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2 **Greenhouse Warming Reduces Global Energy Conversion into Oceanic Lee Waves**

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15 **Key Points:**

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- 17 • The response of energy conversion into lee waves to greenhouse warming is investigated with a high-resolution coupled global climate model.
  - 18 • Lee wave conversion rate is projected to decrease by ~20% by the end of 21<sup>st</sup> century under the high carbon emission scenario.
  - 19 • This decrease is attributed to the weakened bottom large-scale flows, mesoscale eddies and stratification.
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## 41 **Abstract**

42 Oceanic lee waves play an important role in dissipating wind-driven ocean circulations and  
43 powering turbulent diapycnal mixing. Here we investigate impacts of the greenhouse warming  
44 on global energy conversion into lee waves using a linear theory of lee wave generation and  
45 output from a high-resolution ( $0.1^\circ$  for the ocean) coupled global climate model. The global  
46 energy conversion rate into lee waves under the historical (1930s) climate condition is estimated  
47 to be  $193.0 \pm 3.0$  GW. Under the high carbon emission scenario, this conversion rate is projected  
48 to decrease by about 20% by the end of 21<sup>st</sup> century, due to weakened bottom large-scale mean  
49 flows, mesoscale eddies and stratification. The decrease of the conversion rate is widespread and  
50 particularly pronounced in the Gulf Stream and Drake Passage. Our results suggest significant  
51 response of oceanic lee waves to the greenhouse warming, with implications for future changes  
52 of global ocean circulations and climate.

53

## 54 **Plain Language Summary**

55 Oceanic lee waves, a kind of stationary internal gravity waves, are generated when bottom flows  
56 impinge on small-scale uneven topography. They provide an energy pathway from wind-driven  
57 large-scale circulations to microscale turbulent mixing. Theories predict that the energy  
58 conversion into lee waves depends on the stratification and flow speed near the sea floor, both of  
59 which are likely to weaken under the greenhouse warming. In this study, we use a high-  
60 resolution coupled global climate model to estimate the response of global energy conversion  
61 into lee waves to the greenhouse warming. Our results show that, under the high carbon emission  
62 scenario, the global energy conversion into lee waves at the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will decrease  
63 by 20% compared to its level in the 1930s. This decrease in the energy conversion has important  
64 implications for future changes of global ocean circulations and climate.

65

## 66 **1 Introduction**

67 Oceanic lee waves are generated via the interactions of bottom geostrophic flows with  
68 small-scale topography characterized by wavelengths typically ranging from 0.1 to 10.0 km  
69 (Bell, 1975a, b). These waves can extract energy from the geostrophic flows and radiate upward  
70 into the ocean interior. When lee waves break due to the wave-wave interactions or shear  
71 instability, the energy extracted from the geostrophic flows is dissipated and a fraction of it is  
72 converted into ocean turbulent diapycnal mixing (e.g., Nikurashin et al., 2013).

73 The global energy conversion rate from geostrophic flows into lee waves is estimated to  
74 range from 0.2 to 0.75 TW, depending on the datasets and methods for estimation (Nikurashin &  
75 Ferrari, 2011; Scott et al., 2011; Wright et al., 2014). Despite the large difference of overall  
76 magnitude of the energy conversion rate, its geographical distribution is consistent across these  
77 studies, with the Southern Ocean (SO) playing a dominant role. In view that the global wind  
78 work into the surface geostrophic currents is estimated to be around 1 TW (Wunsch, 1999), the  
79 generation of lee waves could be an important energy sink for wind-driven ocean circulations  
80 and a source for deep-ocean turbulent diapycnal mixing (Munk & Wunsch, 1998; Wunsch &  
81 Ferrari, 2004). Several studies based on observations (Brearley et al., 2013; Clément et al., 2016;  
82 Cusack et al., 2017; Evans et al., 2020; Hu et al., 2020; Meyer et al., 2016) and numerical models

83 (Trossman et al., 2013; Trossman et al., 2016; Melet et al., 2014; Nikurashin et al., 2013; Yang  
 84 et al., 2021; Yang et al., 2022; Yang et al., 2023b) have highlighted the important role of lee  
 85 waves in regulating the ocean energetics, powering turbulent diapycnal mixing, which in turn  
 86 impacts the global climate system. Understanding the response of lee wave generation to the  
 87 greenhouse warming is thus important for accurately predicting future climate changes.

88 Melet et al. (2015) investigated the changes of global energy conversion rate into lee  
 89 waves under different warming scenarios using the linear theory (Bell, 1975a, b) and a coarse-  
 90 resolution coupled global climate model (CGCM). They reported that the global energy  
 91 conversion rate into lee waves is projected to decrease by about 20% by the end of the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 92 century under a high carbon emission scenario mainly due to the weakening of the model-  
 93 resolved large-scale mean flows near the sea floor. However, the oceanic resolution of their  
 94 CGCM, i.e., 1°, is insufficient to resolve the ocean mesoscale eddies that make dominant  
 95 contribution to the total kinetic energy of the geostrophic flows (Ferrari & Wunsch, 2009). The  
 96 parameterization they used to estimate the unresolved mesoscale eddy velocity relies on some  
 97 arbitrary parameter choices in the mesoscale energy closure (Eden & Greatbatch, 2008; Marshall  
 98 & Adcroft, 2010), which causes uncertainties in their estimated global energy conversion rate  
 99 into lee waves and its future change.

100 In this study, we evaluate the response of the global energy conversion into lee waves to  
 101 the greenhouse warming using an eddy-resolving (0.1° for the ocean) Community Earth System  
 102 Model (hereinafter CESM-HR for short; Chang et al., 2020). The paper is organized as follows.  
 103 Section 2 describes the linear theory of lee wave generation and the configurations of the CESM-  
 104 HR. In Section 3, we compare the energy conversion rates into lee waves in the historical period  
 105 (1930-1934) and in the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century under the high carbon emission scenario, and  
 106 analyze the factors responsible for the changes of the energy conversion rate. Effects of the  
 107 Froude number are discussed in Section 4 followed by a summary in Section 5.

## 108 2 Methodology

### 109 2.1. Linear theory of lee wave generation

110 In the case of sub-critical topography where slope of ocean topography is smaller than  
 111 slope of radiating lee waves, the energy conversion rate from geostrophic flows into lee waves  $E$   
 112 can be derived from the linear theory (Bell, 1975a, b):

$$113 \quad E = \frac{\rho_0}{4\pi^2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} P(k, l) \frac{(\mathbf{U}_b \cdot \mathbf{k})}{|\mathbf{k}|} \sqrt{N_b^2 - (\mathbf{U}_b \cdot \mathbf{k})^2} \cdot \sqrt{(\mathbf{U}_b \cdot \mathbf{k})^2 - f^2} dk dl, \quad (1)$$

114 where  $\rho_0$  is the reference density,  $\mathbf{k} = (k, l)$  is the horizontal wavenumber,  $P(k, l)$  is the two-  
 115 dimensional topographic spectrum,  $N_b$  and  $\mathbf{U}_b$  are the bottom stratification (buoyancy  
 116 frequency) and bottom velocity, and  $f$  is the Coriolis frequency.

117 Eq. (1) is applicable only to the sub-critical topography. To account for the saturation of  
 118  $E$  over the super-critical topography (Nikurashin & Ferrari, 2010), the value of  $E$  in Eq. (1) is  
 119 multiplied by a factor of  $(Fr_c/Fr)^2$  for  $Fr > Fr_c$ , where  $Fr = N_b h/U_b$  is the Froude number with  $h$   
 120 the root-mean-squared height of the small-scale topography and  $Fr_c$  is the critical Froude  
 121 number. In this study,  $Fr_c$  is set as 0.5 following Aguilar and Sutherland (2006), but other values  
 122 of  $Fr_c$  (0.4 and 0.75) are also adopted to test the influences of  $Fr_c$  on the future change of  $E$ .

