

Sylvia T. Cole

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
266 Woods Hole Road, MS #21
Woods Hole, MA 02543

scole@whoi.edu
508-289-3805 / Clark 321
www.whoi.edu/staff/scole

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I study the ocean as a system focusing on processes that transport energy or affect the advection and diffusion of active and passive tracers. I investigate these processes in the Arctic and global oceans utilizing observations from the turbulent scale to the basin scale. I aim to understand ocean dynamics across spatial and temporal scales, including the net effects of typically smaller-scale processes (e.g., internal waves, eddies) on the ocean and climate system.

EDUCATION

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| 2010 | Ph. D. in Physical Oceanography, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego |
| 2004 | B. S. in Physics, University of Maryland, College Park |

APPOINTMENTS

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|--------------|--|
| 2023-present | Associate Scientist with Tenure |
| 2019-2023 | Associate Scientist |
| 2015-2019 | Assistant Scientist |
| 2014-2015 | Research Associate III |
| 2010-2013 | Postdoctoral Scholar / Investigator
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole MA |
| 2004-2010 | Graduate Research Assistant
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA |

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed:

**postdoctoral advisee; #graduate or undergraduate advisee*

*Steinberg, JA, E Yankovsky, **ST Cole**, L Zanna, 2025: A landscape of eddy vertical structure: The influence of bathymetric slope and roughness on kinetic energy, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, in press, doi: 10.1175/JPO-D-25-0044.1.

Rabe B, and 49 co-authors including ST Cole, 2024: The MOSAiC Distributed Network: Observing the coupled Arctic system with multidisciplinary, coordinated platforms, *Elementa Sci. Anthropol.*, 12(1), doi: 10.1525/elementa.2023.00103.

Cole ST and #PA Roemer, 2024: The transition layer and remnant transition layer of the Western Arctic Ocean: Stratification, vertical diffusivity, and Pacific Summer

- Water heat fluxes, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 129, e2023JC020059, doi: 10.1029/2023JC020059.
- Son EY, Y Kawaguchi, HK Ha, **ST Cole**, JM Toole, J-H Park, 2022: Assessment of turbulent mixing associated with eddy-wave coupling based on autonomous observations from the Arctic Canada Basin, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 127, e2022JC018489, doi: 10.1029/e2022JC018489.
- *Steinberg JM, **ST Cole**, K Drushka, RP Abernathey, 2022: Seasonality of the mesoscale inverse cascade as inferred from global scale-dependent eddy energy observations, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, 52, 1677-1691, doi: 10.1175/JPO-D-21-0269.1.
- *Fine E, and **ST Cole**, 2022: Decadal observations of internal wave energy, shear, and mixing in the western Arctic Ocean, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 127, e2021JC018056, doi: e2021JC018056.
- Rabe B, C Heuze, J Regnery and 83 co-authors including **ST Cole**, 2022: Overview of the MOSAiC expedition: Physical Oceanography, *Elementa Sci. Anthropol.*, 10(1), doi: 10.1525/elementa.2021.00062.
- Zhong W, **ST Cole**, J Zhang, R Lei, M Steele, 2022: Increasing winter ocean-to-ice heat flux in the Beaufort Gyre region, Arctic Ocean over 2006-2018, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 49, e2021GL096216.
- Fine EC, JA MacKinnon, MH Alford, JB Mickett, L Middleton, J Taylor, **ST Cole**, N Couto, T Peacock, A Le Boyer, 2022: Double diffusion, shear instabilities, and heat impacts of a Pacific Summer Water intrusion in the Beaufort Sea, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, 52, 189-203, doi: 10.1175/JPO-D-21-0074.1.
- Brenner, S, L Rainville, J Thomson, **ST Cole**, C Lee, 2021: Comparing observations and parameterizations of ice-ocean drag through an annual cycle across the Beaufort Sea, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 126, e2020JC016977, doi: 10.1029/2020JC016977.
- Heorton, HDBS, M Tsamados, **ST Cole**, AMG Ferreira, A Berbellini, M Fox, and TWK Armitage, 2019: Retrieving sea ice drag coefficients and turning angles from in-situ and satellite observations using an inverse modeling framework, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 124, 6388-6413, doi: 10.1029/2018JC014881.
- Cole, ST**, and #J Stadler, 2019: Deepening of the winter mixed layer in the Canada Basin, Arctic Ocean over 2006-2017, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 124, 4618-4630, doi: 10.1029/2019JC014940.
- Zhong, W, M Steele, J Zhang, and **ST Cole**, 2019: Circulation of Pacific Winter Water in the western Arctic Ocean, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 124, 863-881, doi: 10.1029/2018JC014604.
- Cole, ST**, JM Toole, L Rainville, and CM Lee, 2018: Internal waves in the Arctic: Influence of ice concentration, ice roughness, and surface layer stratification, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 123, 5571-5586, doi: 10.1029/2018JC014096.

