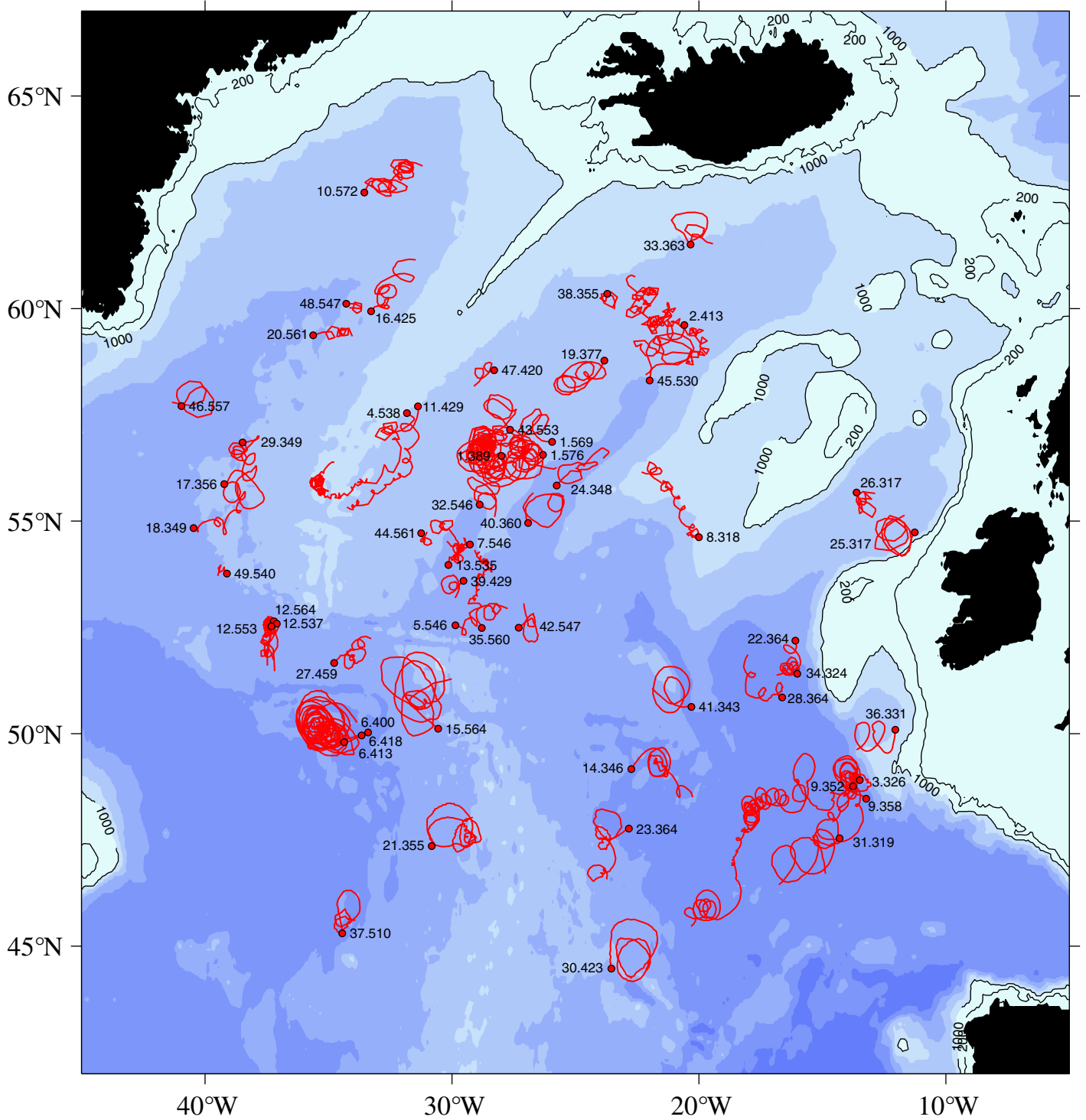


Figure 3
 ACCE floats anticyclonic looping trajectories. The beginning of each track is marked with a circle and labelled with the eddy ID and float number (e.g. 30.423 = eddy 30, float 423).

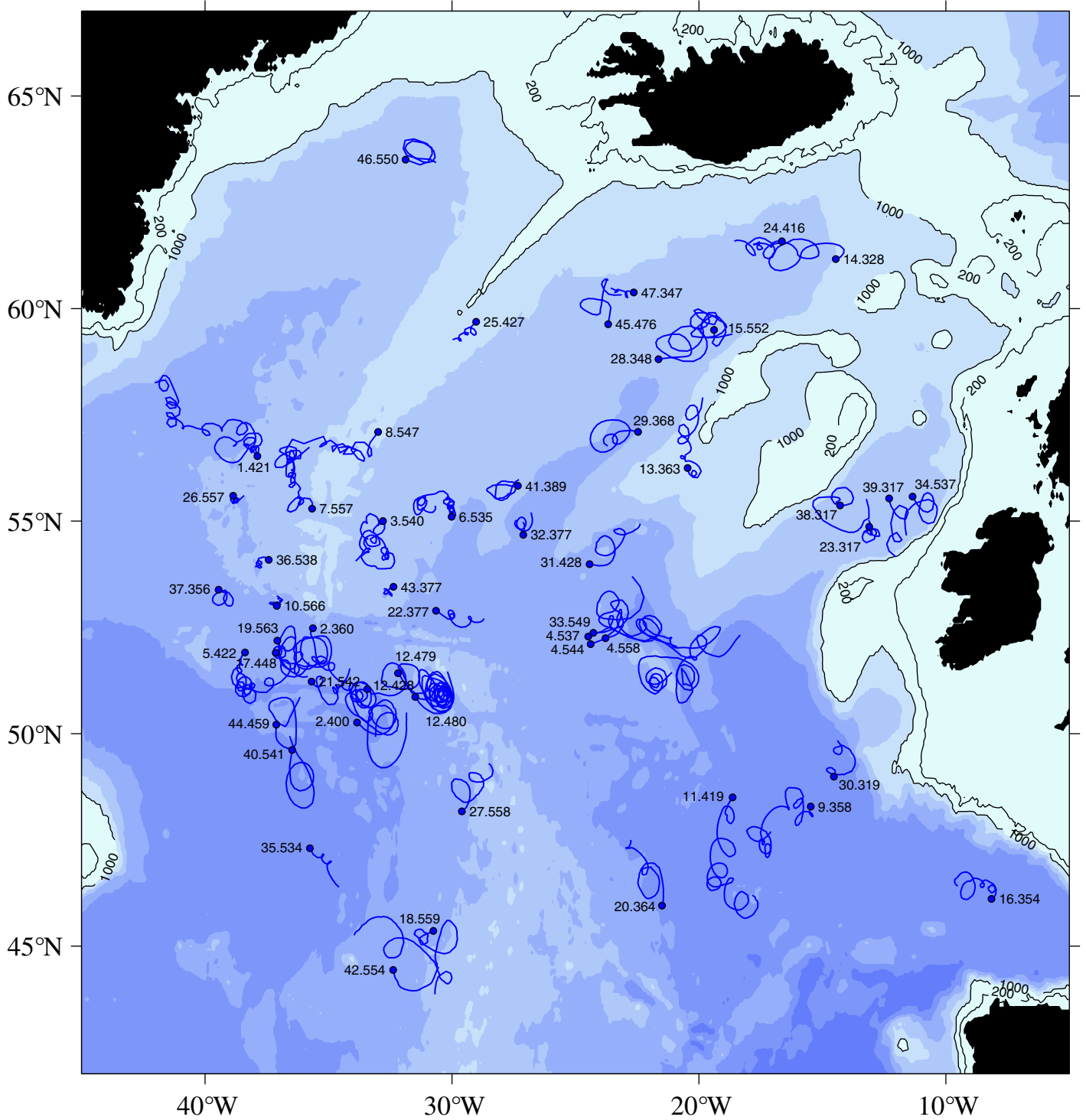


Figure 4
 ACCE floats cyclonic looping trajectories. The beginning of each track is marked with a circle and labelled with the eddy ID and float number (e.g. 11.419 = eddy 11, float 419).

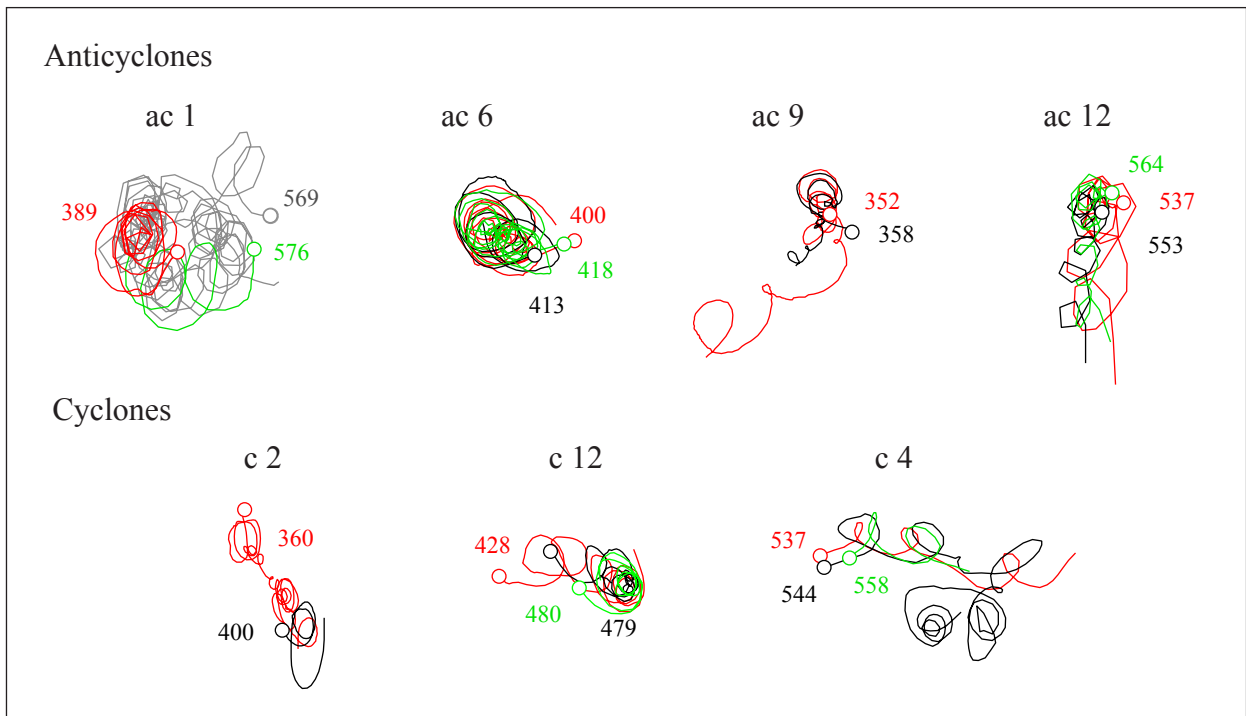
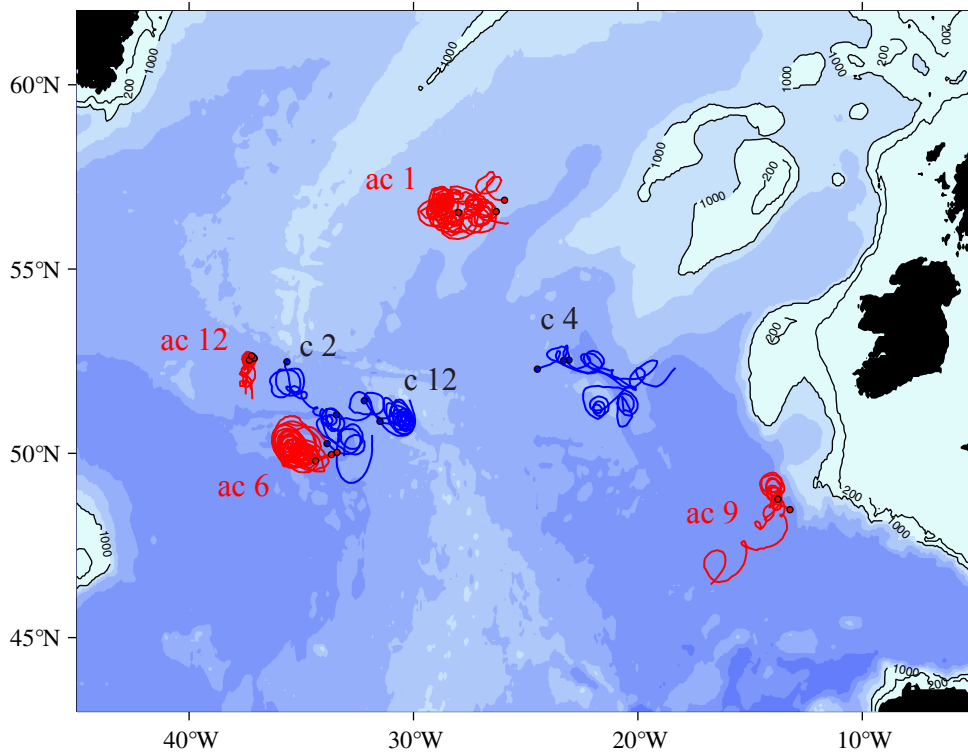


Figure 5
 Eddies containing more than one float.
 Top figure shows the location of eddies containing more than one float; eddy IDs are shown.
 Lower figures show the floats in each eddy and their individual tracks.

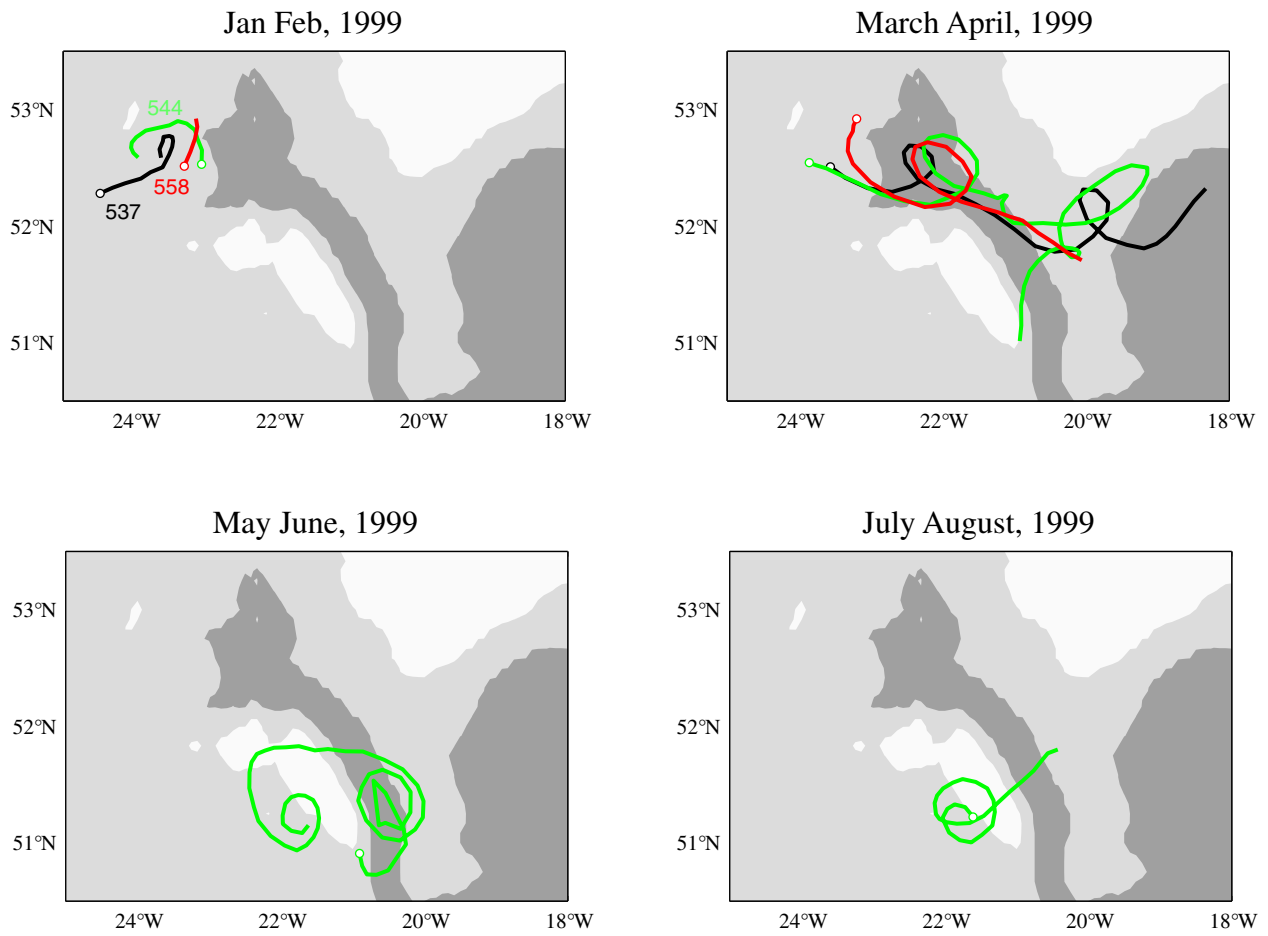
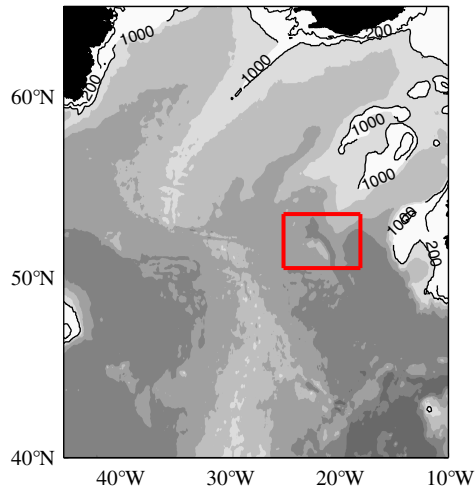


Figure 6
Time frames showing 3 floats (537 in black, 544 in green and 558 in red) in eddy c4.