123 2.2. Topographic spectrum

124 The topographic spectrum model proposed by Goff and Jordan (1988) is used to  
125 represent the small-scale topographic features:

$$126 \quad P(k, l) = \frac{2\pi H^2 (\mu - 2)}{k_0 l_0} \left[ 1 + \frac{k^2}{k_0^2} \cos^2(\phi - \phi_0) + \frac{l^2}{l_0^2} \sin^2(\phi - \phi_0) \right]^{-\mu/2}, \quad (2)$$

127 where  $H^2$  is the variance of the full topographic height,  $\mu$  is the roll-off slope at high  
128 wavenumber,  $\phi_0$  is the azimuthal angle and  $(k_0, l_0)$  are the characteristic wavenumbers. Goff  
129 (2010) (hereinafter G2010 for short) derived the values of these topographic parameters from  
130 satellite observations. In this study, we adopt the G2010's estimates that have been widely used  
131 in estimating  $E$  (e.g., Baker & Mashayek, 2022; Scott et al., 2011; Yang et al., 2018). It should  
132 be noted that  $P(k, l)$  of G2010 is not available everywhere (Figure. 1). We reminder readers that  
133 the “global ocean” in this study actually refers to the region where  $P(k, l)$  of G2010 is available.

134 2.3. Eddy-mean flow decomposition

135 The geostrophic flows consist of the large-scale mean flows and mesoscale eddies.  
136 Correspondingly,  $E$  can be decomposed into contributions by large-scale mean flows ( $E_{LM}$ ) and  
137 mesoscale eddies ( $E_{ME}$ ) defined as (Yang et al., 2018):

$$138 \quad E_{LM} = -\overline{\boldsymbol{\tau}} \cdot \overline{\mathbf{U}_b}, \quad (3)$$

$$139 \quad E_{ME} = -\overline{\boldsymbol{\tau}'} \cdot \overline{\mathbf{U}_b'}, \quad (4)$$

140 where  $\boldsymbol{\tau} = -\frac{\rho_0}{4\pi^2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} P(k, l) \frac{\mathbf{k}}{|\mathbf{k}|} \sqrt{N_b^2 - (\mathbf{U}_b \cdot \mathbf{k})^2} \cdot \sqrt{(\mathbf{U}_b \cdot \mathbf{k})^2 - f^2} dk dl$  is the wave drag vector,  
141 the overbar denotes the annual average (large-scale mean flows) and the prime denotes the  
142 anomaly (mesoscale eddies).  
143

144 2.4. CESM-HR

145 The CESM-HR is used to simulate the long-term changes of  $N_b$  and  $\mathbf{U}_b$  under the  
146 greenhouse warming. The CESM-HR has a nominal resolution of  $0.1^\circ$  ( $0.25^\circ$ ) for its oceanic  
147 (atmospheric) component. There are 62 vertical levels in the ocean with a maximum grid size of  
148 250 m at the 6000-m depth. The simulation is branched off from a 500-year-long pre-industrial  
149 control simulation (PI-CTRL) at the 250<sup>th</sup> model year and integrated to 2100 with a historical run  
150 spanning from 1850 to 2005, followed by a future transient climate run from 2006 to 2100 under  
151 the representative concentration pathway 8.5 (RCP8.5) scenario. The monthly mean temperature,  
152 salinity and three-dimensional velocity are saved during the simulation. In addition, there are  
153 daily output for these variables during 1930-1934 (historical period) and 2086-2090 (future  
154 period).

155 In this study,  $N_b$  is computed as the value of  $N$  at the vertical level just over the sea  
156 floor, while  $\mathbf{U}_b$  is computed as the vertically averaged  $\mathbf{U}$  within 0-500 m over the sea floor

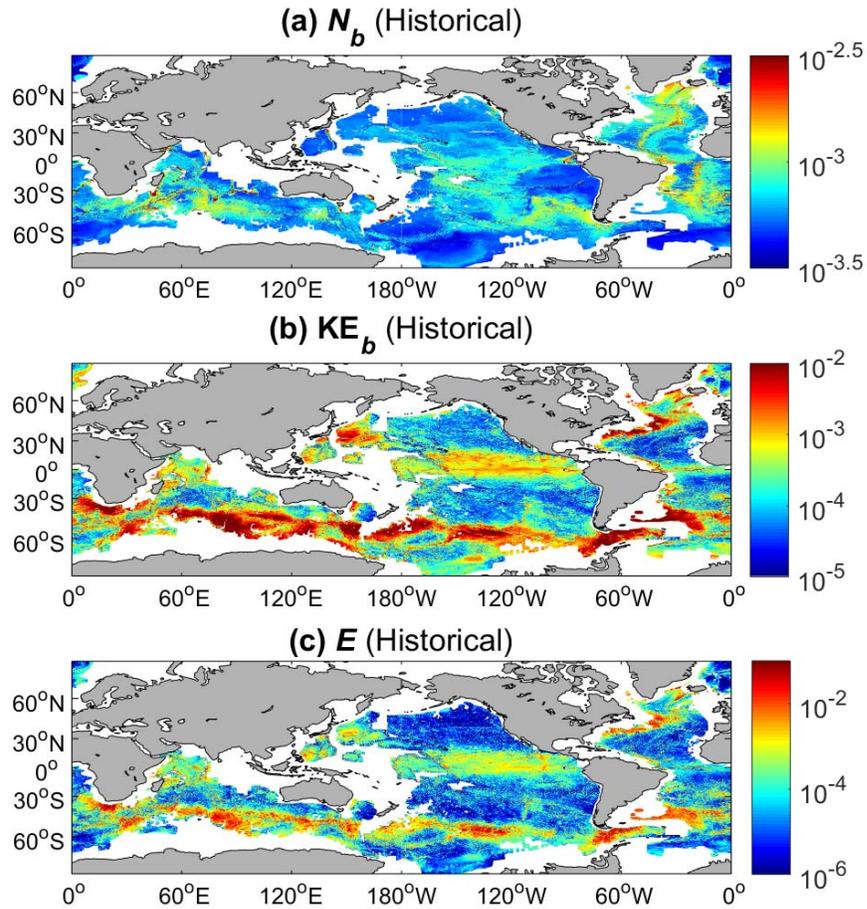
157 (Yang et al., 2018). The model drift after 250 year's spin-up is negligible for  $\mathbf{U}_b$  but less so for  
 158  $N_b$  (Figure S1 in the Supporting Information). This may bias the simulated long-term change of  
 159  $E$  under the greenhouse warming. To minimize such bias, we subtract the linear trend of  $N_b$   
 160 during the model years 250-500 in PI-CTRL from  $N_b$  during 1850-2100. Then the daily  $\mathbf{U}_b$  and  
 161 the time-mean  $N_b$  during 1930-1934 (2086-2090) are substituted into Eq. (1) to estimate  $E$  in the  
 162 historical (future) period. The inter-annual variability of  $E$  within each five-year period is found  
 163 to be much smaller than the difference of  $E$  between these two periods (Table 1), lending support  
 164 that the five-year period is sufficiently long to get statistically robust results.