- Meneghello, G, J Marshall, **ST Cole**, and M-L Timmermans, 2017: Observational inferences of lateral eddy diffusivity in the halocline of the Beaufort Gyre, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 44, 12331-12338, doi: 10.1002/2017GL075126.
- Lee CM, Thomson J, and the **Marginal Ice Zone team** and the Arctic Sea State team, 2017: An autonomous approach to observing the seasonal ice zone in the western Arctic, *Oceanography*, 30, 56-68, doi: 10.5670/oceaong.2017.222.
- Cole, ST**, JM Toole, R Lele, M-L Timmermans, SG Gallaher, TP Stanton, WJ Shaw, B Hwang, T Maksym, JP Wilkinson, M Ortiz, H Graber, L Rainville, AA Petty, SL Farrell, JA Richter-Menge, and C Haas, 2017: Ice and ocean velocity in the Arctic marginal ice zone: Ice roughness and momentum transfer, *Elementa Sci. Anthropol.*, 5: 55, doi: 10.1525/elementa.241.
- Bigdeli, A, B Loose, AT Nguyen, and **ST Cole**, 2017: Numerical investigation of the Arctic ice-ocean boundary layer and implications for air-sea gas fluxes, *Ocean Sci.*, 13, 61-75, doi: 10.5194/os-13-61-2017.
- Zhang, J, M Steele, K Runciman, S Dewey, J Morison, C Lee, L Rainville, **S Cole**, R Krishfield, M-L Timmermans, and J Toole, 2016: The Beaufort Gyre intensification and stabilization: A model-observation synthesis, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 121, 7933-7952, doi: 10.1002/2016JC012196.
- Gallaher, SG, TP Stanton, WJ Shaw, **ST Cole**, JM Toole, JP Wilkinson, T Maksym and B Hwang, 2016: Evolution of a Canada Basin ice-ocean boundary layer and mixed layer across a developing thermodynamically forced marginal ice zone, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 121, 6223-6250, doi: 10.1002/2016JC011778.
- Zhao, M, M-L Timmermans, **S Cole**, R Krishfield, and J Toole, 2016: Evolution of the eddy field in the Arctic Ocean's Canada Basin, 2005-2015, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 43, 8106-8114, doi: 10.1002/2016GL069671.
- Cole, ST**, C Wortham, E Kunze, and WB Owens, 2015: Eddy stirring and horizontal diffusivity from Argo float observations: Geographic and depth variability, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 42, 3989-3997, doi: 10.1002/2015GL063827.
- Zhao, M, M-L Timmermans, **S Cole**, R Krishfield, A Proshutinsky, and J Toole, 2014: Characterizing the eddy field in the Arctic Ocean halocline, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 119, 8800-8817, doi: 10.1002/2014JC010488.
- Cole, ST**, M-L Timmermans, JM Toole, RA Krishfield, and FT Thwaites, 2014: Ekman veering, internal waves, and turbulence observed under Arctic sea ice, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, 44, 1306-1328, doi: 10.1175/JPO-D-12-0191.1.
- Timmermans, M-L, **ST Cole**, and JM Toole, 2012: Horizontal density structure and restratification in the Arctic Ocean surface layer, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, 42, 659-668, doi: 10.1175/JPO-D-11-0125.1.
- Cole, ST**, and DL Rudnick, 2012: The spatial distribution and annual cycle of upper ocean thermohaline structure, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 117, C02027, doi: 10.1029/2011JC007033.

- Rudnick, DL, and **ST Cole**, 2011: On sampling the ocean using underwater gliders, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 116, C08010, doi: 10.1029/2010JC006849.
- Johnston, TMS, DL Rudnick, GS Carter, RE Todd, and **ST Cole**, 2011: Internal tidal beams and mixing near Monterey Bay, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 116, C03017, doi: 10.1029/2010JC006592.
- Cole, ST**, DL Rudnick, and JA Colosi, 2010: Seasonal evolution of upper ocean horizontal structure and the remnant mixed layer, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 115, C04012, doi: 10.1029/2009JC005654.
- Cole, ST**, DL Rudnick, BA Hodges, and JP Martin, 2009: Observations of tidal internal wave beams at Kauai Channel, Hawaii, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.* 39, 421-436, doi: 10.1175/2008JPO3937.1.