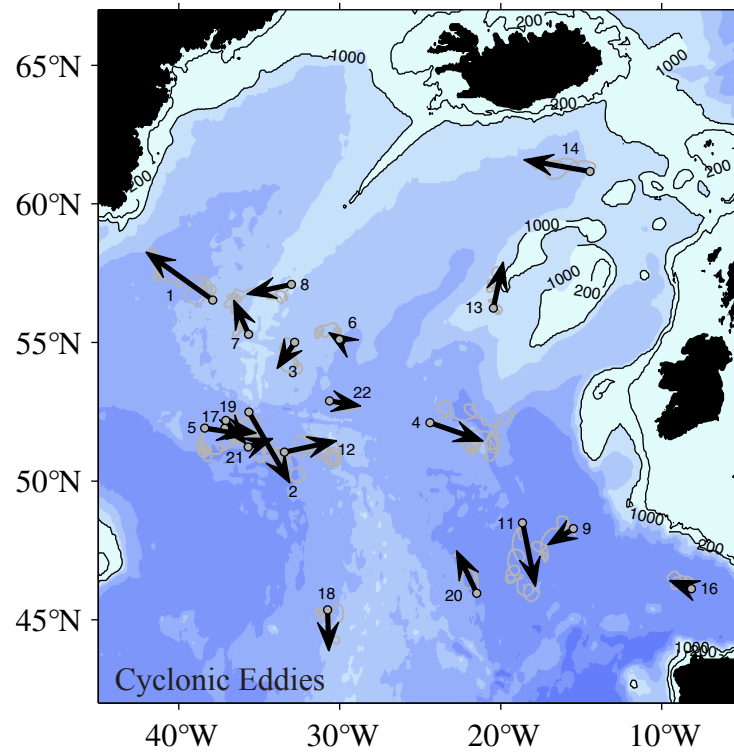
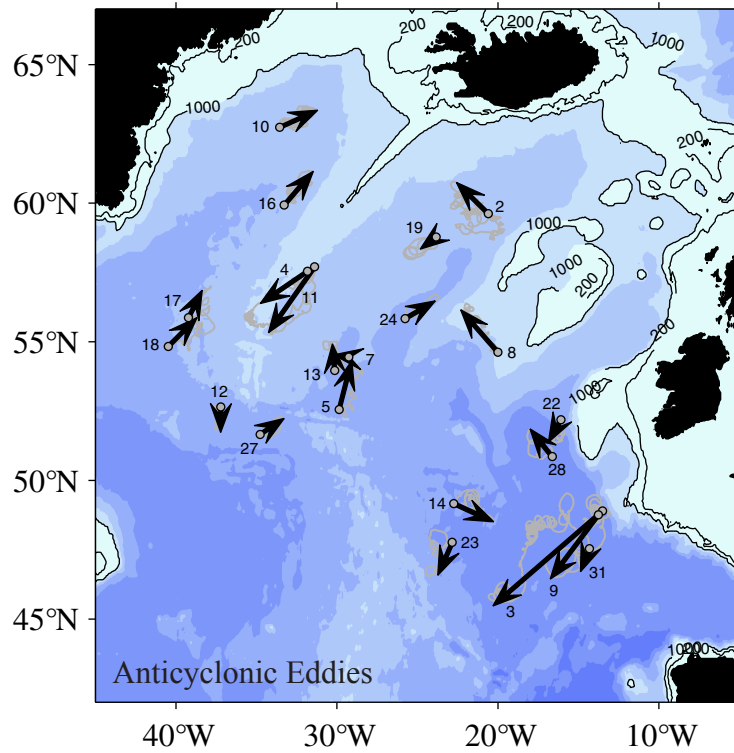


Figure 7
 Vectors showing overall translation direction of anticyclonic eddies (top figure) and of cyclonic eddies (lower figure) for records of at least 30 days and 3 loops. Each vector is labelled with the eddy ID.

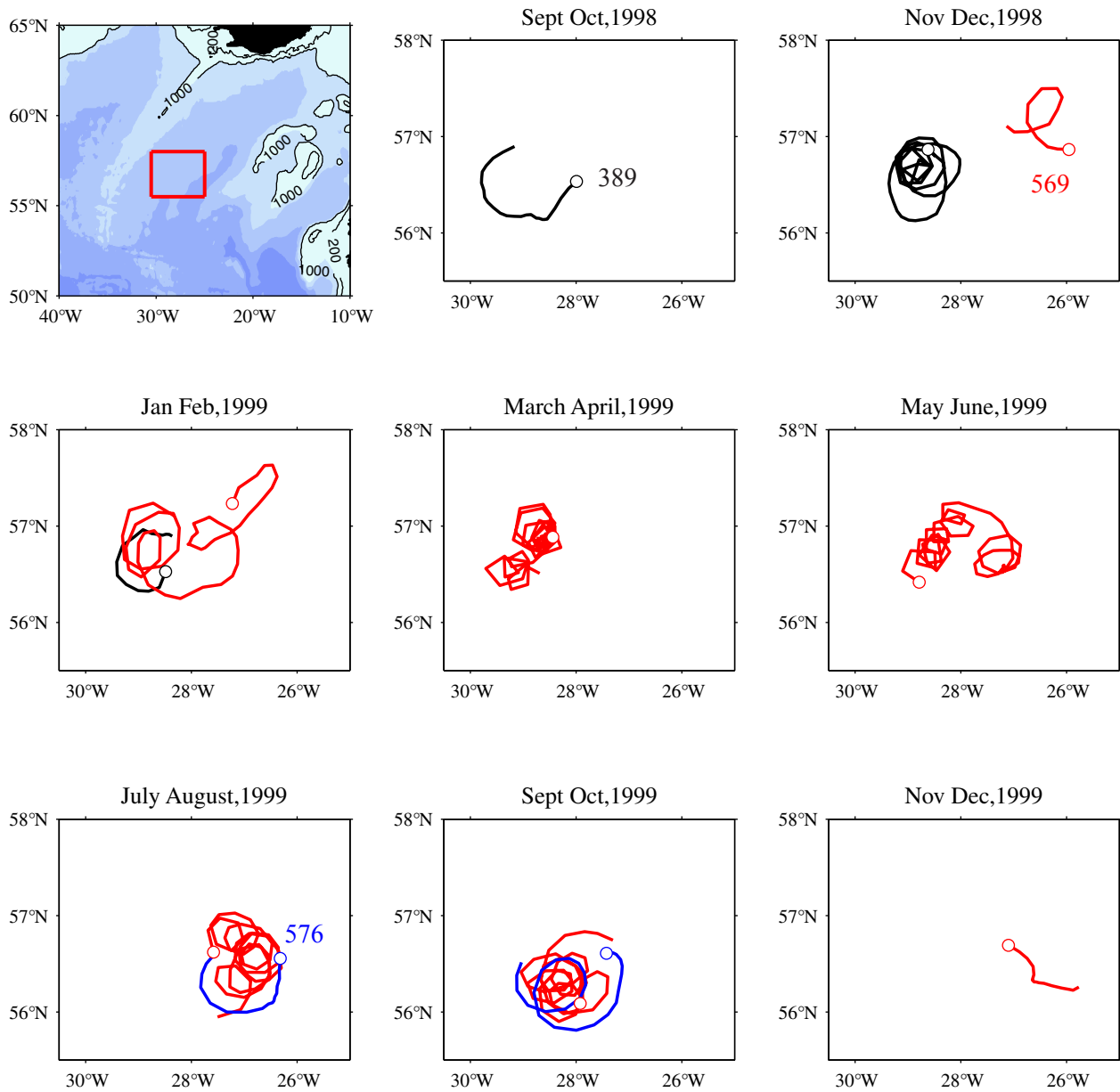


Figure 8
 Time frames showing 3 floats (389 in black, 569 in red and 576 in blue) in an anticyclonic eddy in the Iceland Basin. The eddy ID is ac1. The beginning of each track is marked with a circle.

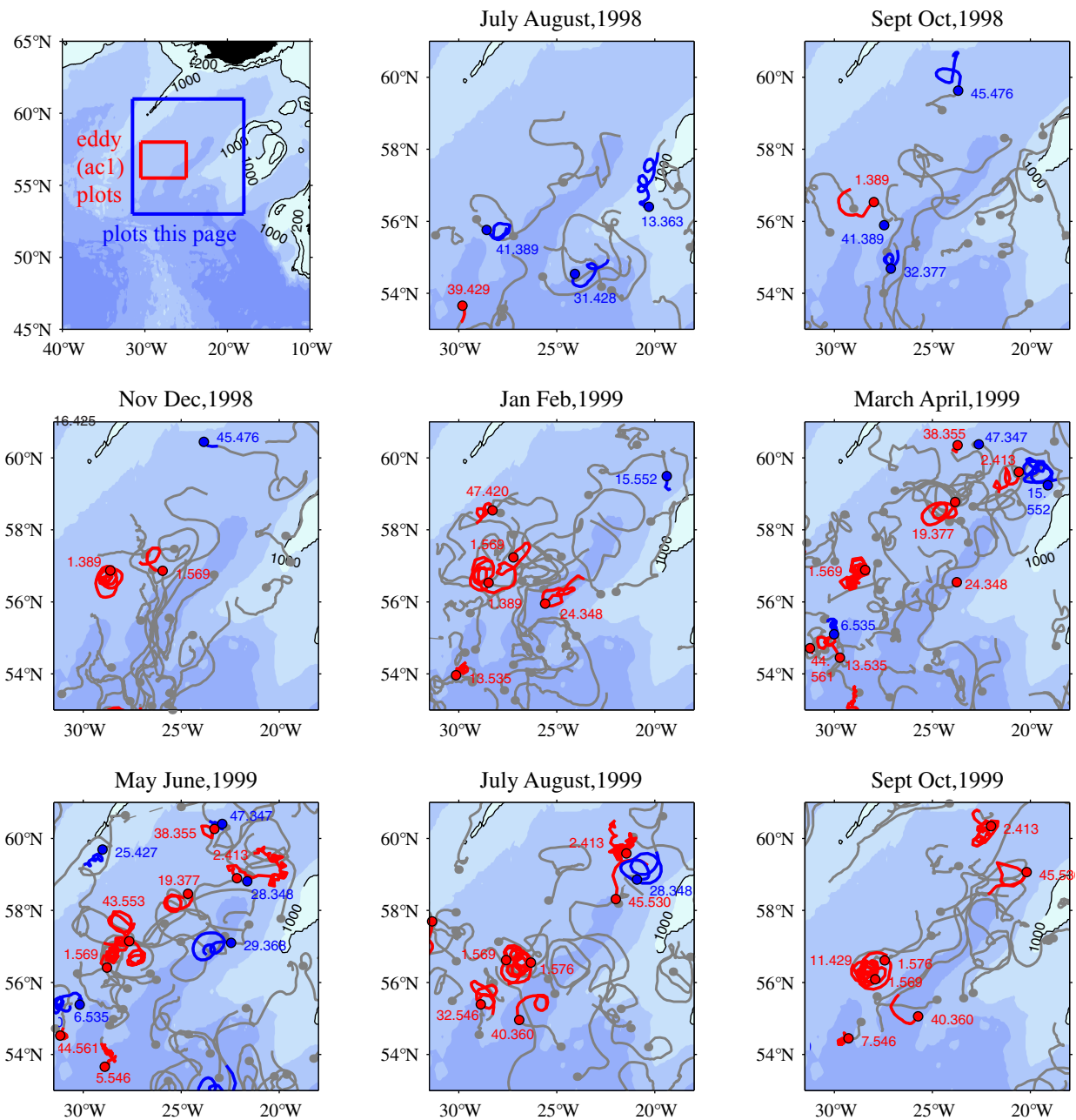


Figure 9
 Time frames showing all trajectories (in grey) as well as looping trajectories (anticyclonic in red and cyclonic in blue) of floats in the Iceland Basin. The beginning of each track is marked with a circle.

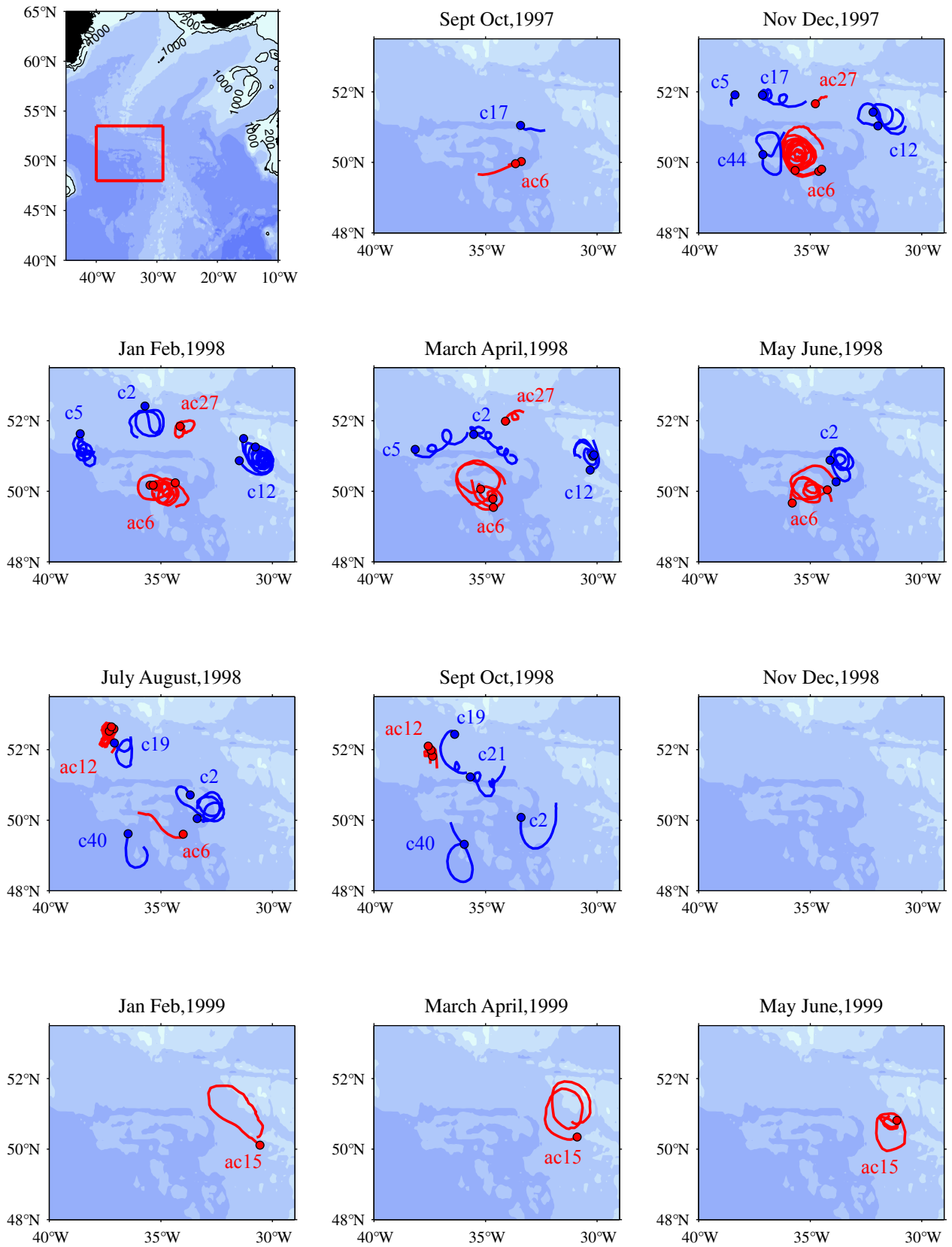


Figure 10

Time frames showing looping trajectories (anticyclonic in red and cyclonic in blue) of floats in an area just to the west of the Mid-Atlantic-Ridge. The beginning of each track is marked with a circle. Each individual eddy is labelled with its ID number.