### 165 **3 Results**

#### 166 3.1. Energy conversion into lee waves in the historical period simulated by the CESM- 167 HR

168 The time-mean  $N_b$  during the historical period in the CESM-HR is spatially  
 169 inhomogeneous and generally consistent with that derived from observations (Figure. 1a). Weak  
 170 bottom stratification with  $N_b \sim O(10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1})$  is found in most parts of the ocean, whereas large  $N_b$   
 171  $\sim O(10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1})$  is mainly concentrated along shallow mid-ocean ridges. The spatial variability of  
 172 time-mean  $\text{KE}_b = (\mathbf{U}_b \cdot \mathbf{U}_b)/2$  is even more pronounced, varying by three orders of magnitude  
 173 (Figure. 1b). Large  $\text{KE}_b \sim O(10^{-2} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}^2)$  occurs along the western boundaries of ocean basins, the  
 174 SO and the eastern tropical Pacific, whereas small  $\text{KE}_b \sim O(10^{-5} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}^2)$  is mainly distributed in  
 175 the gyre interior.

176 Consistent with the existing literature (Nikurashin & Ferrari, 2011; Scott et al. 2011), the  
 177 spatial distribution of time-mean  $E$  during the historical period shows large values in the SO, the  
 178 western boundaries of ocean basins and the eastern tropical Pacific (Figure. 1c). The globally  
 179 integrated time-mean  $E$  during 1930-1934 is  $193 \pm 3.0 \text{ GW}$  (hereinafter the errorbar represents the  
 180 95% confidence interval), close to the lower bound of the previous estimates (Nikurashin &  
 181 Ferrari, 2011).



182

183 Figure 1. Time-mean (a) bottom stratification  $N_b$  ( $s^{-1}$ ), (b) bottom kinetic energy  $KE_b$   
 184 ( $m^2/s^2$ ) and (c) energy conversion rate into lee waves  $E$  ( $W/m^2$ ) during 1930-1934 simulated by  
 185 the CESM-HR. Regions where the topographic spectrum of G2010 is unavailable are masked by  
 186 white.

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### 188 3.2. Response of energy conversion into lee waves to the greenhouse warming

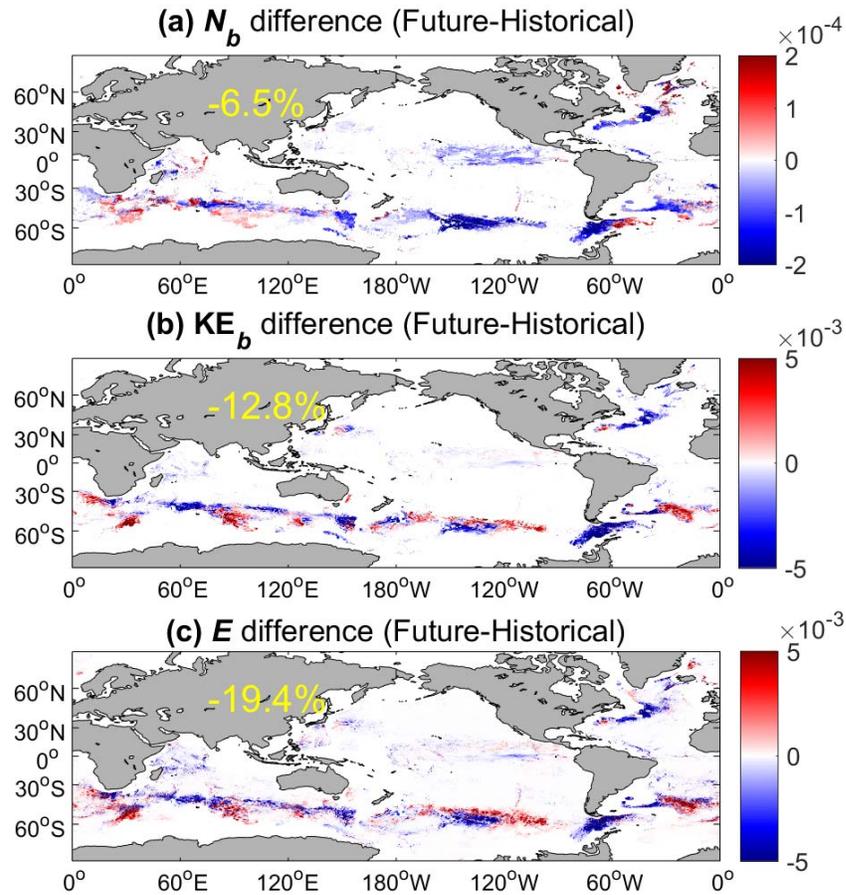
189 As suggested by Eq. (1),  $N_b$  and  $KE_b$  are the two important factors determining the  
 190 magnitude of  $E$ . To understand the change of  $E$  under the greenhouse warming, the differences  
 191 of time-mean  $N_b$  and  $KE_b$  between 1930-1934 and 2086-2090 are examined. Because the  
 192 geographical distribution of  $E$  is highly inhomogeneous (Figure. 1c), we focus on the differences  
 193 in the regions with  $E > 0.52$   $mW/m^2$  (indicated by color shading in Figure. 2a and b). In  
 194 particular, these regions only cover a quarter of the ocean area but contribute to  $\sim 90\%$  of the total  
 195  $E$ . These regions are referred to as the active- $E$  ocean hereinafter.

196 Figure. 2a shows the difference of time-mean  $N_b$  between 1930-1934 and 2086-2090  
 197 over the active- $E$  ocean. There is a decrease of  $N_b$  under the greenhouse warming in most parts

198 of the active- $E$  ocean. Patches of enhanced  $N_b$  are mainly confined to the SO (e.g., 60°W-  
 199 120°E) and the high-latitude regions of the North Atlantic. The time-mean  $N_b$  averaged over the  
 200 active- $E$  ocean decreases by 6.5% in response to the greenhouse warming. This appears contrary  
 201 to the findings of Melet et al. (2015) who reported an overall increase of  $N_b$  in a warming  
 202 climate but is qualitatively consistent with the projections from the high-resolution CGCMs in  
 203 the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6) archive (Eyring et al., 2016; Table  
 204 S1 and Figure S2 in the Supporting Information). Furthermore, it should be noted that the  
 205 calculation made by Melet et al. (2015) covers the entire ocean and includes regions with small  $E$   
 206 values, which can lead to misleading conclusions about the effects of  $N_b$  change on  $E$  change.  
 207 For example,  $N_b$  along the shallow mid-ocean ridges increases significantly under the  
 208 greenhouse warming (not shown). But the increase of  $N_b$  there should contribute little to the  
 209 change of globally integrated  $E$ .

210 The value of  $KE_b$  decreases under the greenhouse warming over most parts of the active-  
 211  $E$  ocean, with patches of increased  $KE_b$  in the SO. The overall reduction of  $KE_b$  under the  
 212 greenhouse warming could partially result from the enhanced baroclinicity of the ocean caused  
 213 by the faster warming in the upper than the deeper ocean (Peng et al., 2022). The most notable  
 214 decrease of  $KE_b$  is located in the Gulf Stream, the Drake Passage and the Kerguelen Plateau,  
 215 where the time-mean  $KE_b$  during 2086-2090 is less than 50% of that during 1930-1934. Such  
 216 regional strong response of  $KE_b$  to the greenhouse warming may be related to multiple  
 217 dynamical processes. For example, it has been well recognized that the slowdown of the Atlantic  
 218 meridional overturning circulation in a warming climate will weaken the Gulf Stream (e.g.,  
 219 Beech et al., 2022; Chen et al., 2019; Yang et al., 2016).

