

Variation horizontale du flux particulaire à micro- et méso-échelle dans la plaine abyssale de Californie (4 100 m de profondeur)



Nine sediment traps were assembled in triplicate on a frame and deployed at 100 m above the bottom in the California abyssal plain (4 100 m depth) for ten days. The distances between traps were from 30 cm to 11 km. The main flux measured during this period was $167 \text{ mg m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ with a minimum of $43 \text{ mg m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ and a maximum of $283 \text{ mg m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$. This high variation of the particulate flux at the kilometeric scale was also observed at a metric scale: for example, the particulate flux measured with one of triplicate traps was equal to $82.3 \pm 46.5 \text{ mg m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ (more than 50 % of variation) between traps distant of less than 1 m. To explain this heterogeneity of the flux measurement, some hypotheses are developed in this study: sampling artefact, different hydrological conditions, heterogeneous production, or distribution of particles in the water column.

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