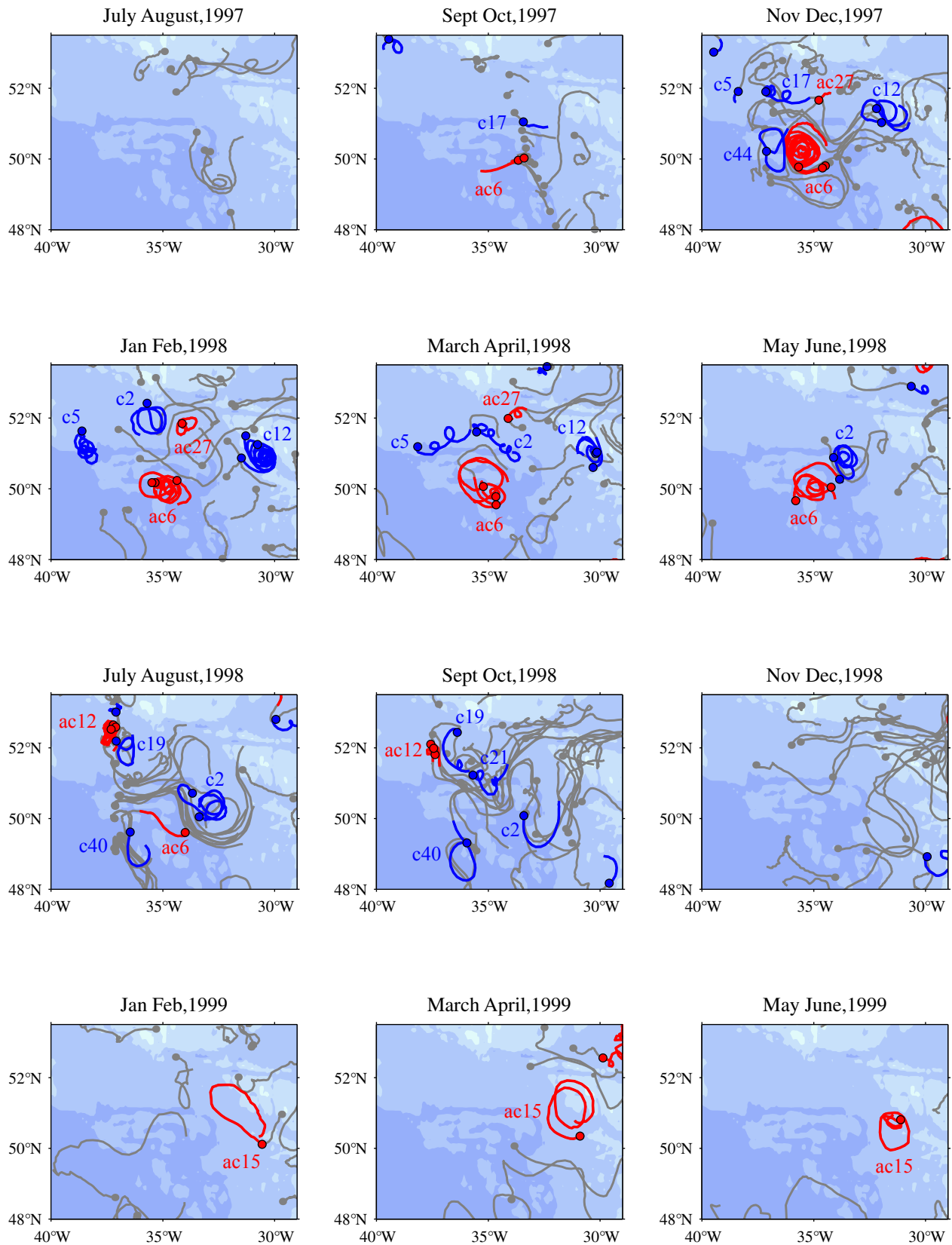


Figure 11
 Time frames showing all trajectories (in grey) as well as looping trajectories (anticyclonic in red and cyclonic in blue) of floats in an area just to the west of the Mid-Atlantic-Ridge. The beginning of each track is marked with a circle. The individual eddies of interest are labelled with their ID numbers.

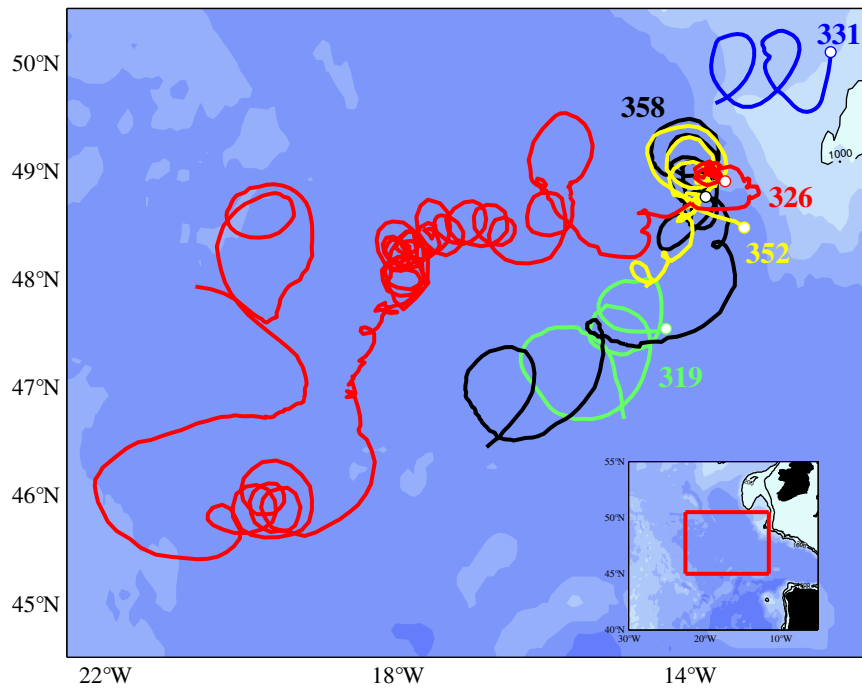


Figure 12
Anticyclonic looping float trajectories at the eastern boundary, labelled with float numbers.

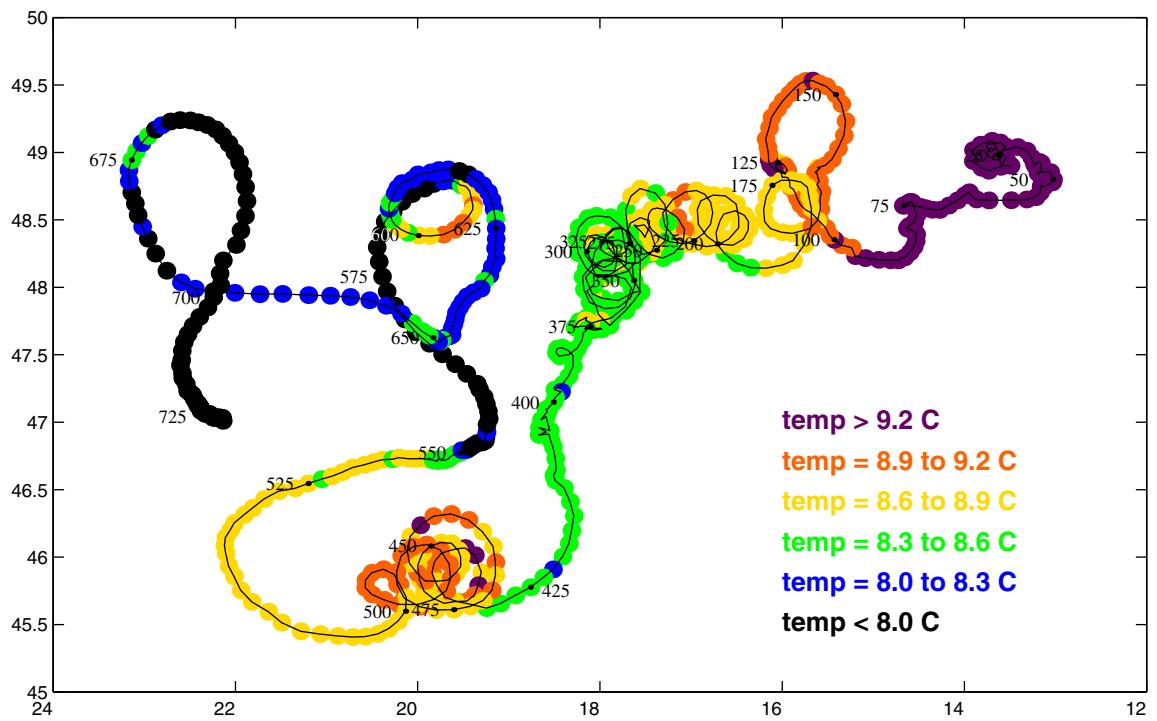
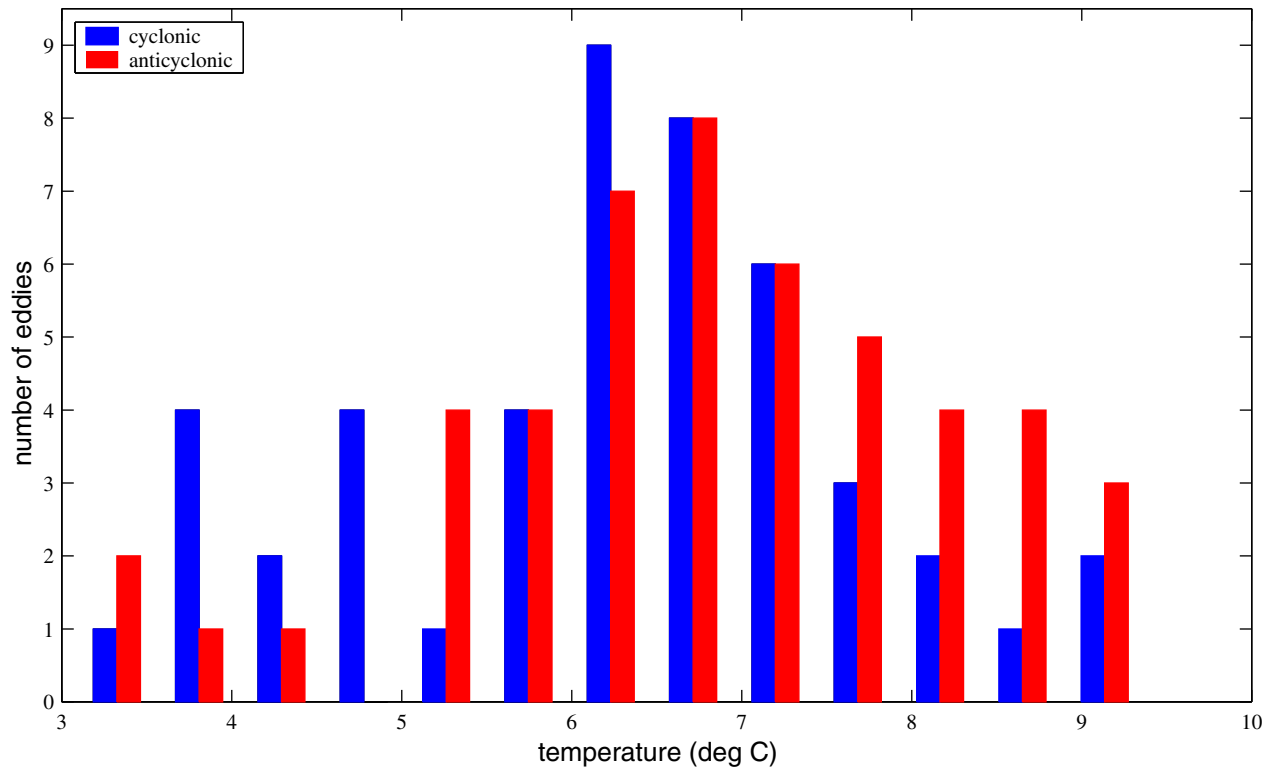


Figure 13
Temperature along the trajectory of float 326. Numbers denote days from float deployment.



Number of eddies in each bin:

| bin centre | #cyclonic eddies | #anticyclonic eddies |
|------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 3.3 | 1 | 2 |
| 3.8 | 4 | 1 |
| 4.3 | 2 | 1 |
| 4.8 | 4 | 0 |
| 5.3 | 1 | 4 |
| 5.7 | 4 | 4 |
| 6.2 | 9 | 7 |
| 6.7 | 8 | 8 |
| 7.2 | 6 | 6 |
| 7.7 | 3 | 5 |
| 8.2 | 2 | 4 |
| 8.7 | 1 | 4 |
| 9.1 | 2 | 3 |

Number of cyclonic eddies = 47

Number of anticyclonic eddies = 49

Percentage of eddies that are anticyclonic = 51 %

Figure 14
Histogram of mean temperature of each eddy (cyclonic in blue, anticyclonic in red)

Tables

Table 1a. WHOI ACCE floats launch and surface positions and dates.
Organised by float number within 3 separate cruise groups.

