

PERSISTENCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF
LEVANTINE BASIN EDDIES AND WATER MASSES
IN SEASONAL SURVEYS OF 1985-1988

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Hydrographic data obtained in a total of nine research cruises carried out by the R/V BILIM in the northern Levantine Basin during 1985-1988 are utilized to study the circulation and water mass characteristics. These surveys repeated on a seasonal basis, for the first time give the opportunity to have a detailed evaluation of the northern Levantine in terms of its oceanographic features. The objective analysis of geopotential anomaly derived from the data set shows that some of the northern Levantine eddies are persistent during the period of observation, although with occasional shifts in position. There is coincidence of those eddies which appear to be persistent and the bottom topographic features. Long term (interannual) changes in the patterns of circulation are also significant. The central Basin jet flow which bifurcates and joins in the Rhodes gyre circulation in the early part of the observations is found to become reformed as a coherent flow along the Anatolian coast in the following years. Eddies circumnavigating the island of Cyprus in the latter part of the development appear to transport Atlantic water entrapped within them, which in the earlier period appears only in filaments west of Cyprus.

SUBMITTAL
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2. SII.1 The Mediterranean Basin
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