

**TABLE 4-1****Anomalous Physical Properties of Water  
and Their Effects on Seawater and the Ocean\***

PROPERTY	COMPARISON WITH OTHER SUBSTANCES	IMPORTANCE IN OCEAN
<b>Heat capacity</b>	Highest of all solids and liquids except liquid ammonia	Prevents extreme ranges in ocean temperature Heat transfer by currents is large
<b>Latent heat of fusion</b>	Highest except ammonia	Acts as thermostat at freezing point owing to uptake or release of latent heat
<b>Latent heat of evaporation</b>	Highest of all substances	Important in heat and water transfers to atmosphere
<b>Thermal expansion</b>	Temperature of maximum density decreases with increasing salinity. For pure water, it is at 4°C.	Freshwater and dilute seawaters reach maximum density at temperatures above freezing point (non-linear $\rho = f(T, S)$ )
<b>Surface tension</b>	Highest of all liquids	Controls drop formation and behavior; also surface phenomena, such as capillary waves
<b>Dissolving power</b>	Dissolves more substances and in greater quantities than any other liquid	
<b>Transparency</b>	Relatively great	Absorption of radiant energy is large in infrared and ultraviolet. In visible portion of energy spectrum there is relatively little selective absorption—hence is "colorless"

\* Modified after Sverdrup et al., 1942.

