Recent coastal climate and ecosystem changes in Southern Africa

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The Angola Benguela Agulhas current system



Courtesy BCLME



Temperature de surface de l'ocean au sud de L'Afrique estimee par teledetection infrarouge



Temperature moyenne et vent moyen en Mars dans l'Ocean Atlantique Sud Est estimee par teledection micro-onde

Anomalie de température estimée à partir de TMI sur TRMM (par rapport à une moyenne mensuelle flottante). Données présentées tout les 15 jours de mi février à debut mai



Sea surface temperature trend since 1982 in degree per 10 year

Changements climatique



Mean sea surface temperature and ocean currents

Change in sea surface temperature from 1985 to 2007 in C per 10-year using 4 km resolution AVHRR only. Superimposed is the mean ocean current (yellow to red: warming, green blue: cooling)

Rouault M, P Penven and B Pohl, 2009, Warming of the Agulhas Current since the 1980's , *Geophys. Res. Lett*, 36, L12602, 10.1029/2009GL037987



AVHRR SST 1985-2007 decadal trend and mean 1993-2007 geostrophic current

Sardine, anchovy, west coast rock lobster and horse mackerel have shifted their distributions southwards and eastwards (van der Lingen *et al.* 2006; Cockcroft *et al.* 2008).

In the 1980s and 1990s, anchovy and sardine were concentrated on the west coast (Barange *et al.* 1999). However, in 1996, anchovy spawners shifted in distribution from the western Agulhas Bank to the central and eastern Agulhas Bank (van der Lingen *et al.* 2002). This shift was associated with changes in wind-driven upwelling (Roy et al. 2007)

By 1999, the proportion of sardine biomass located to the east of Cape Agulhas exceeded that on the west coast, and by 2004, sardine were found solely in the east (van der Lingen et al. 2005)



Since the late 1980s, west coast rock lobster have moved southwards into the kelp forests between Cape Hangklip and Danger Point (Tarr *et al.* 1996).

Cold water mussel species and kelp have invaded False Bay (Mead et al, 2010)

Since rock lobsters prey on sea urchins, the sea urchin population in these invaded areas collapsed. Sea urchins provide shelter for recruiting juvenile abalone and reduce predation on juvenile abalone by rock lobsters. Thus, an area that was previously an important abalone fishing ground has undergone a dramatic shift in community structure.

On the west coast of South Africa, African penguins have halved in numbers between 2007 and 2009, and overall, the South African population of penguins has been reduced to just 37% its level in 2001 (Altwegg *et al.* 2009; Crawford 2009).





Average sea surface temperature anomaly from the mean condition during mature phase of EL NINO in austral summer. Orange is warmer than normal blue is colder Sthan normal 1/92 94/95 97/98 02/03 06/07 DJF RAINFALL COMPOSITE NORMALISED ANOMALIES FROM MEAN 79–07



Global average rainfall standardized anomaly during mature phase of EL NINO in austral summer. Blue/green is wetter than normal, yellow/red is dryer than normal.



Summer (DJF) rainfall anomaly from the mean for south Africa summer rainfall region from summer 1921/1922 to 2007/2008. El Nino year in red, La Nina in blue



Composite anomaly from the mean of 6 La Nina event in summer (DJF)



Increase in Southeasterly win ⁻²³ in the South Atlantic during L -30 Nina using NCEP surface win ₋₃₅ speed

0

Composite wind speed and direction anomalies from the mean condition during La Nina in austral summer (Rouault. Penven, Pohl, in press)

50

Decrease in Southeasterly wind in the South Atlantic during El Nino (JFM) using NCEP surface wind speed



Composite wind speed and direction anomalies from the mean condition during mature phase of EL NINO in austral summer (Rouault. Penven, Pohl, in press)



Anomaly from climatology for the mean of February, March and April from 1982 to 2008 for SST1 (West Coast). La Nina in Blue, El Nino in red (Rouault. Penven, Pohl, in press)



Linear trend in C per 10 year at each month of the year using OI Reynolds SST in domain 3 degree wide and extending 1 degree offshore (Rouault. Penven, Pohl, in press)



NCEP 1982–2009 linear trend in surface wind speed (colour) with, superimposed, the climatological mean wind speed and direction (arrows) (Rouault. Penven, Pohl, in press)