| Float | Launch | | | Surface | | |
|-------|------------|-------|--------|------------|-------|--------|
| | Date | Lat | Lon | Date | Lat | Lon |
| 317 * | 11 26 1996 | 53.42 | -15.33 | 11 26 1998 | 55.00 | -10.59 |
| 318 * | 11 26 1996 | 53.82 | -18.57 | 11 26 1998 | 57.32 | -29.22 |
| 319 * | 12 1 1996 | 48.72 | -15.02 | 12 1 1998 | 49.95 | -15.38 |
| 320 * | 12 1 1996 | 48.51 | -17.01 | 12 1 1998 | 44.68 | -10.31 |
| 322 * | 11 25 1996 | 53.34 | -14.80 | 11 25 1998 | 54.91 | -17.34 |
| 323 * | 11 30 1996 | 51.51 | -15.16 | 2 28 1997 | 51.82 | -15.37 |
| 324 * | 11 29 1996 | 51.49 | -15.68 | 2 27 1997 | 50.95 | -16.77 |
| 326 * | 12 2 1996 | 48.90 | -13.46 | 12 2 1998 | 47.00 | -22.12 |
| 328 * | 11 26 1996 | 53.62 | -16.91 | 11 26 1998 | 61.18 | -25.76 |
| 330 * | 11 29 1996 | 51.48 | -17.38 | 11 29 1998 | 57.29 | -33.64 |
| 331 * | 12 3 1996 | 48.98 | -12.71 | 12 3 1998 | 50.87 | -21.43 |
| 349 | 6 21 1997 | 54.84 | -37.13 | 6 21 1999 | 59.19 | -37.16 |
| 356 | 6 22 1997 | 53.88 | -36.00 | 6 22 1999 | 53.74 | -40.66 |
| 359 | 6 24 1997 | 48.18 | -31.97 | 6 24 1999 | 50.95 | -29.35 |
| 365 | 6 24 1997 | 49.09 | -32.50 | 6 24 1999 | 45.29 | -27.80 |
| 367 | 6 25 1997 | 46.09 | -30.79 | 6 25 1999 | 45.04 | -28.67 |
| 368 | 6 23 1997 | 50.04 | -33.04 | 6 23 1999 | 56.78 | -23.60 |
| 369 | 6 23 1997 | 50.98 | -33.63 | 6 23 1999 | 56.84 | -28.43 |
| 377 | 6 23 1997 | 51.92 | -34.21 | 6 23 1999 | 57.69 | -22.51 |
| 378 | 6 22 1997 | 53.00 | -34.90 | 6 22 1999 | 52.38 | -27.32 |
| 380 | 6 23 1997 | 50.52 | -33.35 | 8 22 1997 | 49.50 | -32.56 |
| 381 | 6 25 1997 | 47.62 | -31.63 | 6 25 1999 | 47.29 | -25.28 |
| 382 | 6 23 1997 | 52.38 | -34.50 | 8 21 1997 | 52.64 | -29.97 |
| 325 | 10 21 1997 | 54.90 | -35.00 | 8 10 1999 | 54.99 | -48.77 |
| 341 | 10 17 1997 | 46.15 | -30.97 | 10 17 1999 | 48.79 | -26.87 |
| 342 | 10 19 1997 | 50.60 | -33.49 | 10 19 1999 | 53.33 | -18.24 |
| 343 | 10 18 1997 | 48.51 | -32.29 | 10 18 1999 | 54.92 | -18.76 |
| 344 * | 11 2 1997 | 53.16 | -15.00 | 11 2 1999 | 58.66 | -30.41 |
| 346 | 10 18 1997 | 48.04 | -32.01 | 10 18 1999 | 49.63 | -12.74 |
| 347 | 10 19 1997 | 50.83 | -33.61 | 10 19 1999 | 60.79 | -27.38 |
| 348 | 10 17 1997 | 47.10 | -31.50 | 10 17 1999 | 62.56 | -22.05 |
| 350 * | 11 3 1997 | 52.25 | -15.70 | 11 3 1999 | 62.01 | -25.81 |
| 351 * | 11 5 1997 | 48.72 | -12.35 | 4 14 1998 | 48.82 | -11.73 |
| 352 * | 11 5 1997 | 48.59 | -12.43 | 11 5 1999 | 45.67 | -6.57 |
| 354 * | 11 4 1997 | 51.00 | -16.01 | 11 4 1999 | 46.89 | -9.02 |
| 355 | 10 17 1997 | 46.62 | -31.20 | 10 17 1999 | 60.19 | -28.39 |
| 357 * | 11 5 1997 | 48.18 | -12.99 | 11 5 1999 | 50.18 | -11.72 |
| 358 * | 11 5 1997 | 48.40 | -12.63 | 11 5 1999 | 47.79 | -16.89 |
| 360 | 10 19 1997 | 52.54 | -35.34 | 10 19 1999 | 58.39 | -23.91 |
| 361 * | 11 4 1997 | 51.22 | -15.26 | 11 4 1999 | 54.83 | -10.74 |
| 362 * | 11 2 1997 | 53.17 | -15.83 | 10 2 1999 | 57.00 | -17.83 |
| 363 * | 11 2 1997 | 53.17 | -16.25 | 11 2 1999 | 62.08 | -23.40 |
| 364 * | 11 4 1997 | 50.87 | -16.53 | 11 4 1999 | 50.30 | -21.47 |
| 389 | 10 18 1997 | 50.36 | -33.34 | 10 18 1999 | 61.24 | -33.69 |
| 400 | 10 18 1997 | 50.13 | -33.22 | 10 18 1999 | 54.65 | -27.53 |
| 413 | 10 18 1997 | 49.45 | -32.81 | 10 18 1999 | 60.67 | -22.00 |
| 414 | 10 18 1997 | 47.59 | -31.75 | 10 18 1999 | 57.55 | -20.56 |
| 415 | 10 19 1997 | 52.30 | -34.17 | 10 19 1999 | 57.39 | -39.20 |
| 416 | 10 18 1997 | 49.00 | -32.55 | 10 18 1999 | 62.75 | -22.50 |
| 418 | 10 18 1997 | 49.66 | -32.94 | 6 16 1999 | 47.94 | -36.22 |
| 419 * | 11 4 1997 | 51.27 | -15.06 | 11 4 1999 | 46.35 | -18.18 |
| 420 | 10 18 1997 | 49.91 | -33.08 | 10 18 1999 | 52.54 | -33.26 |
| 421 | 10 21 1997 | 56.11 | -34.25 | 10 21 1999 | 63.02 | -53.66 |
| 422 | 10 18 1997 | 54.00 | -35.50 | 10 18 1999 | 60.98 | -17.61 |
| 423 | 10 17 1997 | 45.69 | -30.75 | 10 17 1999 | 42.75 | -24.56 |
| 424 | 10 16 1997 | 45.22 | -30.47 | 10 16 1999 | 46.20 | -24.81 |
| 425 | 10 22 1997 | 57.33 | -32.96 | 10 22 1999 | 63.77 | -55.44 |
| 426 | 10 23 1997 | 59.39 | -30.26 | 10 23 1999 | 43.24 | -52.17 |
| 427 | 10 20 1997 | 52.87 | -35.38 | 10 16 1999 | 64.47 | -30.14 |
| 428 | 10 19 1997 | 51.31 | -33.89 | 10 19 1999 | 57.76 | -21.64 |
| 429 | 10 19 1997 | 51.78 | -34.14 | 10 19 1999 | 55.25 | -34.15 |

* denotes floats launched at the eastern boundary

Table 1b. URI ACCE floats launch and surface positions and dates.
Organised by float number within 3 separate cruise groups.

| Float | Launch | | | Surface | | |
|-------|-----------|-------|--------|------------|-------|--------|
| | Date | Lat | Lon | Date | Lat | Lon |
| 431 | 5 28 1997 | 46.30 | -34.86 | 6 25 1997 | 45.76 | -37.69 |
| 432 | 6 24 1997 | 52.80 | -34.75 | 7 22 1997 | 52.74 | -33.04 |
| 433 | 5 28 1997 | 46.30 | -34.86 | 9 23 1997 | 44.84 | -33.63 |
| 434 | 6 24 1997 | 52.80 | -34.75 | 10 20 1997 | 54.56 | -30.52 |
| 440 | 11 5 1997 | 51.01 | -37.15 | 8 10 1998 | 45.44 | -39.69 |
| 448 | 11 5 1997 | 52.00 | -37.14 | 5 9 1998 | 52.75 | -19.74 |
| 453 | 11 5 1997 | 50.00 | -37.13 | 12 14 1997 | 51.05 | -32.96 |
| 459 | 11 5 1997 | 50.33 | -37.14 | 8 30 1998 | 54.57 | -34.28 |
| 466 | 11 6 1997 | 52.67 | -37.15 | 12 19 1997 | 52.71 | -37.94 |
| 469 | 11 4 1997 | 49.33 | -37.13 | 8 27 1998 | 46.29 | -30.40 |
| 475 | 11 5 1997 | 51.67 | -37.13 | 8 27 1998 | 54.14 | -42.79 |
| 476 | 11 5 1997 | 51.33 | -37.12 | 12 26 1998 | 59.04 | -20.17 |
| 479 | 11 5 1997 | 51.34 | -37.12 | 4 2 1998 | 50.84 | -30.54 |
| 480 | 11 5 1997 | 49.67 | -37.14 | 3 30 1998 | 50.82 | -30.87 |
| 502 | 7 25 1998 | 49.33 | -37.14 | 1 10 2000 | 46.86 | -33.91 |
| 510 | 7 25 1998 | 49.33 | -37.14 | 1 10 2000 | 38.69 | -25.03 |
| 530 | 7 26 1998 | 49.01 | -37.14 | 1 9 2000 | 60.39 | -19.62 |
| 531 | 7 25 1998 | 50.67 | -37.13 | 1 6 2000 | 56.88 | -31.07 |
| 534 | 7 26 1998 | 49.65 | -37.13 | 1 9 2000 | 57.51 | -24.35 |
| 535 | 7 24 1998 | 52.36 | -37.13 | 12 11 1999 | 56.95 | -34.04 |
| 536 | 7 24 1998 | 53.33 | -37.13 | 8 26 1999 | 59.38 | 2.57 |
| 537 | 7 25 1998 | 52.67 | -37.14 | 10 10 1999 | 54.40 | -12.66 |
| 538 | 7 25 1998 | 50.34 | -37.14 | 1 8 2000 | 53.99 | -36.96 |
| 539 | 7 24 1998 | 53.67 | -37.14 | 2 27 1999 | 62.00 | -7.48 |
| 540 | 7 25 1998 | 51.00 | -37.11 | 1 10 2000 | 53.60 | -39.08 |
| 541 | 7 25 1998 | 49.99 | -37.13 | 11 19 1999 | 56.81 | -11.90 |
| 542 | 7 26 1998 | 51.00 | -37.11 | 1 9 2000 | 57.77 | -22.48 |
| 544 | 7 25 1998 | 51.00 | -37.11 | 1 10 2000 | 51.60 | -16.73 |
| 546 | 7 25 1998 | 53.00 | -37.13 | 1 10 2000 | 54.47 | -29.44 |
| 547 | 7 25 1998 | 50.34 | -37.14 | 12 4 1999 | 60.38 | -28.04 |
| 548 | 7 25 1998 | 49.99 | -37.13 | 1 10 2000 | 54.23 | -21.86 |
| 549 | 7 21 1998 | 51.00 | -37.11 | 1 9 2000 | 59.52 | -20.89 |
| 550 | 7 24 1998 | 53.98 | -37.16 | 11 3 1999 | 64.50 | -33.51 |
| 552 | 7 21 1998 | 50.67 | -37.13 | 8 22 1999 | 63.98 | -16.17 |
| 553 | 7 25 1998 | 52.67 | -37.14 | 1 10 2000 | 54.82 | -37.55 |
| 554 | 7 21 1998 | 49.33 | -37.14 | 1 10 2000 | 46.50 | -32.05 |
| 557 | 7 24 1998 | 53.33 | -37.13 | 1 5 2000 | 56.48 | -36.91 |
| 558 | 7 25 1998 | 50.34 | -37.14 | 1 7 2000 | 60.74 | -18.07 |
| 559 | 7 21 1998 | 49.01 | -37.14 | 1 10 2000 | 45.62 | -22.70 |
| 560 | 7 25 1998 | 50.67 | -37.13 | 12 14 1999 | 60.79 | -32.62 |
| 561 | 7 21 1998 | 50.34 | -37.14 | 11 4 1999 | 62.93 | -39.28 |
| 563 | 7 25 1998 | 52.36 | -37.13 | 11 22 1999 | 64.87 | -30.70 |
| 564 | 7 24 1998 | 52.67 | -37.14 | 1 9 2000 | 55.98 | -31.52 |
| 566 | 7 24 1998 | 53.00 | -37.13 | 12 30 1998 | 61.94 | 0.55 |
| 569 | 7 21 1998 | 50.67 | -37.13 | 1 9 2000 | 57.39 | -25.00 |
| 570 | 7 24 1998 | 53.00 | -37.13 | 3 4 1999 | 59.76 | -5.01 |
| 571 | 7 24 1998 | 53.98 | -37.16 | 8 7 1999 | 63.70 | -40.47 |
| 572 | 7 24 1998 | 53.67 | -37.14 | 10 15 1999 | 60.49 | -46.26 |
| 573 | 7 24 1998 | 53.33 | -37.13 | 1 15 1999 | 65.53 | 9.19 |
| 574 | 7 21 1998 | 52.36 | -37.13 | 12 25 1999 | 61.71 | -31.87 |
| 575 | 7 26 1998 | 49.01 | -37.14 | 1 20 1999 | 47.80 | -31.83 |
| 576 | 7 21 1998 | 51.67 | -37.13 | 1 9 2000 | 58.76 | -26.07 |

Table 2a. Details of all ACCE floats anticyclonic looping trajectories (in eddy ID order)