Additional publications and other products:

- Cole, ST**, K Drushka, and R Abernathey, 2020: Towards an observational synthesis of eddy energy in the global ocean, CLIVAR variations / exchanges, 18, 37-41, doi: 10.5065/g8w0-fy32.
- Cole, ST**, 2017: Investigating small-scale processes from an abundance of autonomous observations, ALPS-II white paper and final report chapter, 3 pages.
- Lee, CM and 22 co-authors including **S Cole**, 2016: Stratified Ocean Dynamics of the Arctic: Science and experiment plan, Technical Report APL-UW 1601, 43 pages.
- Cole, ST**, FT Thwaites, RA Krishfield, and JM Toole, 2015: Processing of velocity observations from Ice-Tethered Profilers, *Proc. MTS/IEEE Oceans 2015 Conference, Washington DC*, 10 pages, doi: 10.23919/OCEANS.2015.7401887.
- Lee, CM and 20 co-authors including **S Cole**, 2012: Marginal Ice Zone (MIZ) Program: Science and experiment plan, Technical Report APL-UW 2101, 48 pages.
- Cole, ST**, 2010: Spatial and temporal modulation of internal waves and thermohaline structure, Ph.D. Thesis, University of California San Diego, 148 pages.

Published datasets:

- Toole, JM, RA Krishfield, JK O'Brien, A Houk, **ST Cole**, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Ice-Tethered Profiler program, 2016: Ice-Tethered Profiler observations: Vertical profiles of temperature, salinity, oxygen, and ocean velocity from an Ice-Tethered buoy system. NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, doi: 10.7289/v5mw2f7x. Dataset.
- Bliss A, JK Hutchings, and 67 co-authors including **ST Cole**, 2022: Sea ice drift tracks from the Distributed Network of autonomous buoys deployed during the Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAiC) expedition 2019-2021, Arctic Data Center, doi: 10.18739/A21N7XP19.
- Cole, ST**, 2021: Beaufort Gyre wintertime mixed layer depth and mixed layer properties derived from Ice-Tethered Profiler observations in the Arctic Ocean over 2006-2017, Arctic Data Center, doi: 10.18739/A2DR2P94G.

Cole, ST, 2021: Ocean eddy diffusivity estimate derived from Beaufort Gyre Observing System mooring observations over 2003-2018, Canada Basin, Arctic Ocean, Arctic Data Center, doi: 10.18739/A2901ZH14.

Cole, ST, C Wortham, E Kunze, and WB Owens, 2018: Eddy diffusivity from Argo temperature and salinity profiles, doi: 10.1575/1912/10220.

AWARDS

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Early Career Scientist Award, 2021

American Meteorological Society Editor's award for excellence in reviewing, Jan. 2019

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Postdoctoral Scholarship, Nov. 2010 – May 2012

NSF / Scripps Institution of Oceanography G-K12 fellowship, June 2009 – May 2010

FIELD EXPERIENCE

2024-present: PI of the Ice-Tethered Profiler program that deploys 6-12 systems per year primarily in the Arctic Ocean.

2013-present: PI or co-PI on projects that have deployed 14 Ice-Tethered Profilers with Velocity primarily in the Arctic Ocean. Over 20,000 temperature, salinity, and velocity profiles have been collected, along with over 10,000 records of turbulent heat, salt, and momentum fluxes just beneath the ice-ocean interface.

Dec. 2008 and April 2009: underwater glider recovery and deployment off of Hawaii

Dec 2007: R/V *Kilo Moana*, SeaSoar operations off of Hawaii

July and Oct 2007: R/V *Melville*, underwater glider, underway CTD, and CTD rosette operations off of Taiwan

Aug 2006: R/V *Wecoma*, SeaSoar and microstructure operations off of Monterey Bay, California

Aug. 2004: R/V *Melville*, CTD rosette operations in the North Pacific

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Advising:

Lt. JG Lilli Hirth, US Navy Master's student	Aug. 2023–Aug. 2025
Jacob Steinberg, Postdoctoral Investigator	May 2020 –Mar. 2023
Elizabeth Fine, Postdoctoral Scholar	Oct. 2019–May 2021
Lt. Peter Roemer, US Navy Master's student	Jun. 2019–Aug. 2021
James Stadler, Summer Student Fellow	Summer 2017
Committee Member, Deshuai Wang, U. Mass. Dartmouth	2017–2021

Teaching:

Co-instructor, MIT-WHOI Polar Physical Oceanography Seminar (12.951) Fall 2024
 Guest Lecture, US Coast Guard Academy, Polar Oceanography Feb 2019, Oct. 2020
 Guest Lecture, WHOI/MIT Data Analysis in Physical Oceanography May 2017
 Co-Instructor, Partnership Education Program, Woods Hole, MA 2012 and 2013
 Co-developed and co-instructed a 20-hour physical oceanography unit for
 underrepresented undergraduate science majors
 NSF / Scripps Institution of Oceanography G-K12 fellowship, San Diego, CA 2009
 Developed lessons for and instructed two 9th grade earth science classes once per week

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

External:

Editor, *Journal of Physical Oceanography*, 2021-2025
 Associate Editor, *Journal of Physical Oceanography*, 2020
 Reviewer: National Science Foundation, German Research Foundation, Natural
 Environment Research Council, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
 of Canada
 Reviewer: *Annals of Glaciology*, *Elementa Science of the Anthropocene*, *Geophysical
 Research Letters*, *Geoscientific Model Development*, *International Journal of Remote
 Sensing*, *Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology*, *Journal of Geophysical
 Research*, *Journal of Marine Research*, *Journal of Physical Oceanography*, *Nature
 Communications*, *Ocean Modeling*, *Ocean Science*, *Oceanography*, *Progress in
 Oceanography*, *Tellus A*
 Steering committee member, Ocean transport and eddy energy CPT, 2019-2025
 Organizer / local host, Ocean Transport and Eddy Energy Annual Meeting, Woods Hole
 MA and online, May 2023
 Steering committee member, Stratified Ocean Dynamics of the Arctic (SODA) DRI, 2017-
 2022
 Co-convener, Air-ice-ocean interactions in a changing Arctic, Ocean Sciences Meeting,
 virtual, Feb 2022
 Co-convener, Ocean transport and eddy energy, Ocean Sciences Meeting, San Diego CA,
 Feb. 2020
 Mentor / Senior participant, Pattullo Conference, Warrenton Virginia, Sept. 2019
 Organizer / local host, Stratified Ocean Dynamics of the Arctic DRI PI meeting, Woods
 Hole MA, March 2018
 Organizer, International Meeting of Students in Physical Oceanography, San Diego CA,
 2008

WHOI:

Member, PO Department Recruitment Committee, 2023 - 2025
Member, WHOI blue book working group, 2024
Coordinator, Physical Oceanography Department Summer Student Fellow program, 2020-2022
Member, Physical Oceanography Department chair search committee, 2018, 2022
Member, Scientific Staff Executive Committee (SciSEC), 2018-2020
Coordinator, Physical Oceanography seminar, 2015-2016
Member, Postdoctoral Association, 2012
Member, Women's Committee, 2012

Professional Affiliations:

Member, American Geophysical Union
Member, The Oceanography Society

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

ST Cole, Kinetic Energy in the Beaufort Gyre: Partitioning by horizontal scale, Poster presentation, Consortium for the Advancement of Marine Arctic Science (CAMAS) Workshop, Seattle WA, April 2025.

ST Cole, Scale-aware eddy kinetic energy at depth: An observational challenge, Eddy Energy CPT annual meeting, Providence RI, August 2024.

ST Cole, Vertical diffusivity and heat fluxes through the Beaufort Gyre's thin and variable stratification. Oral presentation, Ocean Sciences Meeting, New Orleans LA, Feb. 2024.

ST Cole (invited), Ice-Tethered Profiler program. Ocean and sea ice forecasting in the Arctic workshop, virtual, January 2024.

ST Cole (invited), Dynamics of the Arctic Ocean: Observations across scales and seasons. Arctic Ocean Dynamics Workshop, Oslo Norway, November 2023.

ST Cole, Stratification, heat, and mixing through the Arctic Ocean's transition layer and remnant transition layer. AWI seminar, Bremerhaven Germany, November 2023.

ST Cole and PA Roemer, Heat, stratification, and the transition layer of the Beaufort Gyre. Poster presentation, The changing Beaufort Gyre workshop, Woods Hole MA, March 2023.

ST Cole (invited), Stratification, heat, and diffusivity of the Western Arctic Ocean's transition layer. URI PO seminar, Kingston RI, October 2022.

ST Cole, Stratification of the Western Arctic Ocean's transition layer and remnant transition layer. WHOI PO seminar, Woods Hole MA, September 2022.

ST Cole, Kinetic energy in the Western Arctic Ocean. Oral presentation, Arctic Ocean Circulation workshop, virtual, June 2022.

ST Cole (invited), The Arctic sea ice-cover and ocean mixing on daily to decadal timescales. Oral presentation, Gordon Conference on Ocean Mixing, Holyoke MA, June 2022.

ST Cole, M Doble, J Hargrove, L Rainville, W Shaw, T Stanton, J Toole, J Wilkinson, Ice-ocean interactions observed during fall and winter storms in the Western Arctic. Oral presentation, Ocean Sciences Meeting, virtual, Feb. 2022.

ST Cole (invited), The Arctic Ocean mixed layer in winter. URI PO seminar, virtual, April 2021.

ST Cole, JM Toole, and RA Krishfield, Observations from the edge of the Beaufort Gyre: Ice-Tethered Profilers in 2018-2019. Poster presentation, Ocean Sciences Meeting, San Diego CA, Feb. 2020.

ST Cole (invited), The changing Arctic Ocean mixed layer from basin scales to submesoscales. Brown University DEEPS seminar, Providence RI, Feb. 2020.