

KEO (Kuroshio Extension Observatory)

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Version 1 is a TAO buoy, modified for the extreme conditions of Kuroshio Extension, with special sensors to monitor...

Air-sea heat, moisture, and momentum fluxes
Air-sea CO₂ flux (beginning June 2005)
surface and subsurface T and S
engineering quantities (load cell)
2

For tropics ...



For Kuroshio Extension (145E, 32.3N) ...

- decked over toroid
- slack-line scope 1.4:1
- heavy anchor
- sonic anemometer





Cold dry air blowing over warm KE causes large sensible and latent heat loss.

• What is Q?

How does heat flux affect SST? Mode water formation? Size of recirculation gyre?
Do SST (KE) variations affect

• Do SST (KE) variations affect convection? Winds? Storm track?

The largest sink of carbon in the North Pacific is in the Kuroshio Extension

Annual Flux (Wanninkhof Gas Exchange)



-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-10123456789 Net Flux (10¹² grams C yr⁻¹ in each 4° x 5° area)

Takahashi et al. 1997

Asian dust storms (e.g. April 1998)



...are rich in iron and other micro-nutrients. How do dust clouds affect the ocean biological pump and carbon cycle?

KEO will be part of the global network of time series reference sites.