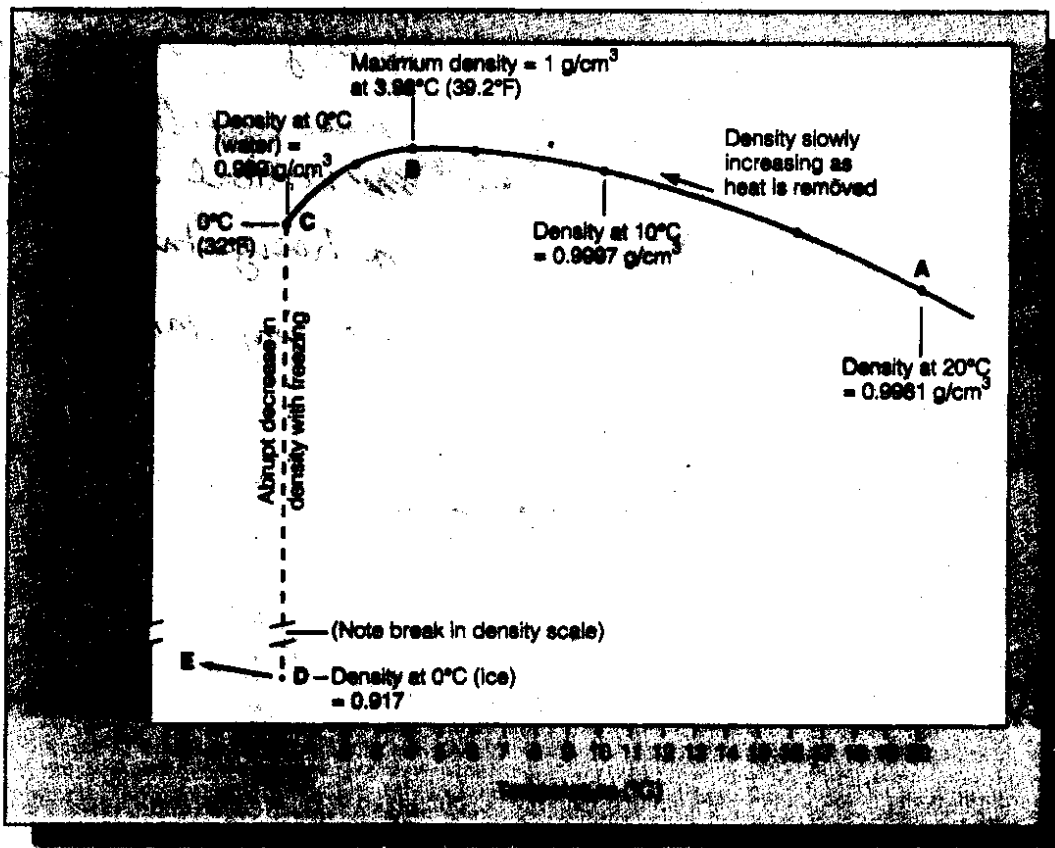


Figure 71 The relationship of density to temperature for pure water. Note that points C and D both represent 0°C (32°F) but different densities and thus different states of water. Because the density of ice is less than the density of liquid water, ice floats.

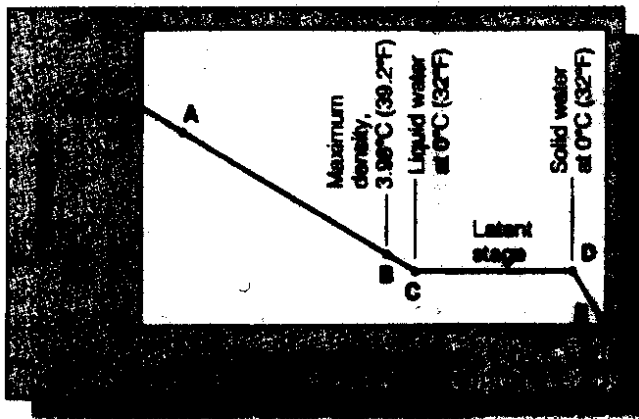


Figure 73 A graph of temperature versus heat removal as water freezes (or ice melts). The horizontal line between points C and D represents the latent heat of fusion, when heat is being removed but temperature is not changing. (Note that points A-E on this graph are the same as those in Figure 71.)

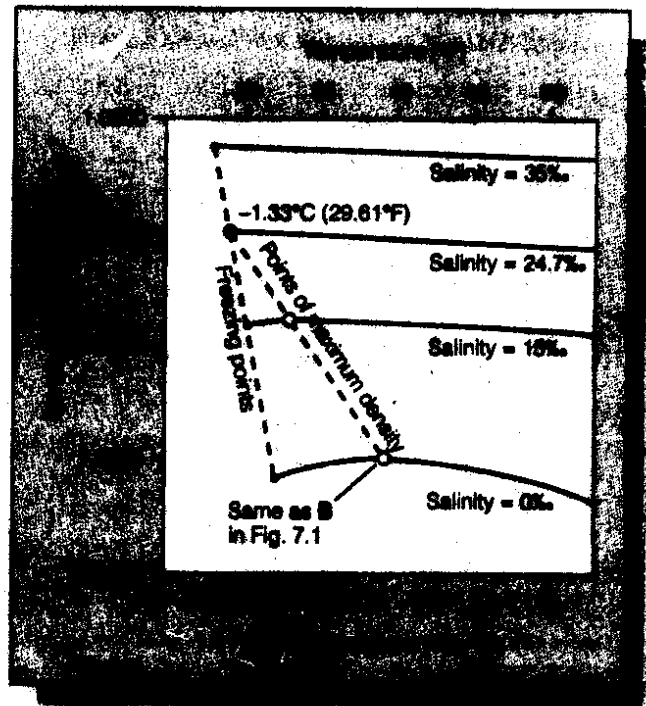


Figure 74 The dependence of freezing temperature and temperature of maximum density on salinity. As we saw in Figure 71, pure water is densest at 3.98°C (39.2°F) (point B) and its freezing point is 0°C (32°F). Seawater with 19‰ salinity is densest at 0.73°C (33.31°F), and its freezing point is -0.80°C (30.56°F). The temperature of maximum density and freezing point coincide at -1.33°C (29.61°F) in seawater with a salinity of 24.7‰. At salinities greater than 24.7‰, the density of water always decreases as temperature increases.

