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Abstract

The California Current System (CCS) has two independent seasonal modes of upwelling variability, summer and winter, driven by different atmospheric processes. The variability of upwelling winds during winter is particularly important as strong, episodic events, driven by atmospheric teleconnections with the equatorial Pacific that are active in this season, impact ecological systems along the west coast of North America. Given the importance of upwelling seasonality to ecosystem function, we hypothesize that the Benguela Current System (BCS) shows similar independent seasonal modes of upwelling variability. To test this hypothesis, compare modes of variability between systems, and investigate potential drivers, we use an upwelling index derived from NCEP2 wind data (1979-2014) for the