220 The globally integrated time-mean  $E$  during 2086-2090 decreases to  $155.5 \pm 4.8$  GW, a  
 221  $\sim 20\%$  reduction compared to  $193.0 \pm 3.0$  GW during 1930-1934 (Table 1). The change of  $E$  under  
 222 the greenhouse warming is spatially inhomogeneous and generally resembles that of  $KE_b$   
 223 (Figure. 2b and c). To quantify the respective contribution of the changes of  $N_b$  and  $KE_b$  to the  
 224 change of  $E$ , we recompute  $E$  during 2086-2090 by either fixing  $N_b$  or  $KE_b$  as their historical  
 225 values, denoted as  $E_{N\text{-fix}}$  and  $E_{U\text{-fix}}$  respectively (Table 1). The globally integrated time-mean  
 226  $E_{N\text{-fix}}$  ( $166.9 \pm 4.5$  GW) and  $E_{U\text{-fix}}$  ( $176.5 \pm 3.2$  GW) during 2086-2090 are close to each other  
 227 and significantly smaller than the globally integrated time-mean  $E$  ( $193.0 \pm 3.0$  GW) during 1930-  
 228 1934. Therefore, both the weakened  $N_b$  and  $KE_b$  contribute importantly to the reduction of  $E$   
 229 under the greenhouse warming. Nevertheless, the relative importance of  $N_b$  and  $KE_b$  changes in  
 230 determining the change of  $E$  is region-dependent (Figure. 2). For instance, the reduced  $E$  under  
 231 the greenhouse warming in the Gulf stream and the Drake Passage is primarily explained by the  
 232 decreased  $KE_b$ , whereas the reduced  $E$  in the Pacific section of SO (e.g., 120°W-150°W) is  
 233 largely attributed to the reduced  $N_b$  there.



234

235 Figure 2. Change of time-mean (a) bottom stratification  $N_b$  ( $s^{-1}$ ), (b) bottom kinetic  
 236 energy  $KE_b$  ( $m^2/s^2$ ) and (c) energy conversion rate into lee waves  $E$  ( $W/m^2$ ) during 2086-2090  
 237 relative to their counterparts during 1930-1934 simulated by the CESM-HR. (a) and (b) only  
 238 show the results in the active- $E$  ocean. Yellow numbers indicate the percentage changes of  $N_b$   
 239 and  $KE_b$  averaged over the active- $E$  ocean in (a) and (b), but the percentage change of  $E$   
 240 averaged over the global ocean in (c).

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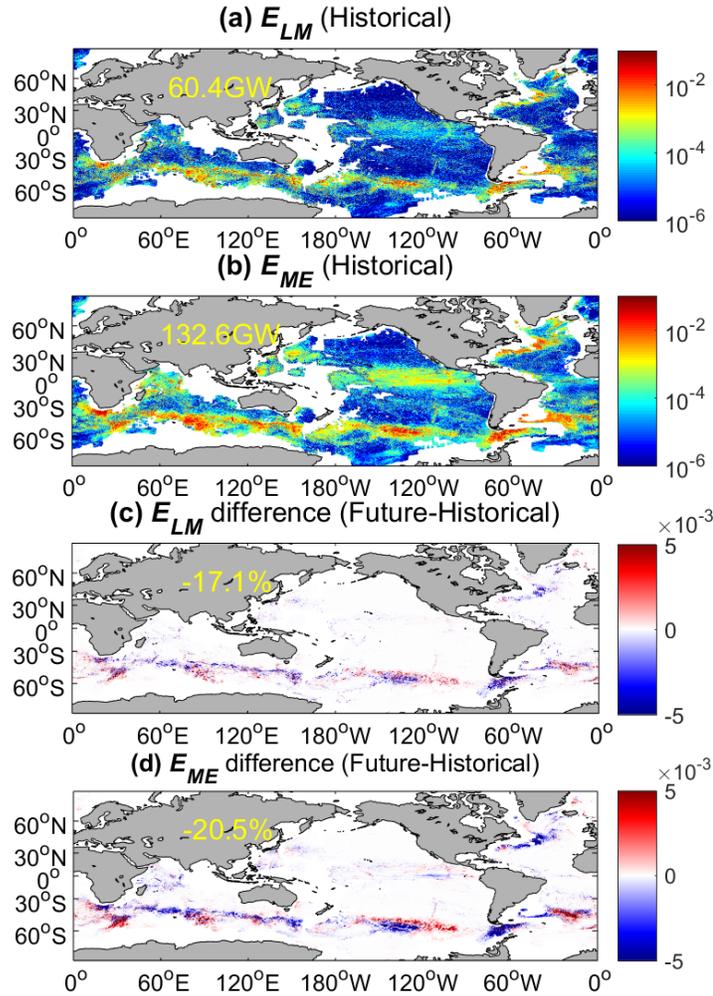
250 Table 1. The globally integrated time-mean energy conversion rate into lee waves  $E$  under  
 251 different conditions of  $N_b$  and  $U_b$  and using different values of  $Fr_c$ . The errorbar corresponds to  
 252 the 95% confidence interval.

$N_b$ ( $s^{-1}$ )	$U_b$ (m/s)	$Fr_c$	$E$ (GW)
Historical	Historical	0.5	193.0±3.0
Historical	Historical	0.4	179.4±2.8
Historical	Historical	0.75	218.3±3.4
Future	Future	0.5	155.5±4.8
Future	Future	0.4	142.4±4.2
Future	Future	0.75	169.3±5.6
Historical	Future	0.5	166.9±4.5
Future	Historical	0.5	176.5±3.2

253

### 254 3.3. Role of mesoscale eddies in the change of energy conversion into lee waves under 255 the greenhouse warming

256 Both the interactions of large-scale mean flows and mesoscale eddies with topography  
 257 generate lee waves. The time-mean  $E_{ME}$  and  $E_{LM}$  during 1930-1934 share similar spatial  
 258 distributions (Figure. 3a and b). However,  $E_{ME}$  is systematically larger in magnitude than  $E_{LM}$   
 259 and accounts for two-thirds of the globally integrated time-mean  $E$ , consistent with the dominant  
 260 contribution of mesoscale eddies to the total kinetic energy of geostrophic flows (Wunsch &  
 261 Ferrari, 2004). Under the greenhouse warming, the values of  $E_{ME}$  and  $E_{LM}$  are reduced over  
 262 most parts of the global ocean (Figure. 3c and d). The globally integrated time-mean  $E_{ME}$  during  
 263 2086-2090 is 20.5% smaller than that during 1930-1934, close to the 17.1% reduction for  $E_{LM}$ .  
 264 However, as  $E_{ME}$  has larger magnitude in the historical period than  $E_{LM}$ , the change of globally  
 265 integrated time-mean  $E$  under the greenhouse warming is primarily attributed to that of  $E_{ME}$ .



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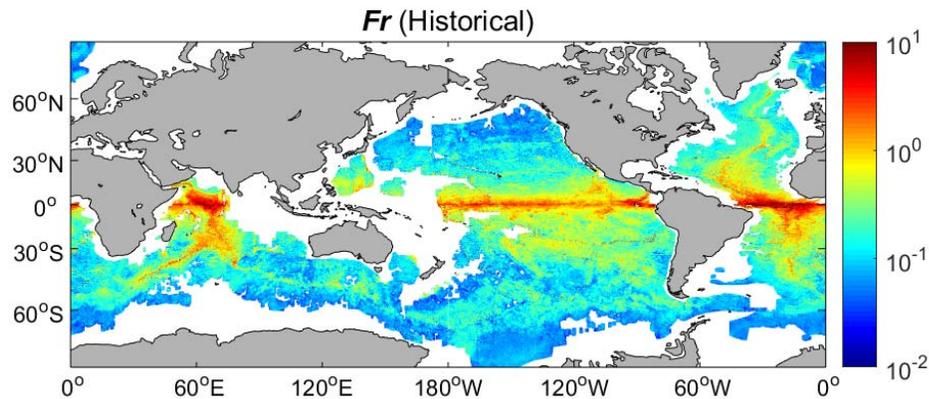
Figure 3. Time-mean energy conversion rate into lee waves contributed by (a) large-scale mean flows  $E_{LM}$  and (b) mesoscale eddies  $E_{ME}$  ( $\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ ) during 1930-1934 simulated by the CESM-HR. Regions where the topographic spectrum of G2010 is unavailable are masked by white. (c) and (d) Same as (a) and (b) but for the change of time-mean  $E_{LM}$  and  $E_{ME}$  during 2086-2090 relative to their counterparts during 1930-1934. Yellow numbers indicate the globally integrated time-mean  $E_{LM}$  and  $E_{ME}$  in (a, b) and their percentage changes under the greenhouse warming in (c, d).