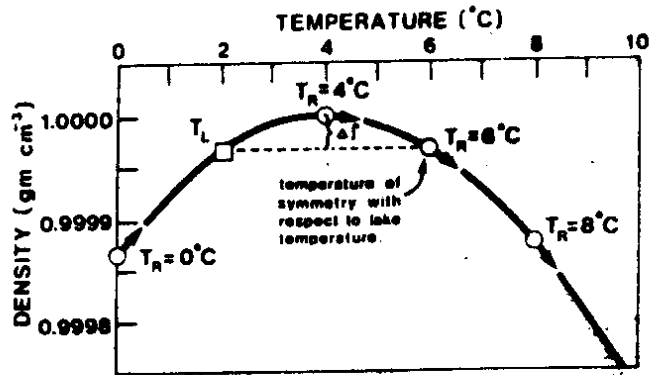


FIG. 2. Relationship between water temperature and density. The symbols  $T_R$  and  $T_L$  refer to river and lake temperatures, respectively, and denote conditions shown in Fig. 3.

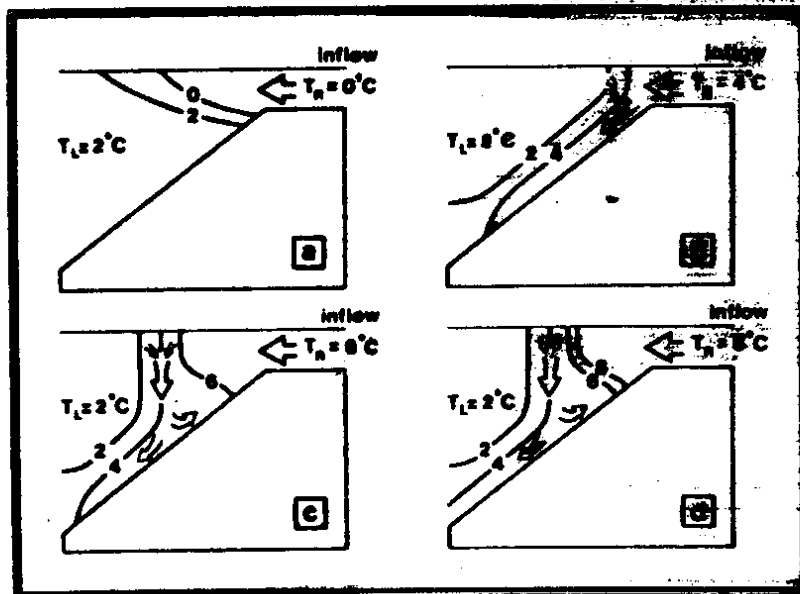
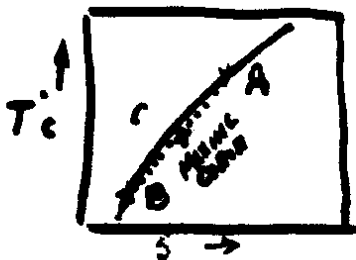


FIG. 3. Schematic illustration of river-induced convective circulation during spring overturn assuming a nearly constant lake temperature of 2°C and a river inflow that warms rapidly from 0 to 8°C