| eddy ID ^x | float | | start rec # | end rec # | days tracked | no. of loops | mean period (days) | dates tracked | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|------|-------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|----|------|----------|----|------|
| | | | | | | | | start date | | | end date | | |
| ac1 | 569 | URI | 150 | 485 | 336 | 46 | 7.3 | 12 | 16 | 1998 | 11 | 16 | 1999 |
| ac1 ^{#2} | 389 | WHOI | 350 | 455 | 106 | 8 | 13.25 | 10 | 3 | 1998 | 1 | 16 | 1999 |
| ac1 ^{#3} | 576 | URI | 392 | 436 | 45 | 2.8 | 16 | 8 | 15 | 1999 | 9 | 28 | 1999 |
| ac2 | 413 | WHOI | 540 | 720 | 181 | 43 | 4.2 | 4 | 11 | 1999 | 10 | 8 | 1999 |
| ac3 | 326 | WHOI | 1 | 502 | 502 | 42 | 12 | 12 | 3 | 1996 | 4 | 18 | 1998 |
| ac4 | 538 | URI | 222 | 370 | 149 | 36 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1999 | 7 | 28 | 1999 |
| ac5 | 546 | URI | 237 | 340 | 104 | 22 | 4.6 | 3 | 17 | 1999 | 6 | 28 | 1999 |
| ac6 | 418 | WHOI | 10 | 280 | 271 | 15 | 18 | 10 | 28 | 1997 | 7 | 25 | 1998 |
| ac6 ^{#2} | 400 | WHOI | 3 | 253 | 251 | 13 | 19.3 | 10 | 21 | 1997 | 6 | 28 | 1998 |
| ac6 ^{#3} | 413 | WHOI | 13 | 146 | 134 | 4.5 | 29.8 | 10 | 31 | 1997 | 3 | 13 | 1998 |
| ac7 | 546 | URI | 417 | 487 | 71 | 11 | 6.5 | 9 | 13 | 1999 | 11 | 22 | 1999 |
| ac8 | 318 | WHOI | 305 | 405 | 101 | 10.5 | 10 | 9 | 27 | 1997 | 1 | 5 | 1998 |
| ac9 | 352 | WHOI | 13 | 273 | 261 | 10 | 26 (18, 60) * | 11 | 18 | 1997 | 8 | 5 | 1998 |
| ac9 ^{#2} | 358 | WHOI | 10 | 133 | 124 | 9 | 14 | 11 | 15 | 1997 | 3 | 18 | 1998 |
| ac10 | 572 | URI | 318 | 388 | 71 | 9.75 | 7.3 | 6 | 5 | 1999 | 8 | 14 | 1999 |
| ac11 | 429 | WHOI | 662 | 730 | 69 | 9.5 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 1999 | 10 | 19 | 1999 |
| ac12 | 564 | URI | 1 | 50 | 50 | 8 | 6.25 | 7 | 24 | 1998 | 9 | 10 | 1998 |
| ac12 ^{#2} | 537 | URI | 1 | 47 | 47 | 7 | 6.7 | 7 | 25 | 1998 | 9 | 8 | 1998 |
| ac12 ^{#3} | 553 | URI | 1 | 46 | 46 | 8 | 5.8 | 7 | 25 | 1998 | 9 | 7 | 1998 |
| ac13 | 535 | URI | 196 | 246 | 51 | 7.5 | 6.7 | 2 | 3 | 1999 | 3 | 25 | 1999 |
| ac14 | 346 | WHOI | 392 | 507 | 116 | 6.5 | 17.5 | 11 | 14 | 1998 | 3 | 9 | 1999 |
| ac15 | 564 | URI | 180 | 348 | 169 | 6 | 28 | 1 | 18 | 1999 | 7 | 5 | 1999 |
| ac16 | 425 | WHOI | 309 | 380 | 72 | 5.5 | 13 | 8 | 27 | 1998 | 11 | 6 | 1998 |
| ac17 | 356 | WHOI | 346 | 480 | 135 | 5 | 27 | 6 | 3 | 1998 | 10 | 15 | 1998 |
| ac18 | 349 | WHOI | 86 | 179 | 94 | 5 | 18.6 | 9 | 15 | 1997 | 12 | 17 | 1997 |
| ac19 | 377 | WHOI | 645 | 700 | 56 | 5 | 11.2 | 3 | 30 | 1999 | 5 | 24 | 1999 |
| ac20 | 561 | URI | 399 | 420 | 22 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 8 | 22 | 1999 | 9 | 12 | 1999 |
| ac21 | 355 | WHOI | 10 | 229 | 220 | 4.5 | 49 | 10 | 27 | 1997 | 6 | 3 | 1998 |
| ac22 | 364 | WHOI | 122 | 166 | 45 | 4.5 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 1998 | 4 | 19 | 1998 |
| ac23 | 364 | WHOI | 360 | 501 | 142 | 4 | 35.5 | 10 | 30 | 1998 | 3 | 20 | 1999 |
| ac24 | 348 | WHOI | 440 | 502 | 63 | 4 | 16 | 12 | 31 | 1998 | 3 | 3 | 1999 |
| ac25 | 317 | WHOI | 633 | 681 | 49 | 4 | 12 | 8 | 21 | 1998 | 10 | 8 | 1998 |
| ac26 | 317 | WHOI | 524 | 548 | 25 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1998 | 5 | 28 | 1998 |
| ac27 | 459 | URI | 52 | 139 | 88 | 3.5 | 25 | 12 | 25 | 1997 | 3 | 22 | 1998 |
| ac28 | 364 | WHOI | 1 | 58 | 58 | 3.5 | 16.6 | 11 | 5 | 1997 | 1 | 1 | 1998 |
| ac29 | 349 | WHOI | 586 | 632 | 47 | 3.3 | 14 | 1 | 28 | 1999 | 3 | 15 | 1999 |
| ac30 | 423 | WHOI | 419 | 554 | 136 | 3 | 45 | 12 | 10 | 1998 | 4 | 24 | 1999 |
| ac31 | 319 | WHOI | 211 | 316 | 106 | 3 | 35 | 6 | 30 | 1997 | 10 | 13 | 1997 |
| ac32 | 546 | URI | 359 | 402 | 44 | 3 | 14.3 | 7 | 17 | 1999 | 8 | 29 | 1999 |
| ac33 | 363 | WHOI | 499 | 529 | 31 | 3 | 10 | 3 | 16 | 1999 | 4 | 15 | 1999 |
| ac34 | 324 | WHOI | 2 | 30 | 29 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 1 | 1996 | 12 | 29 | 1996 |
| ac35 | 560 | URI | 122 | 145 | 24 | 2.7 | 9.5 | 11 | 22 | 1998 | 12 | 15 | 1998 |
| ac36 | 331 | WHOI | 94 | 175 | 82 | 2.5 | 32.4 | 3 | 7 | 1997 | 5 | 27 | 1997 |
| ac37 | 510 | URI | 119 | 183 | 65 | 2.5 | 25.5 | 11 | 19 | 1998 | 1 | 22 | 1999 |
| ac38 | 355 | WHOI | 557 | 569 | 13 | 2.5 | 5.2 | 4 | 27 | 1999 | 5 | 9 | 1999 |
| ac39 | 429 | WHOI | 200 | 271 | 72 | 2.3 | 31 | 5 | 7 | 1998 | 7 | 17 | 1998 |
| ac40 | 360 | WHOI | 643 | 698 | 56 | 2.3 | 24 | 7 | 24 | 1999 | 9 | 17 | 1999 |
| ac41 | 343 | WHOI | 451 | 511 | 61 | 2.2 | 27 | 1 | 12 | 1999 | 3 | 13 | 1999 |
| ac42 | 547 | URI | 100 | 160 | 61 | 2 | 30 | 10 | 31 | 1998 | 12 | 30 | 1998 |
| ac43 | 553 | URI | 290 | 333 | 44 | 2 | 20 | 5 | 9 | 1999 | 6 | 21 | 1999 |
| ac44 | 561 | URI | 281 | 311 | 31 | 2 | 15.5 | 4 | 26 | 1999 | 5 | 26 | 1999 |
| ac45 | 530 | URI | 395 | 420 | 26 | 2 | 12 | 8 | 23 | 1999 | 9 | 17 | 1999 |
| ac46 | 557 | URI | 292 | 315 | 24 | 2 | 12 | 5 | 10 | 1999 | 6 | 2 | 1999 |
| ac47 | 420 | WHOI | 462 | 480 | 19 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 23 | 1999 | 2 | 10 | 1999 |
| ac48 | 547 | URI | 485 | 495 | 11 | 2 | 5.5 | 11 | 20 | 1999 | 11 | 30 | 1999 |
| ac49 | 540 | URI | 525 | 534 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 30 | 1999 | 1 | 8 | 2000 |

^x ac stands for anticyclonic, so ac1 is anticyclonic eddy 1. ^{#2} denotes second float in the eddy etc.

^{*} the first 8 loops have an 18 day period, the last 2 each have a 60 day period

Table 2b. Details of all ACCE floats cyclonic looping trajectories (in eddy ID order)

| eddy ID ^x | float | | start rec # | end rec # | days tracked | no. of loops | mean period (days) | dates tracked | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|------|-------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|----|----------|----|----|------|
| | | | | | | | | start date | | end date | | | |
| c1 | 421 | WHOI | 458 | 625 | 168 | 17.5 | 9.5 | 1 | 22 | 1999 | 7 | 8 | 1999 |
| c2 | 360 | WHOI | 73 | 313 | 241 | 13.5 | 18 | 12 | 31 | 1997 | 8 | 28 | 1998 |
| c2 ^{#2} | 400 | WHOI | 253 | 340 | 88 | 2.6 | 33.8 | 6 | 28 | 1998 | 9 | 23 | 1998 |
| c3 | 540 | URI | 258 | 418 | 161 | 12.5 | 13 | 4 | 7 | 1999 | 9 | 14 | 1999 |
| c4 | 544 | URI | 200 | 369 | 170 | 11.5 | 14.5 | 2 | 8 | 1999 | 7 | 27 | 1999 |
| c4 ^{#2} | 537 | URI | 206 | 257 | 52 | 3.5 | 14.6 | 2 | 14 | 1999 | 4 | 6 | 1999 |
| c4 ^{#3} | 558 | URI | 212 | 244 | 33 | 2.2 | 15.5 | 2 | 20 | 1999 | 3 | 24 | 1999 |
| c5 | 422 | WHOI | 67 | 166 | 100 | 11 | 9.7 | 12 | 24 | 1997 | 4 | 2 | 1998 |
| c6 | 535 | URI | 251 | 338 | 88 | 10.5 | 8 | 3 | 30 | 1999 | 6 | 25 | 1999 |
| c7 | 557 | URI | 422 | 522 | 101 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 17 | 1999 | 12 | 26 | 1999 |
| c8 | 547 | URI | 366 | 421 | 56 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 24 | 1999 | 9 | 17 | 1999 |
| c9 | 358 | WHOI | 478 | 712 | 235 | 8 | 29.4 | 2 | 26 | 1999 | 10 | 18 | 1999 |
| c10 | 566 | URI | 3 | 32 | 30 | 7.5 | 4 | 7 | 25 | 1998 | 8 | 23 | 1998 |
| c11 | 419 | WHOI | 510 | 727 | 218 | 7 | 31 | 3 | 29 | 1999 | 11 | 1 | 1999 |
| c12 | 428 | WHOI | 4 | 145 | 142 | 6.7 | 21.2 (30, 16.3) ** | 10 | 23 | 1997 | 3 | 13 | 1998 |
| c12 ^{#2} | 479 | URI | 45 | 150 | 106 | 8.2 | 13 | 12 | 18 | 1997 | 4 | 2 | 1998 |
| c12 ^{#3} | 480 | URI | 64 | 150 | 87 | 5 | 17.4 | 1 | 6 | 1998 | 3 | 30 | 1998 |
| c13 | 363 | WHOI | 227 | 295 | 69 | 6.5 | 10.5 | 6 | 17 | 1998 | 8 | 24 | 1998 |
| c14 | 328 | WHOI | 520 | 602 | 83 | 4.5 | 18.4 | 4 | 30 | 1998 | 7 | 21 | 1998 |
| c15 | 552 | URI | 218 | 269 | 52 | 4.5 | 11.6 | 2 | 22 | 1999 | 4 | 14 | 1999 |
| c16 | 354 | WHOI | 550 | 678 | 129 | 4 | 32.25 (25, 40) *** | 5 | 8 | 1999 | 9 | 13 | 1999 |
| c17 | 448 | URI | 1 | 40 | 40 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 5 | 1997 | 12 | 13 | 1997 |
| c18 | 559 | URI | 263 | 360 | 98 | 3.5 | 28 | 4 | 8 | 1999 | 7 | 14 | 1999 |
| c19 | 563 | URI | 1 | 68 | 68 | 3.5 | 19.5 | 7 | 25 | 1998 | 9 | 29 | 1998 |
| c20 | 364 | WHOI | 570 | 660 | 91 | 3 | 30 | 5 | 28 | 1999 | 8 | 26 | 1999 |
| c21 | 542 | URI | 48 | 92 | 45 | 3 | 15 | 9 | 10 | 1998 | 10 | 24 | 1998 |
| c22 | 377 | WHOI | 354 | 397 | 44 | 3 | 14 | 6 | 12 | 1998 | 7 | 25 | 1998 |
| c23 | 317 | WHOI | 47 | 87 | 41 | 3 | 13 | 1 | 12 | 1997 | 2 | 21 | 1997 |
| c24 | 416 | WHOI | 442 | 466 | 25 | 3 | 8.3 | 1 | 3 | 1999 | 1 | 27 | 1999 |
| c25 | 427 | WHOI | 592 | 611 | 20 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 1999 | 6 | 23 | 1999 |
| c26 | 557 | URI | 370 | 384 | 15 | 3 | 4.5 | 7 | 27 | 1999 | 8 | 10 | 1999 |
| c27 | 558 | URI | 89 | 156 | 68 | 2.7 | 25 | 10 | 20 | 1998 | 12 | 26 | 1998 |
| c28 | 348 | WHOI | 620 | 662 | 43 | 2.7 | 16 | 6 | 29 | 1999 | 8 | 10 | 1999 |
| c29 | 368 | WHOI | 691 | 730 | 40 | 2.6 | 15.4 | 5 | 15 | 1999 | 6 | 23 | 1999 |
| c30 | 319 | WHOI | 490 | 568 | 79 | 2.5 | 31.6 | 4 | 5 | 1998 | 6 | 22 | 1998 |
| c31 | 428 | WHOI | 238 | 297 | 60 | 2.5 | 23.5 | 6 | 14 | 1998 | 8 | 12 | 1998 |
| c32 | 377 | WHOI | 450 | 490 | 41 | 2.5 | 16 | 9 | 16 | 1998 | 10 | 26 | 1998 |
| c33 | 549 | URI | 297 | 335 | 39 | 2.5 | 16 | 5 | 12 | 1999 | 6 | 19 | 1999 |
| c34 | 537 | URI | 371 | 398 | 28 | 2.5 | 11 | 7 | 29 | 1999 | 8 | 25 | 1999 |
| c35 | 534 | URI | 17 | 39 | 23 | 2.5 | 9.2 | 8 | 10 | 1998 | 9 | 1 | 1998 |
| c36 | 538 | URI | 517 | 530 | 14 | 2.5 | 5.6 | 12 | 22 | 1999 | 1 | 4 | 2000 |
| c37 | 356 | WHOI | 106 | 137 | 32 | 2.3 | 14 | 10 | 6 | 1997 | 11 | 6 | 1997 |
| c38 | 317 | WHOI | 317 | 351 | 35 | 2.25 | 15.6 | 10 | 9 | 1997 | 11 | 12 | 1997 |
| c39 | 317 | WHOI | 553 | 571 | 19 | 2.25 | 8.5 | 6 | 2 | 1998 | 6 | 20 | 1998 |
| c40 | 541 | URI | 27 | 70 | 44 | 2.1 | 21 | 8 | 19 | 1998 | 10 | 1 | 1998 |
| c41 | 389 | WHOI | 245 | 321 | 77 | 2 | 38.5 | 6 | 20 | 1998 | 9 | 4 | 1998 |
| c42 | 554 | URI | 70 | 145 | 76 | 2 | 38 | 9 | 27 | 1998 | 12 | 11 | 1998 |
| c43 | 377 | WHOI | 253 | 299 | 47 | 2 | 23 | 3 | 3 | 1998 | 4 | 18 | 1998 |
| c44 | 459 | URI | 1 | 37 | 37 | 2 | 18.5 | 11 | 5 | 1997 | 12 | 10 | 1997 |
| c45 | 476 | URI | 332 | 366 | 35 | 2 | 17 | 10 | 1 | 1998 | 11 | 4 | 1998 |
| c46 | 550 | URI | 366 | 391 | 26 | 2 | 12 | 7 | 23 | 1999 | 8 | 17 | 1999 |
| c47 | 347 | WHOI | 557 | 567 | 11 | 2 | 5.5 | 4 | 29 | 1999 | 5 | 9 | 1999 |

^x c stands for cyclonic, so c1 is cyclonic eddy 1. ^{#2} denotes second float in the eddy etc.

** the first 3 loops have a 30 day period, the rest have a 16.3 day period

*** the first 2 loops have a 25 day period, the last two have a 40 day period

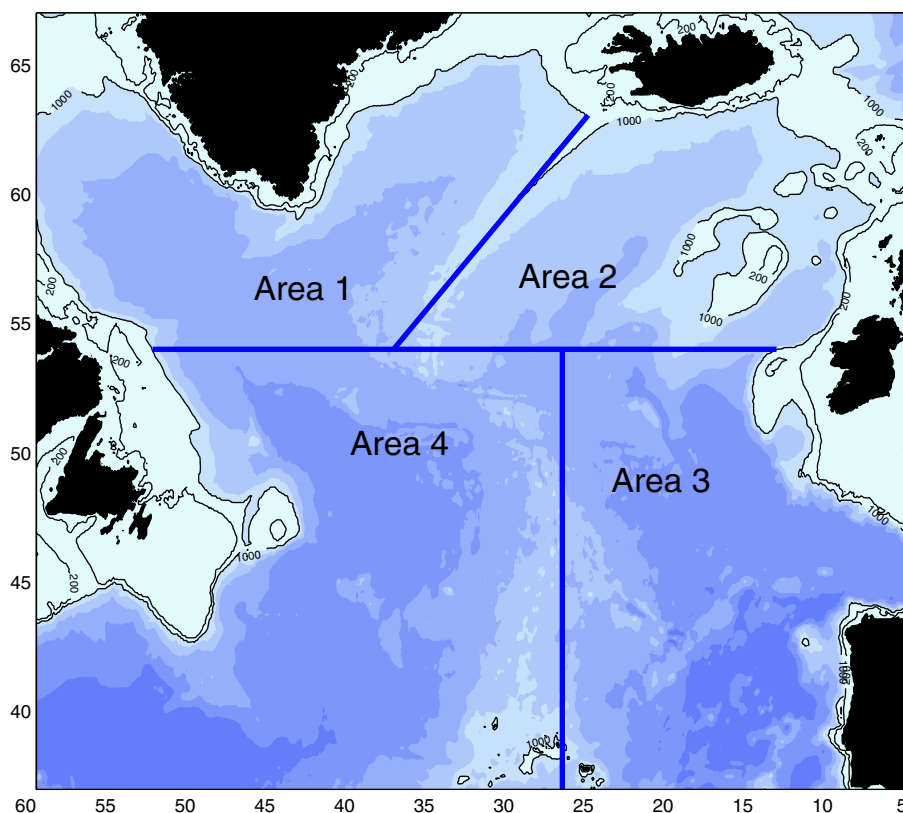
Table 3: Rotation direction of records and eddies in four areas in the North Atlantic.
(the areas are illustrated in the figure below)

| | Area 1 North of 54N and west of MAR* Irminger Basin | | Area 2 North of 54N and east of MAR Iceland Basin and Rockall Trough | | Area 3 South of 54N and east of 27W West European Basin | | Area 4 South of 54N and west of 27W Newfoundland Basin, MAR and area just to east of CGFZ** | | Entire Area | |
|---|--|-------|---|-------|--|-------|--|-------|--------------------|-------|
| No. of records | 5980 | | 17674 | | 13550 | | 20875 | | 58079 | |
| % of records that are looping | 15.0% | | 13.9% | | 20.4% | | 14.2% | | 15.6% | |
| % of looping records that are anticyclonic / cyclonic | 60.2% | 39.8% | 62.2% | 37.8% | 61.9% | 38.1% | 51.9% | 48.1% | 58.5% | 41.5% |
| Number of eddies that are anticyclonic / cyclonic | 8 | 6 | 19 | 18 | 12 | 7 | 10 | 16 | 49 | 47 |
| % of eddies that are anticyclonic / cyclonic | 57.1% | 42.9% | 51.4% | 48.6% | 63.2% | 36.8% | 38.5% | 61.5% | 51.0% | 49.0% |
| Number of eddies as a % of total number in data set | 14.6% | | 38.5% | | 19.8% | | 27.1% | | 100% | |

* MAR = Mid Atlantic Ridge

** CGFZ = Charlie Gibbs Fracture Zone

N.B: Areas 1 and 2 have as their common east/west boundary a line running down the centre of the Mid Atlantic Ridge, described by the equation $y = (0.741 * x) + 81.85$, where y is latitude and x is longitude, which intersects 54°N at 37.6°W, see figure below.