#### 4 Discussion

One tuning parameter in the computation of Eq. (1) is  $Fr_c$  that accounts for the saturation of  $E$  over the super-critical topography (Nikurashin & Ferrari, 2010). Although  $Fr_c$  is set as 0.5 in this study, it is worth pointing out that other values like 0.4 and 0.75 are also adopted in the existing literature (Nikurashin et al., 2014; Scott et al., 2011). To evaluate to what extent the uncertainties in  $Fr_c$  affect the change of  $E$  under the greenhouse warming, we perform sensitivity tests by varying the value of  $Fr_c$  from 0.4 to 0.75. The globally integrated time-mean  $E$  during

282 1930-1934 increases sublinearly with the increasing  $Fr_c$ , ranging from  $179.4 \pm 2.8$  GW for  $Fr_c =$   
 283  $0.4$  to  $218.3 \pm 3.4$  GW for  $Fr_c = 0.75$  (Table 1). This sublinear dependence of the globally  
 284 integrated time-mean  $E$  on  $Fr_c$  is because a large fraction of  $E$  is contributed from the SO where  
 285  $Fr$  is generally less than  $0.4$  (Figure. 4) so that the value of  $E$  does not change for  $Fr_c$  varying  
 286 from  $0.4$  to  $0.75$ . Although  $Fr_c$  has some noticeable influences on the globally integrated time-  
 287 mean  $E$ , the reduction of the globally integrated time-mean  $E$  is robust regardless of the value of  
 288  $Fr_c$ . The globally integrated time-mean  $E$  during 2086-2090 decreases by 20.6%, 19.4% and  
 289 22.4% compared to their counterparts during 1930-1934 for  $Fr_c = 0.4, 0.5$  and  $0.75$ , respectively.  
 290 We conclude that the uncertainties in  $Fr_c$  does not have a substantial impact on the percentage  
 291 change of  $E$  under the greenhouse warming.

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293

294 Figure 4. Time-mean Froude number  $Fr$  during 1930-1934 simulated by the CESM-HR.

295

## 296 5 Summary

297 In this study, we investigated the response of energy conversion into lee waves to the  
 298 greenhouse warming by applying the linear theory of lee wave generation to the climate  
 299 simulation of the CESM-HR resolving mesoscale eddies. The globally integrated time-mean  $E$   
 300 during the historical period (1930-1934) is estimated to be  $193.0 \pm 3.0$  GW, with the lee wave  
 301 generation over the SO making dominant contribution. Under the high carbon emission scenario,  
 302 the globally integrated time-mean  $E$  during 2086-2090 decreases by  $\sim 20\%$  compared to that  
 303 during 1930-1934. This decrease is attributed to the weakened bottom large-scale mean flows,  
 304 mesoscale eddies and stratification under the greenhouse warming.

305 Our findings are qualitatively consistent with those reported by Melet et al. (2015).  
 306 However, the projected reduction of  $E$  by the CESM-HR is quantitatively more evident than that  
 307 (a 20% decrease by the end of the 22<sup>nd</sup> century) projected by the coarse-resolution CGCM used  
 308 by Melet et al. (2015). This difference may result from two aspects. First, although Melet et al.  
 309 (2015) found that the change of  $N_b$  has little effect on the change of  $E$  under the greenhouse  
 310 warming,  $N_b$  is projected by the CESM-HR to be reduced (Figure. 2a) and contributes  
 311 importantly to the reduced  $E$  (Table 1). We note that the projected reduction of  $N_b$  by the

312 CESM-HR is consistent with the projections by the high-resolution CMIP6 CGCMs (Figure S2),  
313 lending support to its reliability. Second, the weakened mesoscale eddy flows near the sea floor  
314 projected by the CESM-HR make important contribution to the reduction of  $E$  under the  
315 greenhouse warming, whereas such effects are absent in the coarse-resolution CGCM of Melet et  
316 al. (2015), suggesting the deficiencies of mesoscale eddy parameterization used by Melet et al.  
317 (2015).

318 The globally integrated time-mean wind power on the surface geostrophic flows remains  
319 nearly unchanged between 1930-1934 ( $0.69\pm 0.01$  TW) and 2086-2090 ( $0.75\pm 0.01$  TW). The  
320 significant reduction of  $E$  under the greenhouse warming thus suggests that the lee wave  
321 generation becomes less efficient in dissipating the wind-driven ocean circulations. Furthermore,  
322 the reduced  $E$  implies weakened energy source of turbulent diapycnal mixing. Changes of these  
323 processes have not been parameterized in the current generation of CGCMs but are likely to play  
324 an important role in regulating the ocean's heat uptake and carbon sequestration under the  
325 greenhouse warming.

326 Finally, this study does not take into account the impact of the greenhouse warming on  
327 the lee wave-geostrophic flow interactions during the upward radiation of lee waves. Recent  
328 studies (e.g., Baker & Mashayek et al., 2021; Kunze & Lien, 2019; Sun et al., 2022; Wu  
329 et al., 2022; Yang et al., 2023a) suggest that lee wave-geostrophic flow interactions can either  
330 transfer energy from lee waves to geostrophic flows or the opposite. The greenhouse warming  
331 does not only affect  $N_b$  and  $U_b$  but also the vertical structure of geostrophic flows in the ocean  
332 interior (Peng et al., 2022), with the later playing a key role in the energy exchange between  
333 geostrophic flows and lee waves (Kunze & Lien, 2019). The impact of the greenhouse warming  
334 on the lee wave-geostrophic flow interactions is left for a future study.

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339 of computing resources.  
340

### 341 **Open Research**

342 The CESM-HR output can be downloaded from the website  
343 [https://ihesp.github.io/archive/products/ds\\_archive/Sunway\\_Runs.html](https://ihesp.github.io/archive/products/ds_archive/Sunway_Runs.html) by selecting the tab “500-  
344 YEAR 1850 PRE-INDUSTRIAL CONTROL” and “250-YEAR 1850 TRANSIENT  
345 SIMULATIONS”. The CMIP6 model data can be downloaded from [https://esgf-  
346 node.llnl.gov/search/cmip6/](https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/search/cmip6/). The CMIP6 CGCMs used in this study are listed in Table S1 in the  
347 Supporting Information.  
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350