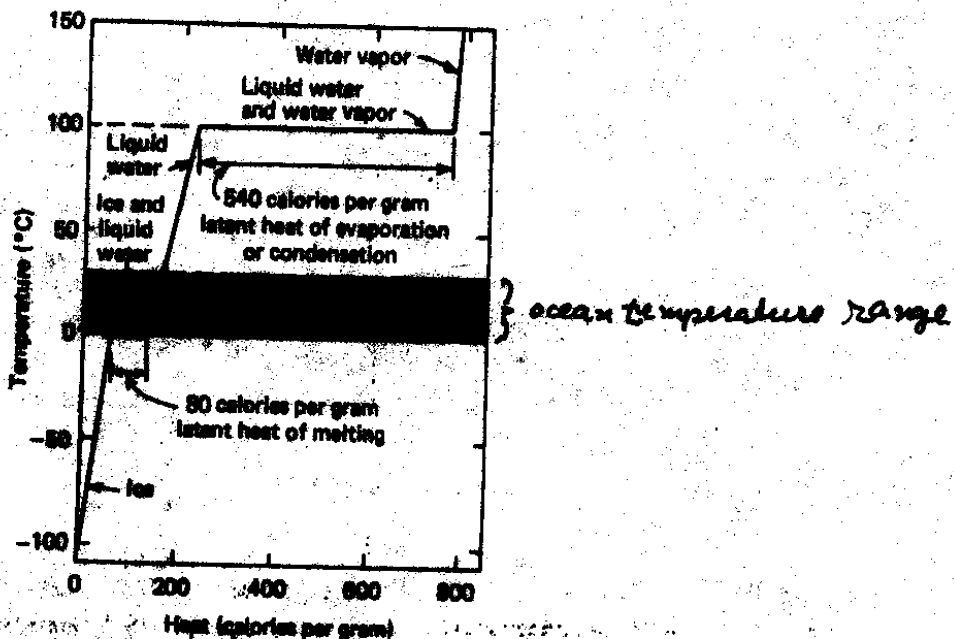
collapsing.

can also occur in salt water



$$\rho_c > \rho_a, \rho_b$$

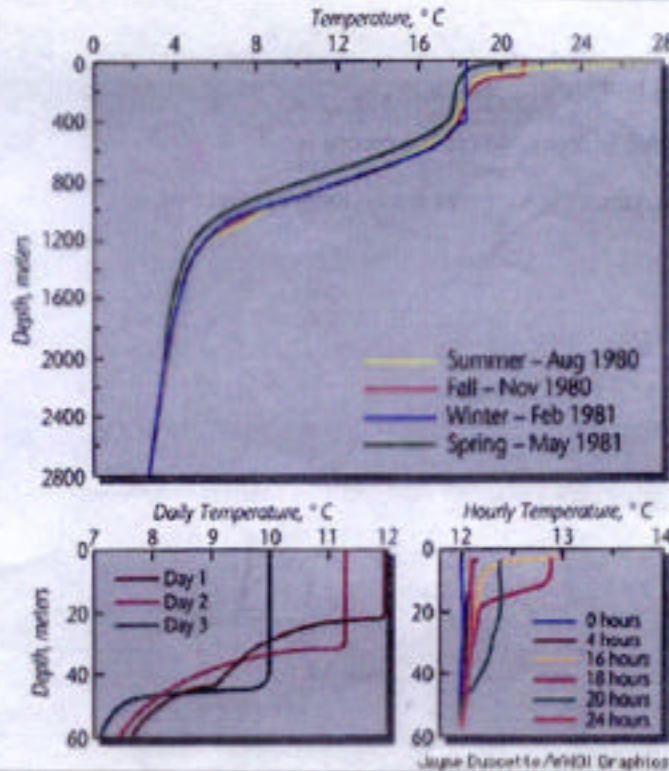




**FIGURE 4-6**  
 Temperature changes when heat is added or removed from ice, liquid water, or water vapor. Note that temperatures do not change when mixtures of ice and liquid water or liquid water and water vapor occur together. (Redrawn from M. G. Cassin, 1945, *Oceanography*, Columbus Ohio, Charles E. Merrill Publishing Company.)

TEMPERATURE (°C)	LATENT HEAT OF EVAPORATION (calories per gram)
0	395
20	585
100	539

Temperature profiles taken hourly (lower right), daily (lower left), and seasonally (top) reveal the movement of the mixed layer under different conditions. The hourly profile was taken from research platform FLIP during a series of many warm days, ultimately creating a "summer" seasonal profile similar to the yellow tracing above. The daily profile was also taken from FLIP, but during a stormy period, when the cooling and deepening of the mixed layer produces a "winter" seasonal profile much like the blue line above.