Appendix 1

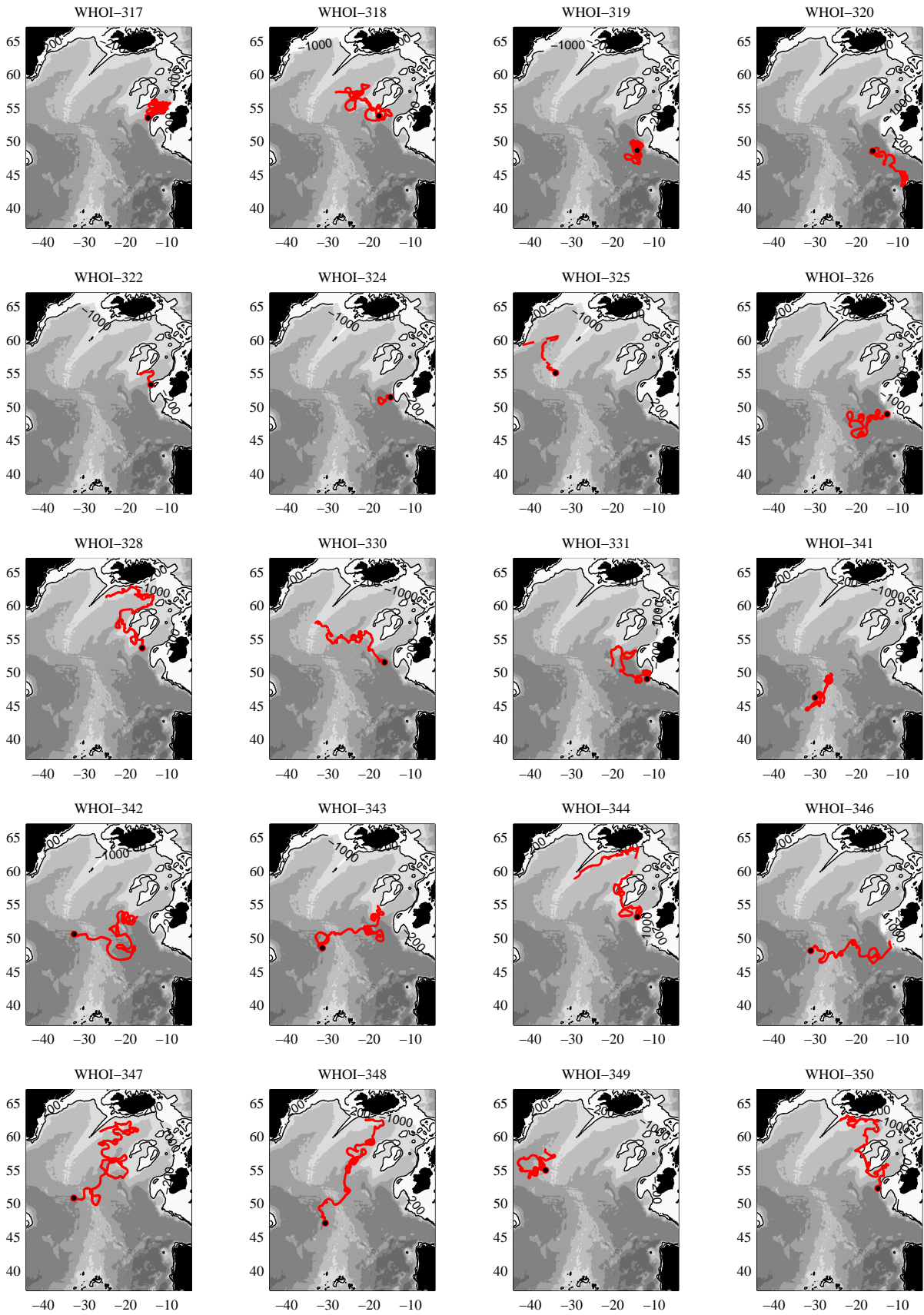
Individual ACCE RAFOS float tracks for WHOI and URI floats

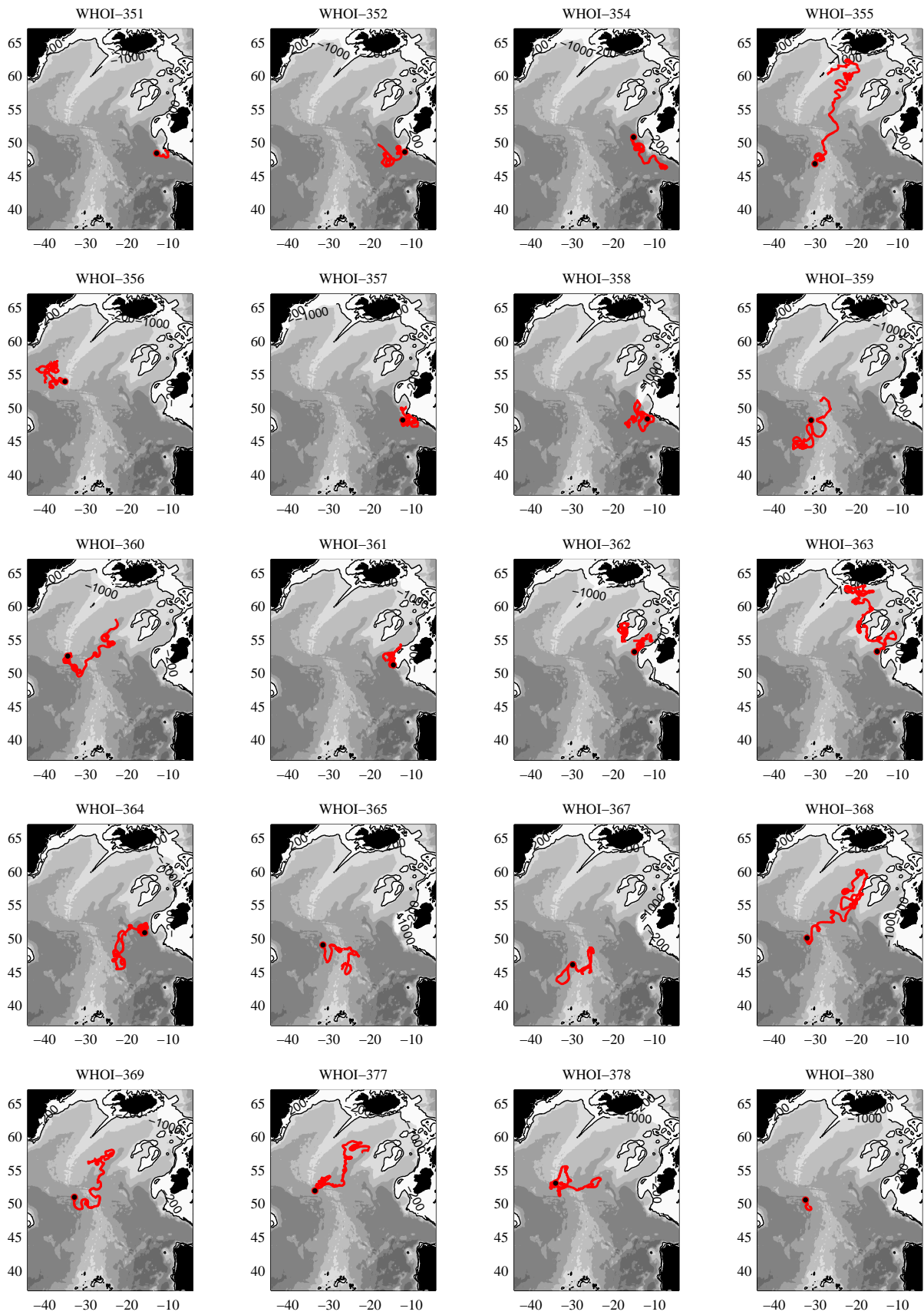
Each plot shows a different float track overlying bathymetry.

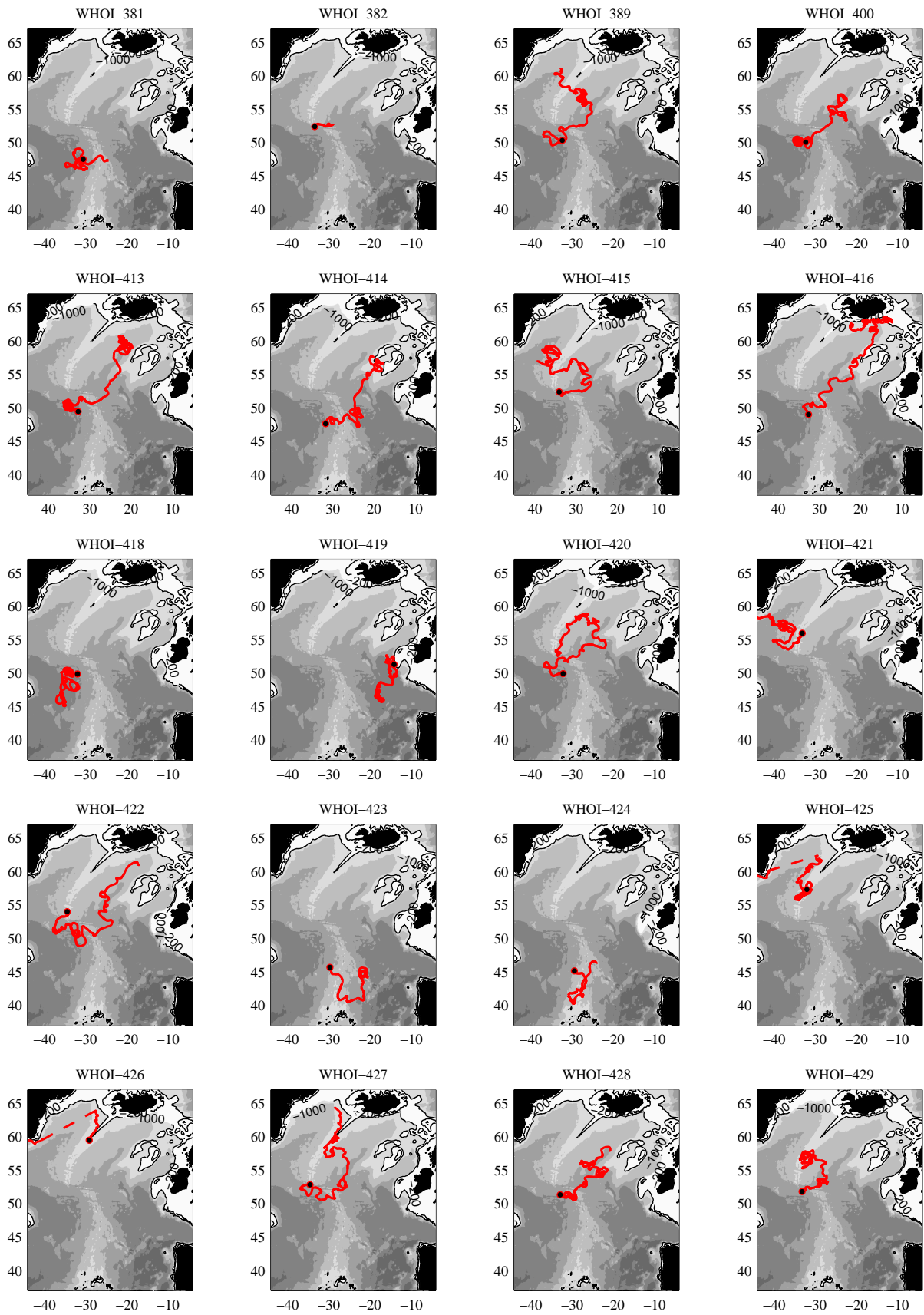
Float number is given in the plot title.

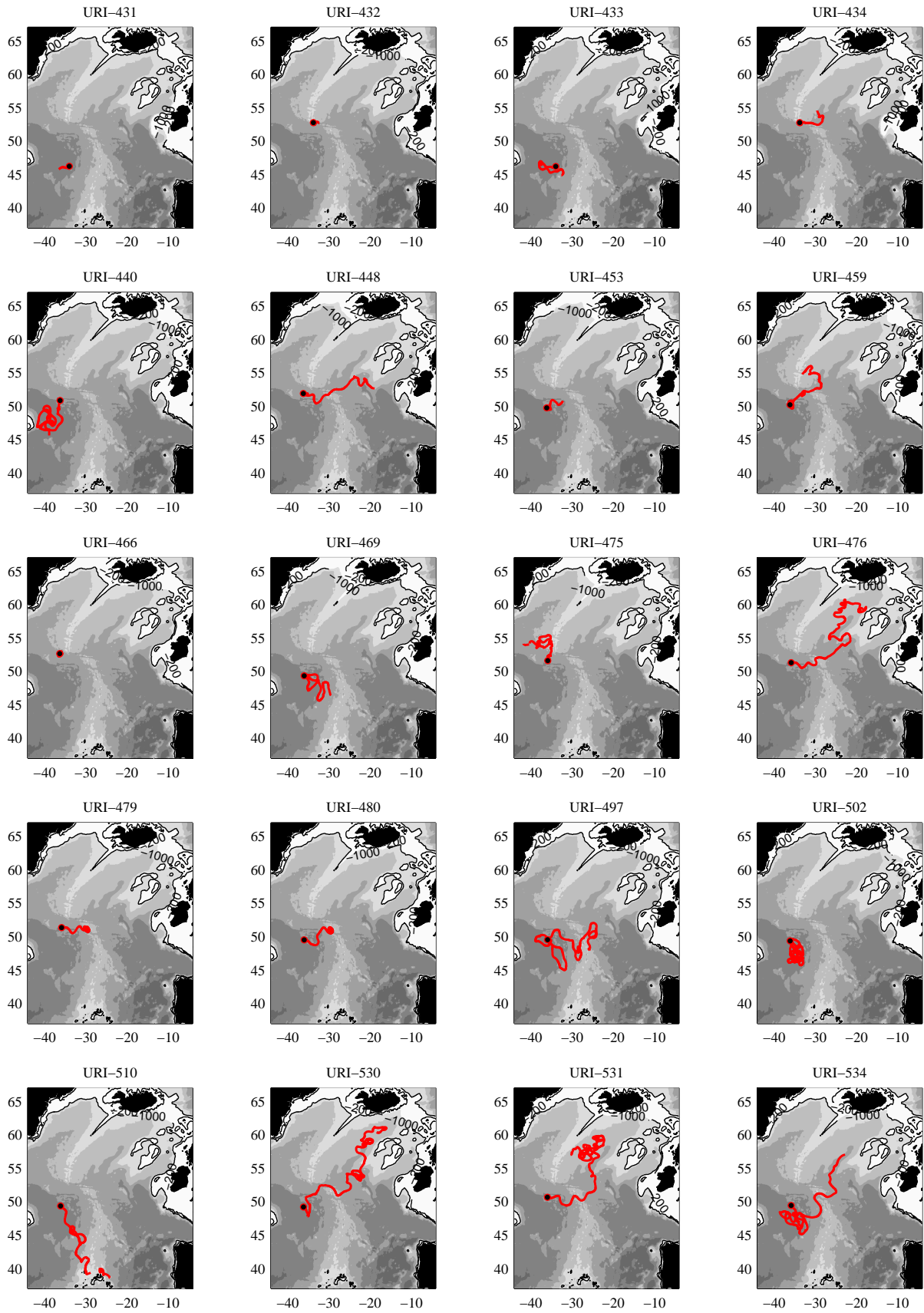
A dot is drawn at the beginning of the track.