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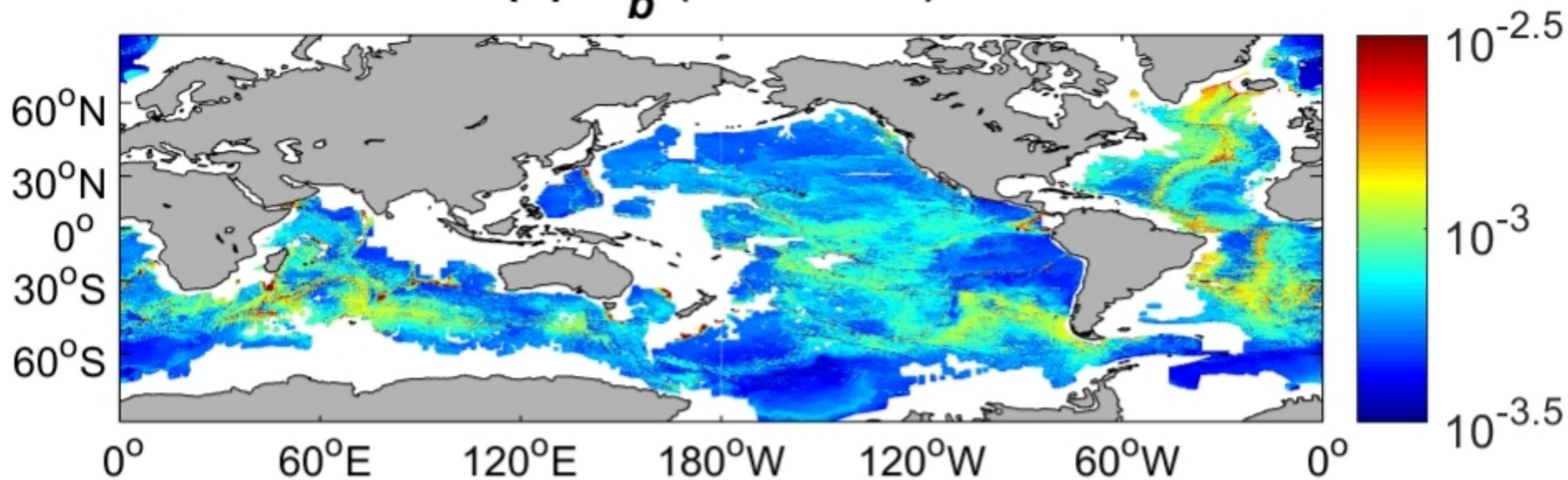
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Table 1. The globally integrated time-mean energy conversion rate into lee waves  $E$  under different conditions of  $N_b$  and  $U_b$  and using different values of  $Fr_c$ . The errorbar corresponds to the 95% confidence interval.

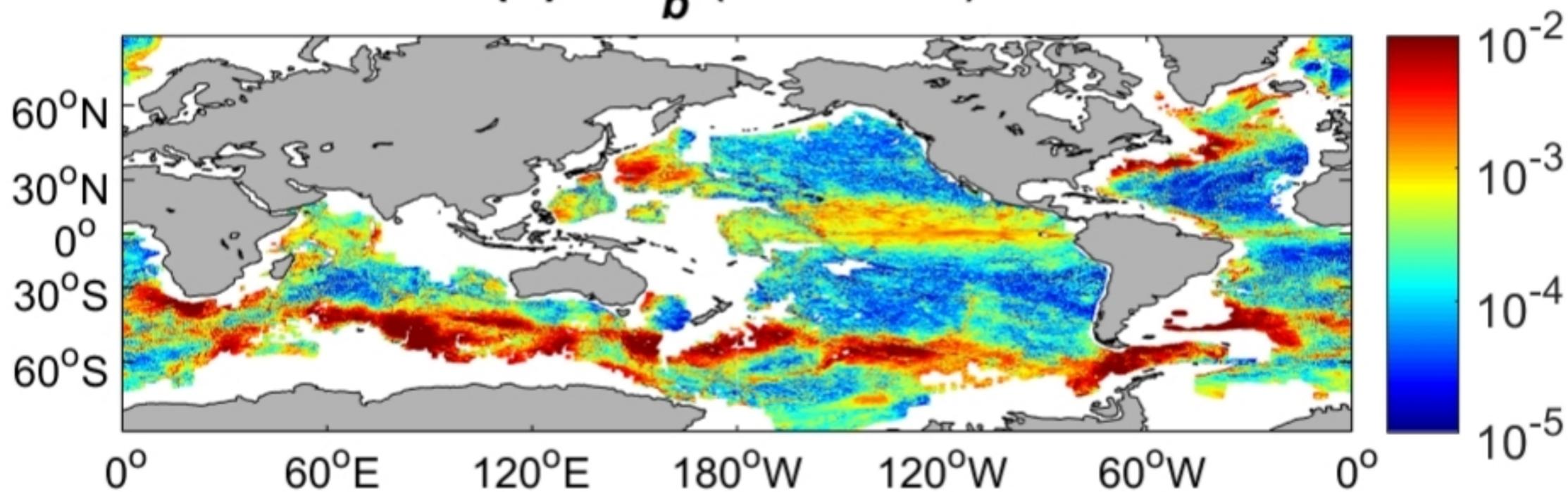
$N_b$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	$U_b$ (m/s)	$Fr_c$	$E$ (GW)
Historical	Historical	0.5	193.0±3.0
Historical	Historical	0.4	179.4±2.8
Historical	Historical	0.75	218.3±3.4
Future	Future	0.5	155.5±4.8
Future	Future	0.4	142.4±4.2
Future	Future	0.75	169.3±5.6
Historical	Future	0.5	166.9±4.5
Future	Historical	0.5	176.5±3.2

Figure 1.