Source: Weller, Robert A. and David H Farmer. *Dynamics of the Ocean Mixed Layer*. *Oceanus*, Summer 1992, Vol. 35, No. 2, p.47.

$\overline{\Delta T}$  = mean seasonal difference in temperature (°C) from the sea surface to depth,  $h$  (cm)

$C$  = heat capacity of seawater (0.94 cgs)

$\rho$  = density of seawater (1.023 cgs)

$Q$  = seasonal heat storage in ocean surface (mixed) layer, calories

$$Q = \rho C \overline{\Delta T} h$$

for  $h = 100 \text{ m} = 10^4 \text{ cm}$

$$\overline{\Delta T} = 3^\circ\text{C}$$

$$Q = 28849 \text{ calories}$$

a layer of atmosphere of the same thickness,  $h$ , experiencing the same  $\overline{\Delta T}$  would be much less:

$$C_{\text{air}} = 0.25$$

$$\rho_{\text{air}} = 10^{-3}$$

$$Q_{\text{air}} = 8 \text{ calories}$$

ALG/LP

## Sigma notation, $\sigma$

- $\sigma \equiv (\rho - 1000)$  in mks units, or  $(\rho - 1) \times 1000$  in cgs

Now,

- $\sigma_t \equiv \sigma_{T,S,0}$  while  $\sigma_\theta \equiv \sigma_{\theta,S,0}$

Lastly,  $\sigma_P \equiv \sigma_{T,S,P}$  or  $\sigma_P \equiv \sigma_{\theta,S,P}$

Ranges:  $\sigma_t$ , 20 - 28, and  $\sigma_P$ , 20 - 60.

The 'standard'  $\sigma_t$  at  $p = 0$ ,  $S = 35.00$ , and  $T = 10.00$ , is  $\sigma_t = 26.95$

## Scales for the ocean

Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	Salinity (o/oo)	Pressure (dbar)
-2 to 30 $\mu \sim 4$	30 to 38 $\mu = 34.7$	0 to $10^4$ , $\mu_{\text{bottom}} \sim 3850$

The SI unit for pressure is the Pascal.

1 Pa = 1 kg / ms<sup>2</sup> 1 dbar = 10<sup>4</sup> Pa.

Why use dbar? 1 dbar  $\sim$  1 meter depth in the ocean.

Hydrostatic Relationship:

$$\frac{\Delta P}{\Delta z} = \rho g$$

CGS  
 $g = 10^3 \text{ cm/sec}^2$   
 $\rho = 1 \text{ gm/cm}^3$

$\Delta z = 1 \text{ m} = 10^2 \text{ cm}$

1 bar = 10<sup>6</sup> dynes/cm<sup>2</sup>

$\Delta P = 1 \text{ deci-bar Cdh}$

MKS  
 $g = 10 \text{ m/sec}^2$   
 $\rho = 10^3 \text{ kg/m}^3$   
 $\Delta z = 1 \text{ m}$   
 1 bar = 10<sup>5</sup> Newton/m<sup>2</sup>  
 $\Delta P = 1 \text{ dbar}$

## The Equation of State

- $\frac{d\alpha}{\alpha} = \beta dT - b dS - K dP$
- $\beta \equiv \frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial T} \Big|_{S,P}$  : The Coefficient of Thermal Expansion
- $b \equiv - \frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial S} \Big|_{T,P}$  : The Coefficient of Saline Contraction
- $K \equiv - \frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial P} \Big|_{S,T}$  : The Coefficient of Compressibility

You may ask, why all the negative signs that cancel each other out – so that  $\beta$ ,  $b$ , and  $K$  are greater than 0.

- $b \sim \text{constant}$ . This means that salinity has about the same effect on water whether it is at great depth or at the surface, whether it is warm or cold.
- $\beta > 0$  for  $S > 24.695$ .  $\beta = \beta(T)$  What does this mean? You may have heard that there is a density maximum for water at 4°C. This is true only for fresh water. Sea water, with  $S > 24.695$ , is increasingly denser the colder it gets.