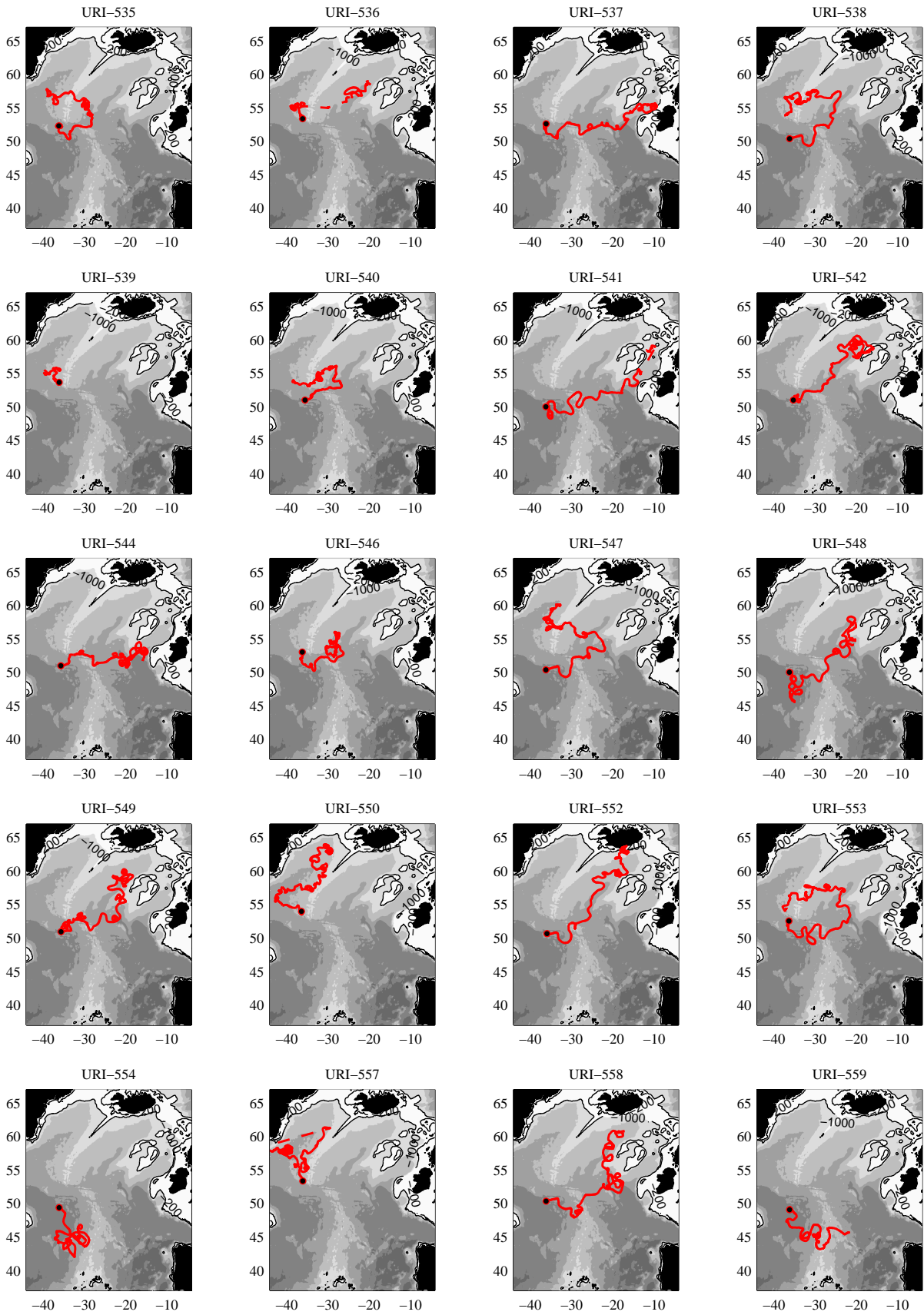
Please note: These plots are for reference only, to make finding particular tracks easier. They are not intended to be used to make out any details of the track!

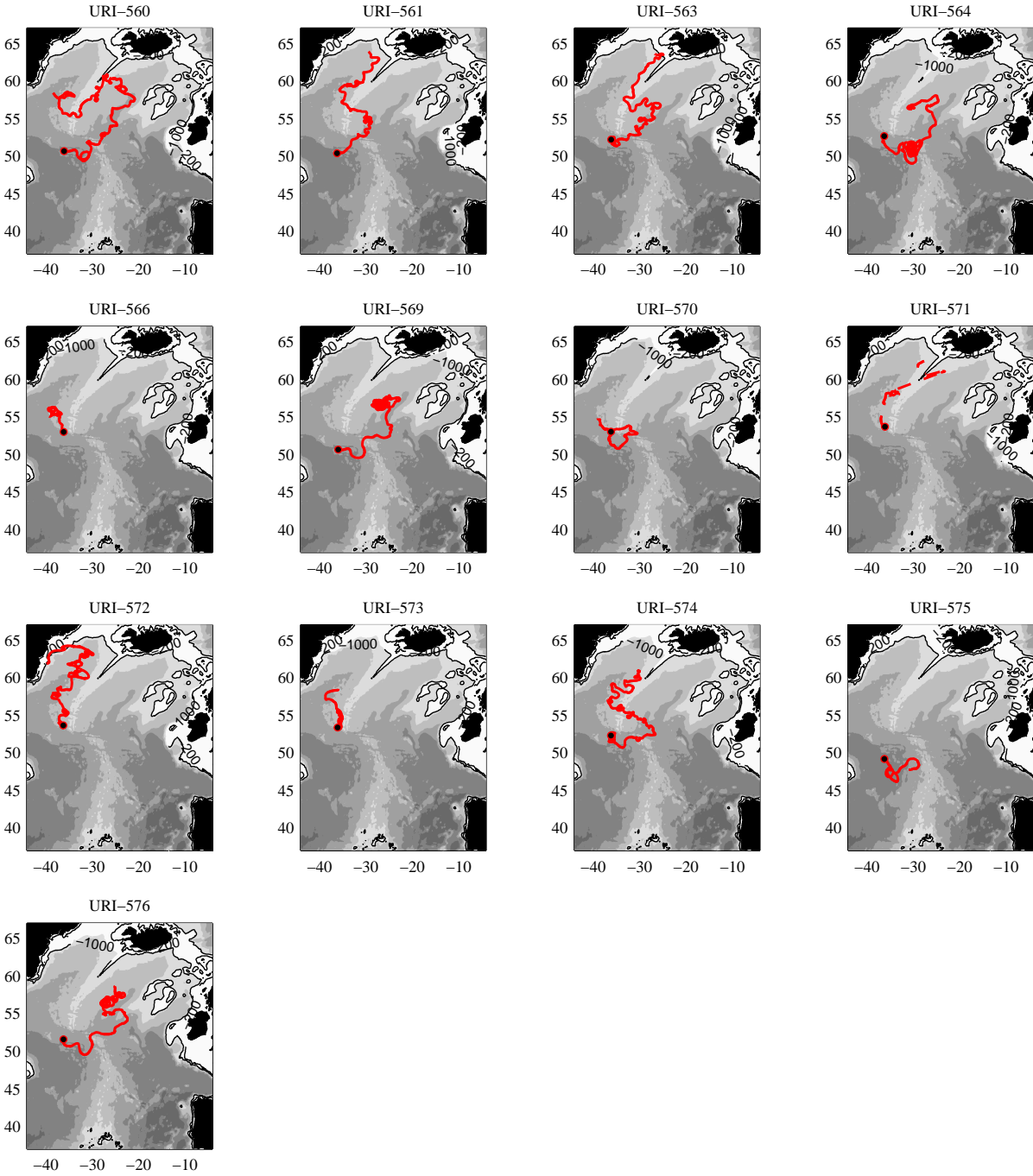












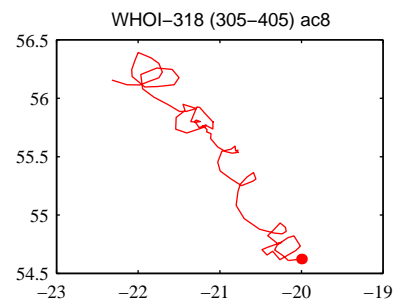
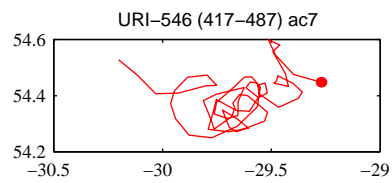
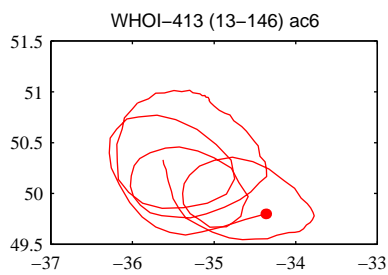
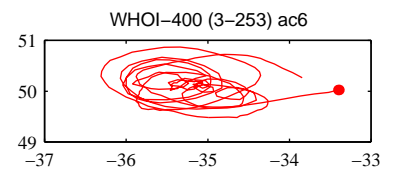
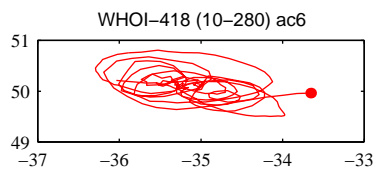
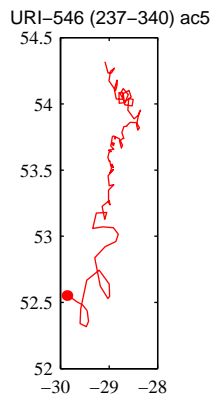
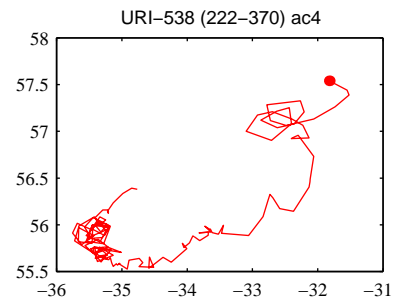
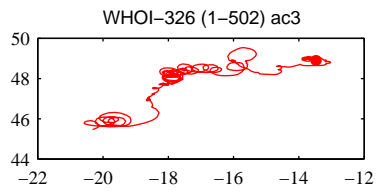
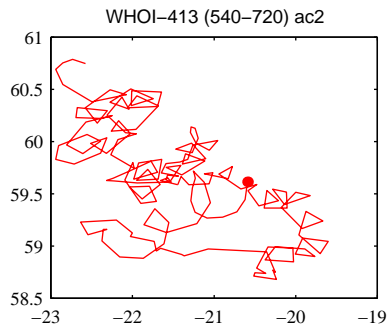
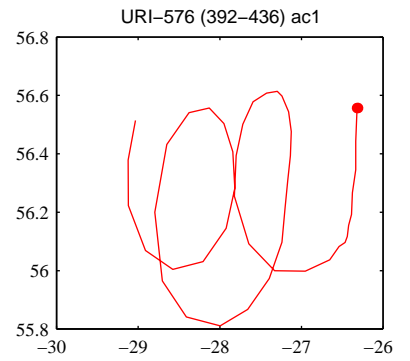
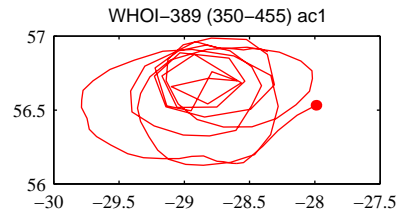
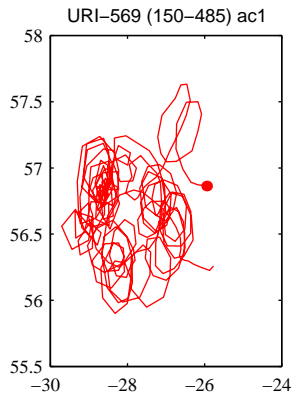
Appendix 2

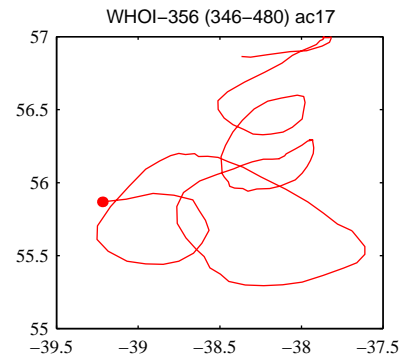
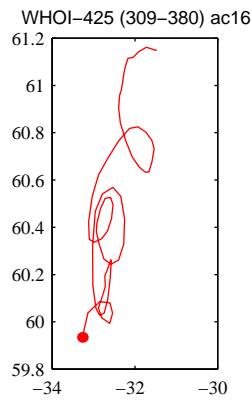
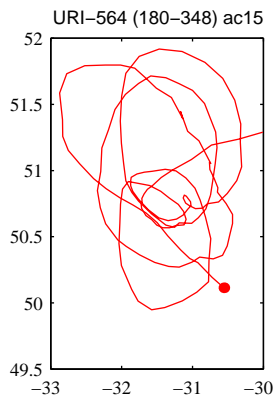
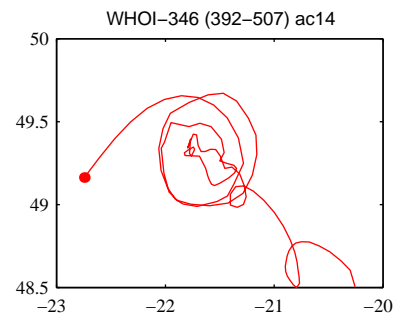
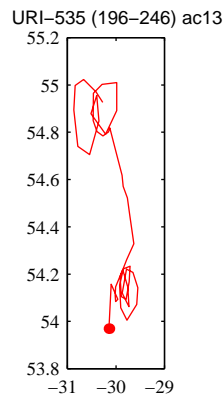
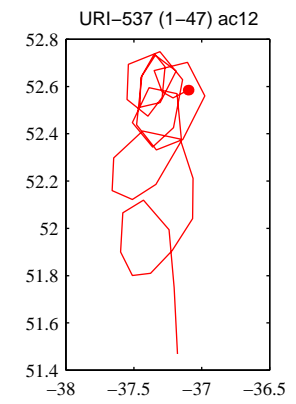
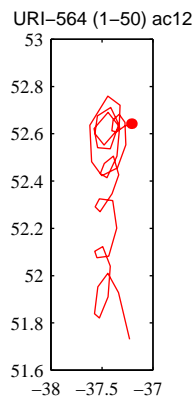
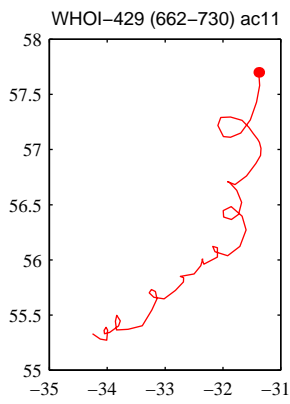
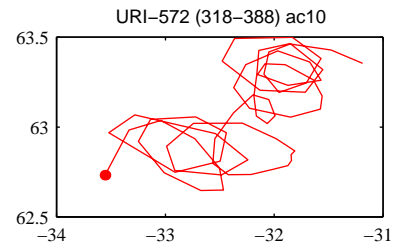
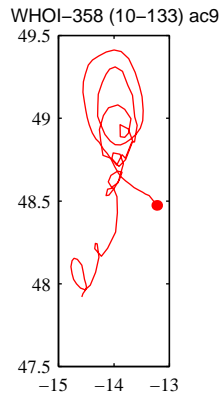
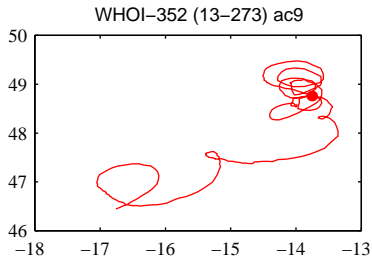
Individual ACCE RAFOS float track loops; anticyclonic in red, cyclonic in blue.
A dot is drawn at the beginning of the track.