**(a)  $N_b$  (Historical)**



**(b)  $KE_b$  (Historical)**



**(c)  $E$  (Historical)**

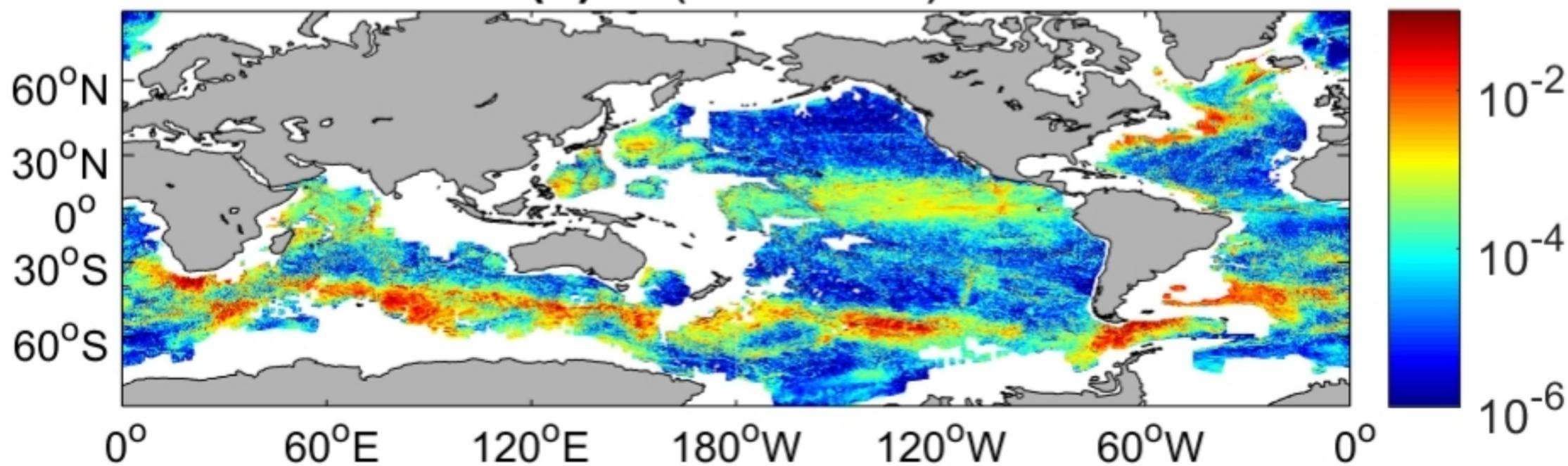
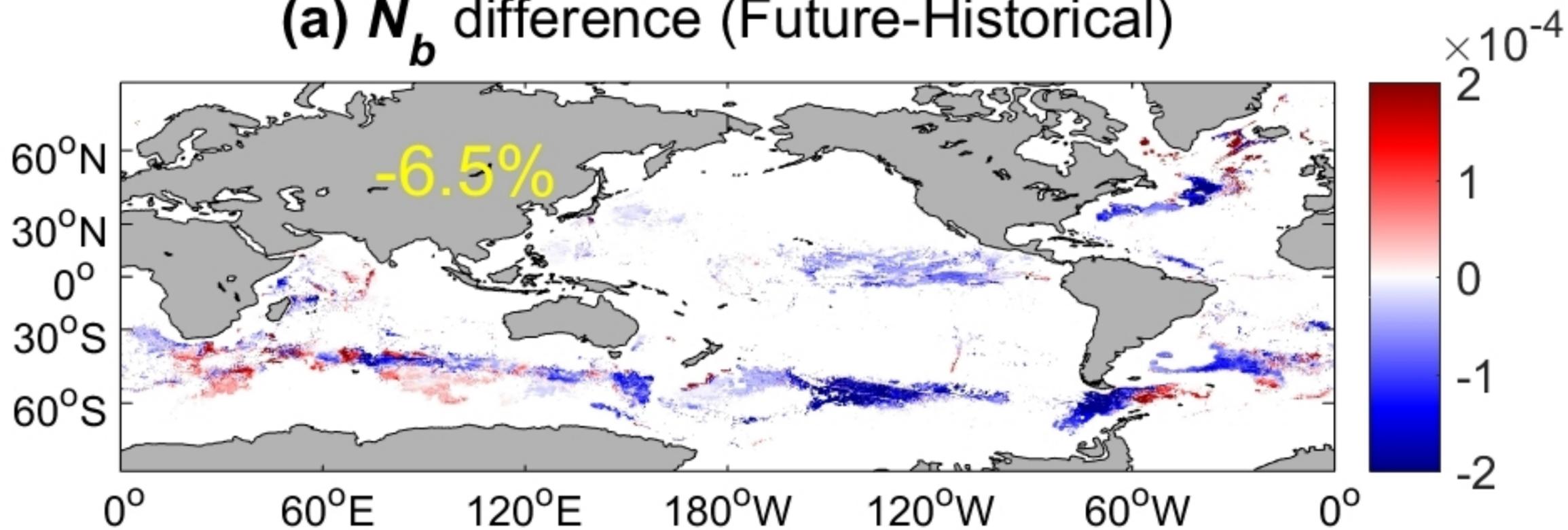
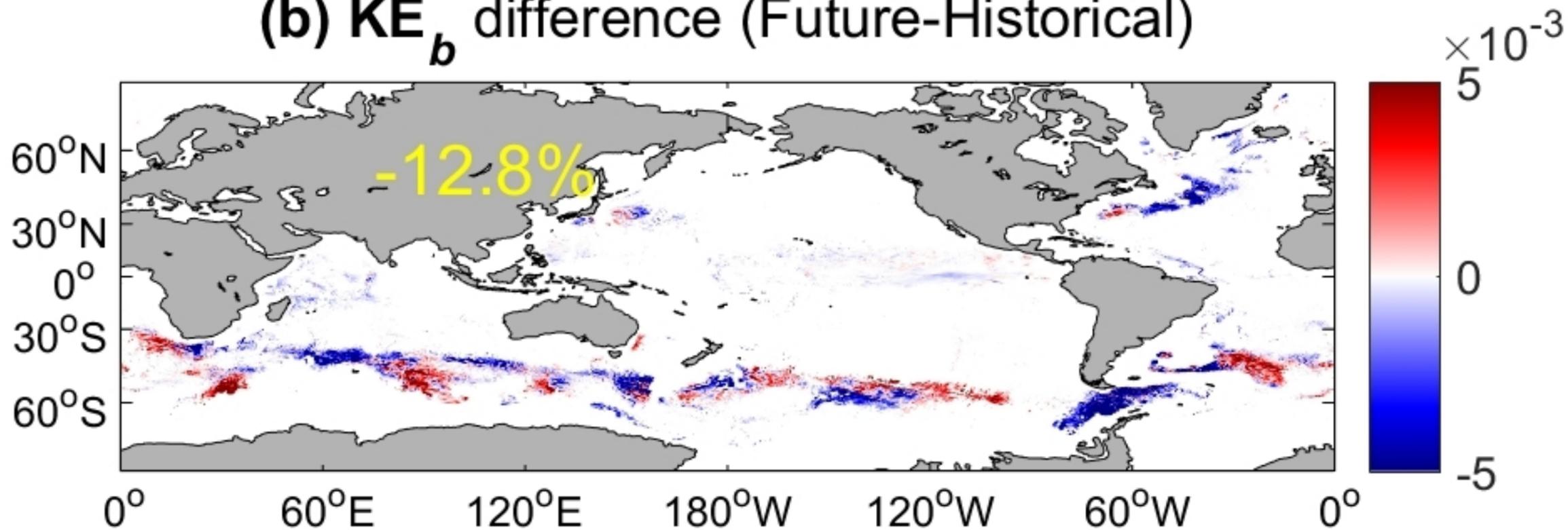


Figure 2.