$\frac{\partial \beta}{\partial T} > 0$  means  $\beta$  is smaller for cold water, i.e., warm water experiences a larger change in density for a given  $dT$  than does cold water. This has implications for the stability of the water column and the strength of vertical mixing, especially in polar regions, and the phenomenon of cabbelling.

**Cabbeling** Two parent water masses of equal density mix and produce a water type denser than either original, which sinks. This is especially a case in polar regions, where  $\delta S$  is a determining factor in relative densities, and the water column stability is weak.

- Compressibility,  $\mathbf{K}$ :  $\frac{\partial K}{\partial T} < 0$ , or colder water is more compressible than warm water. This produces a rotation of  $\sigma_p$  lines in T-S space.

$\frac{\partial K}{\partial P} < 0$ , or water at depth (under pressure) is less compressible than surface water, for the same change in pressure.

$\frac{\partial K}{\partial S} < 0$ , or salty water is less compressible than fresh water – this makes sense if you think of the salt as taking up spaces left between water molecules.

- **Scales:**

$$\beta = O(1.4 \times 10^{-4}/^{\circ} \text{C})$$

$$K = O(4 - 5 \times 10^{-6}/\text{dbar})$$

$$b = O(7 \times 10^{-4}/\text{o}/\infty)$$

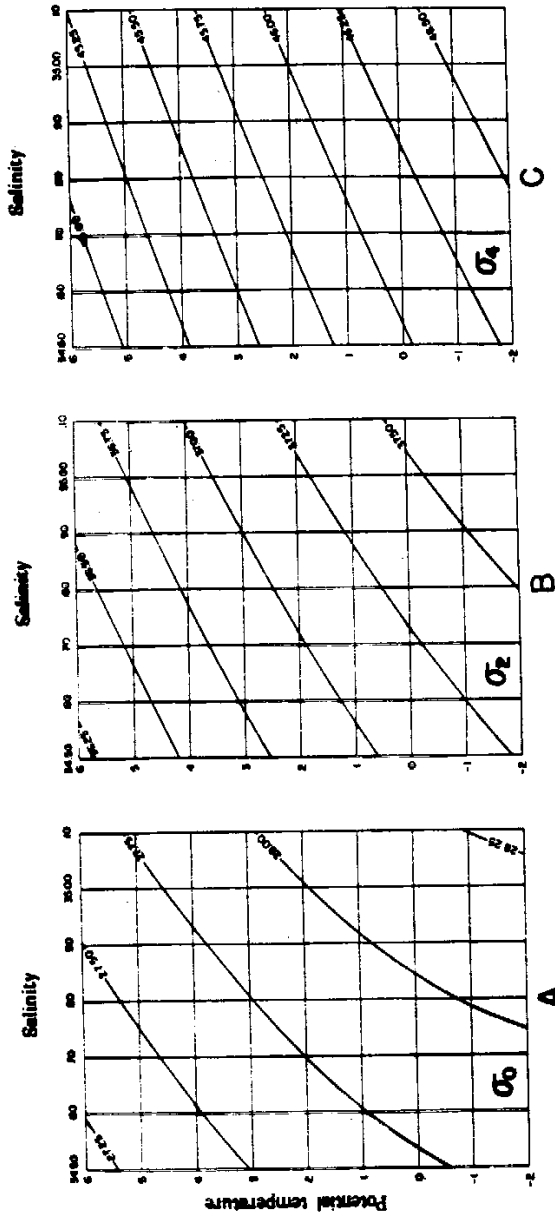


Fig. 1. Density at sea-surface pressure ( $\sigma_0$ ), at 2000 decibars pressure ( $\sigma_2$ ) and at 4000 decibar<sup>s</sup> pressure ( $\sigma_4$ ) as functions of salinity and potential temperature.