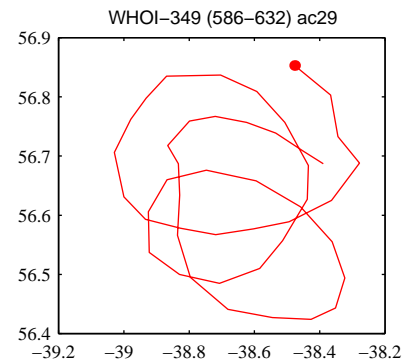
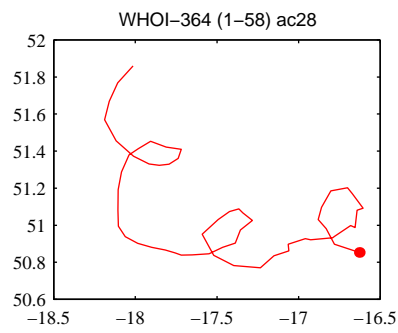
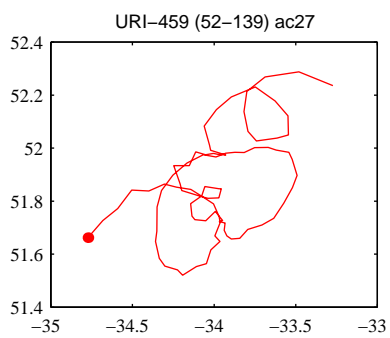
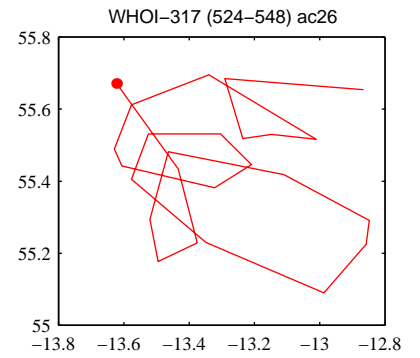
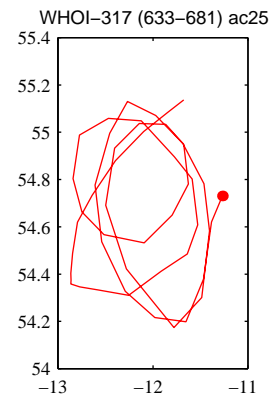
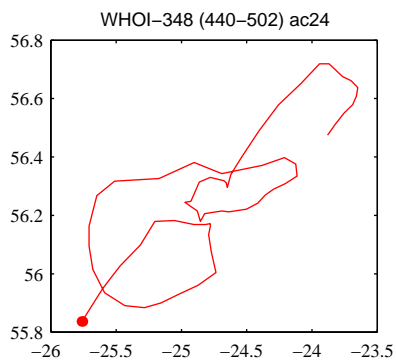
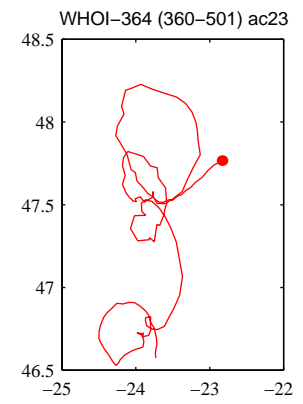
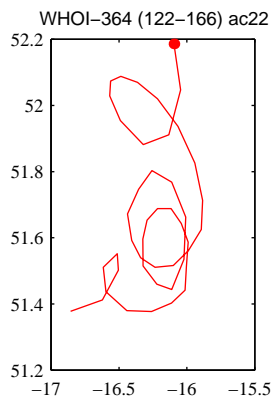
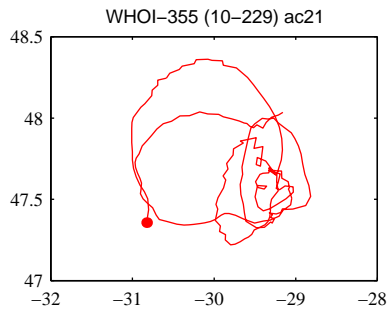
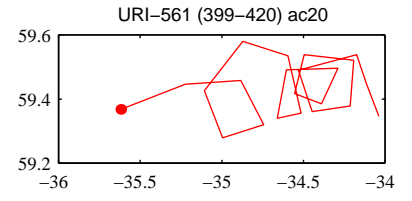
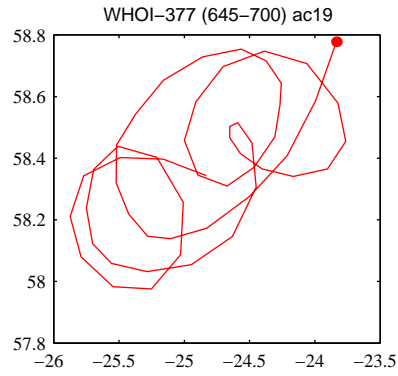
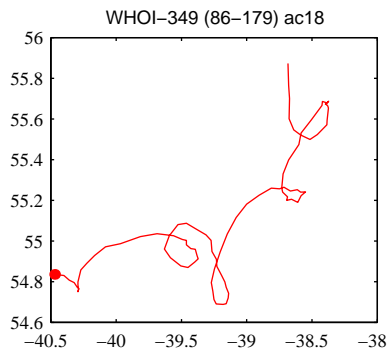
The float number is given in the plot title, along with record numbers in brackets and then the eddy ID (ac is for anticyclonic eddies, c is for cyclonic eddies).

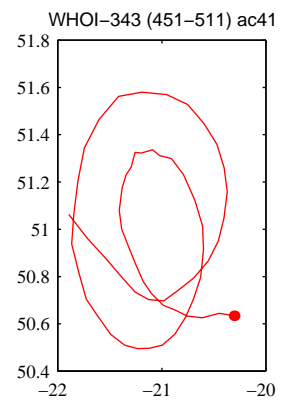
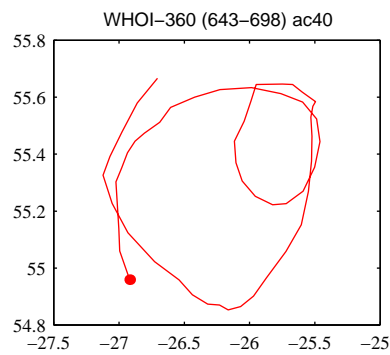
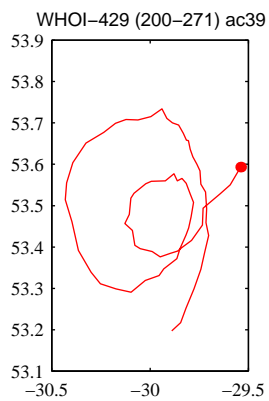
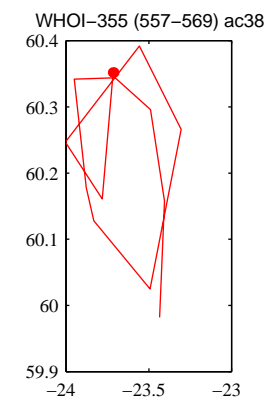
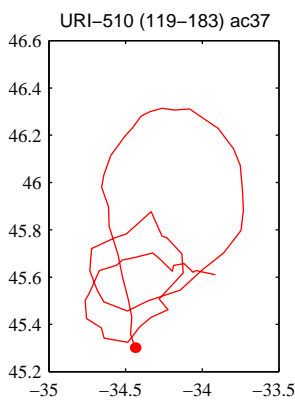
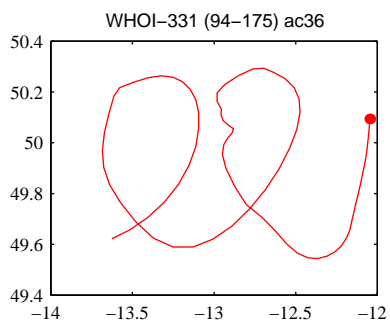
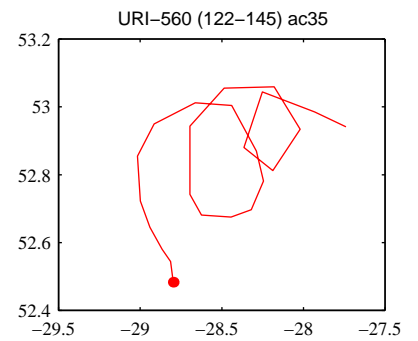
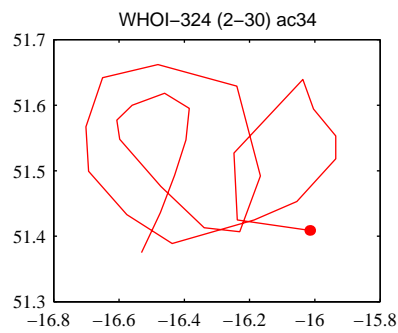
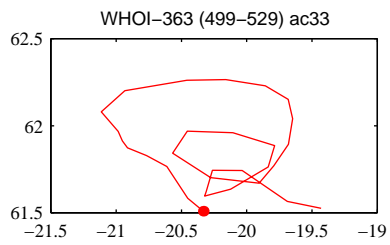
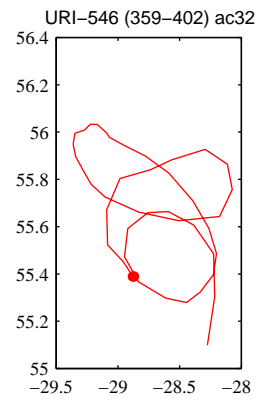
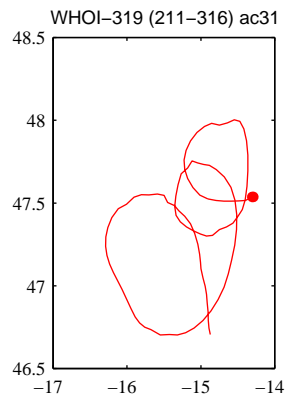
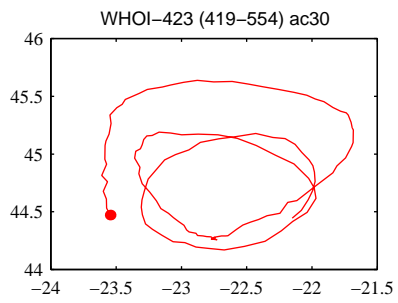
For example:

WHOI-421 (458-625) c1 = WHOI float 421, records 458 to 625, cyclonic eddy no. 1
URI-459 (52-139) ac27 = URI float 459, records 52 to 139, anticyclonic eddy no. 27

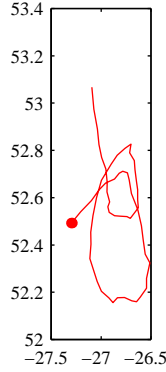




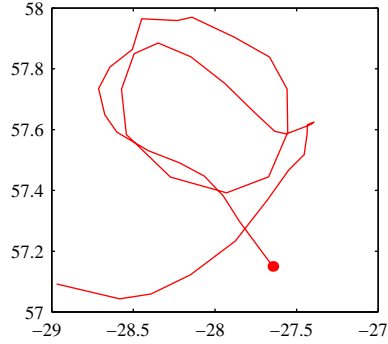




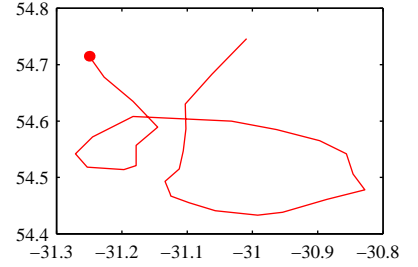
URI-547 (100-160) ac42



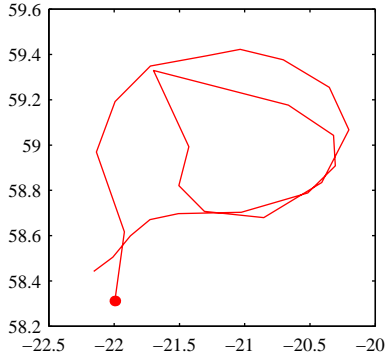
URI-553 (290-333) ac43



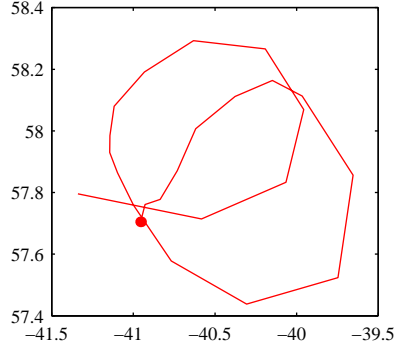
URI-561 (281-311) ac44



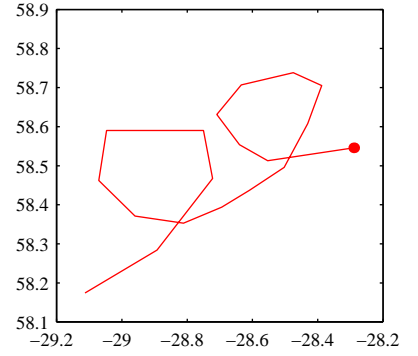
URI-530 (395-420) ac45



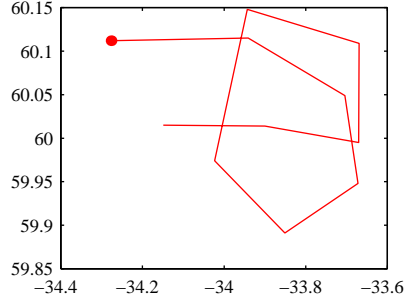
URI-557 (292-315) ac46



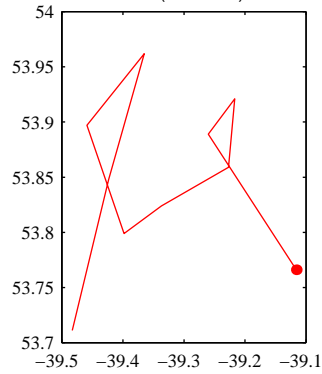
WHOI-420 (462-480) ac47



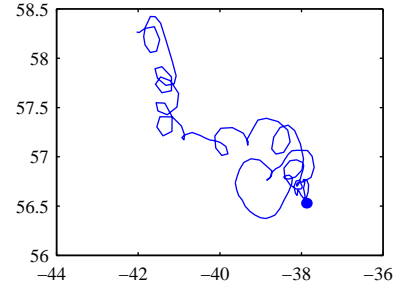
URI-547 (485-495) ac48



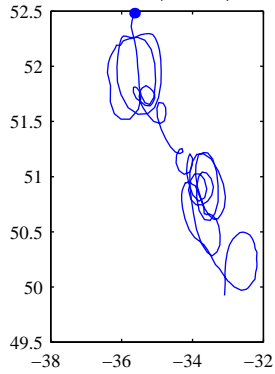
URI-540 (525-534) ac49



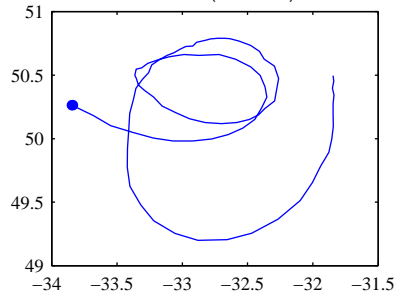
WHOI-421 (458-625) c1



WHOI-360 (73-313) c2



WHOI-400 (253-340) c2



URI-540 (258-418) c3