**(a)  $N_b$  difference (Future-Historical)**



**(b)  $KE_b$  difference (Future-Historical)**



**(c)  $E$  difference (Future-Historical)**

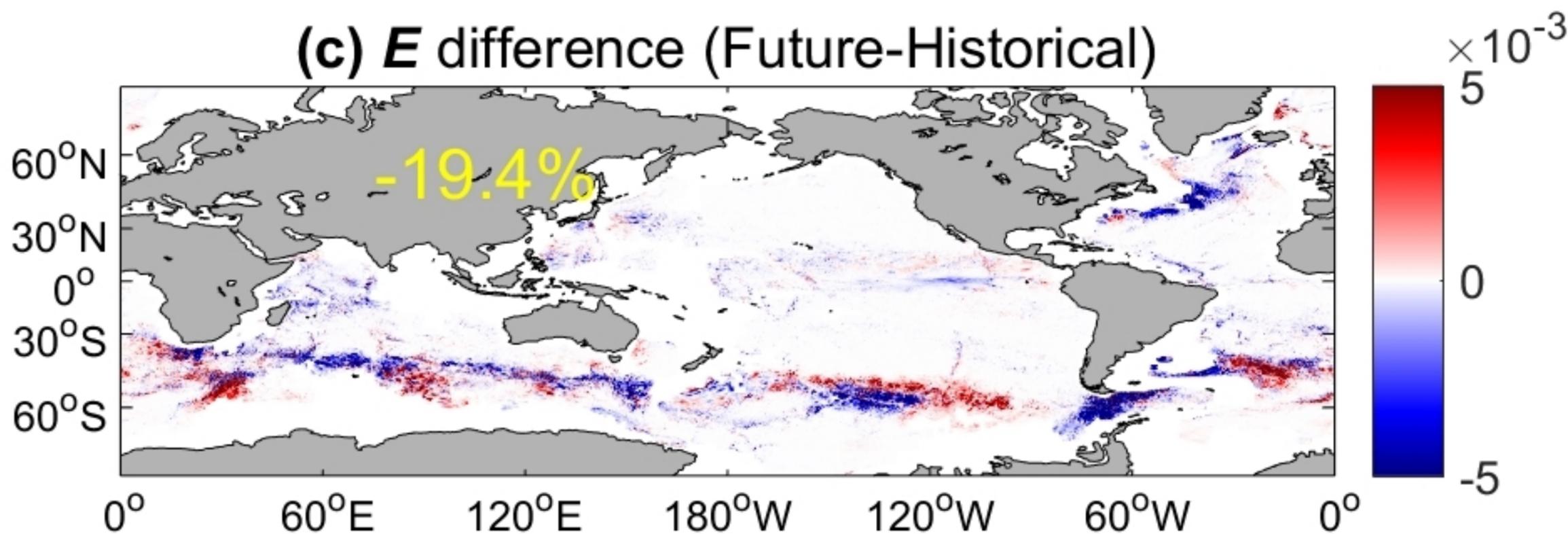
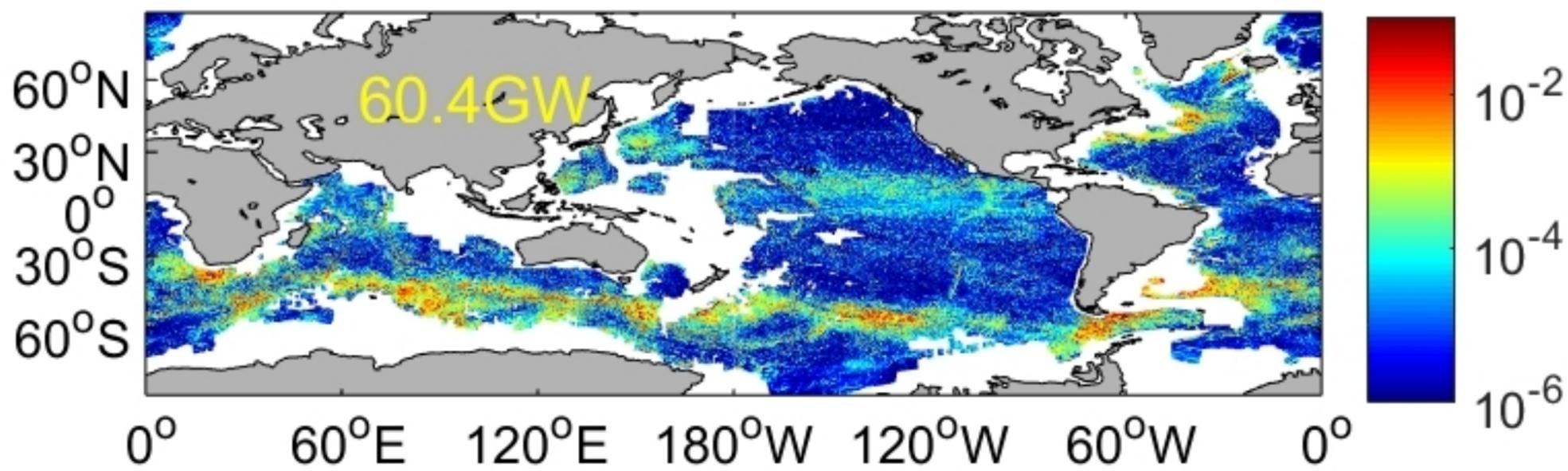
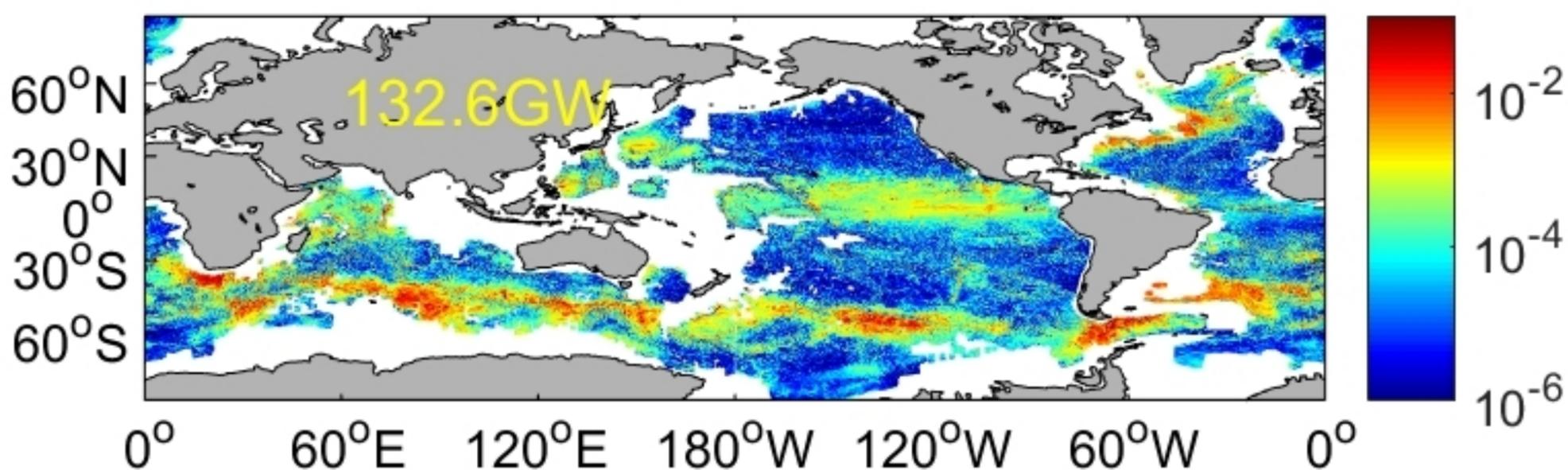


Figure 3.

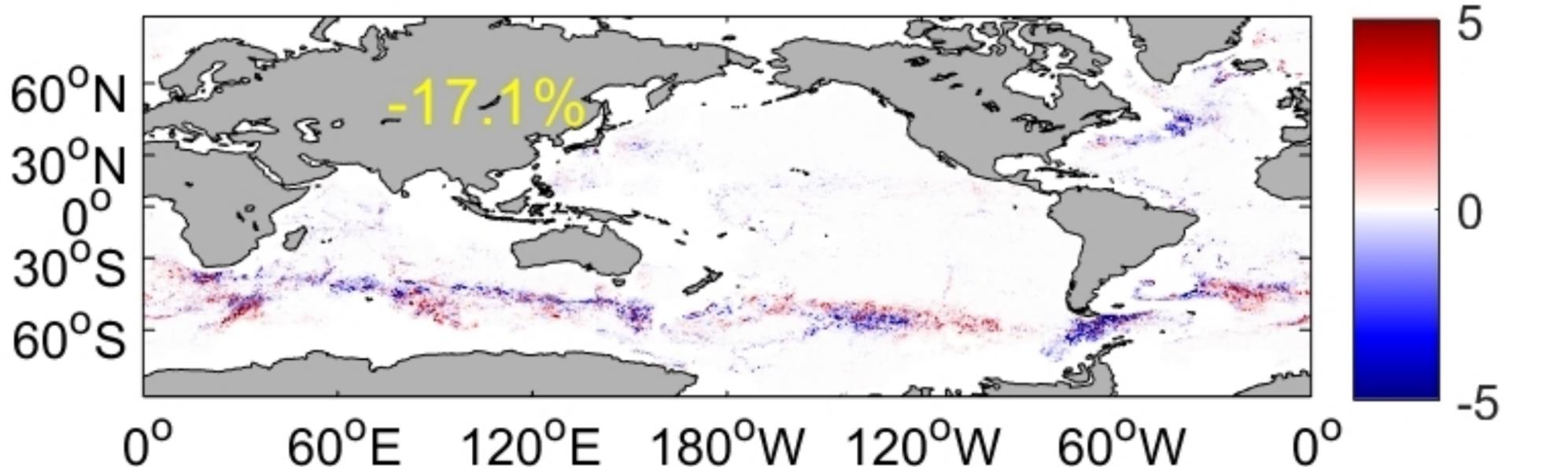
(a)  $E_{LM}$  (Historical)



(b)  $E_{ME}$  (Historical)



(c)  $E_{LM}$  difference (Future-Historical)



(d)  $E_{ME}$  difference (Future-Historical)

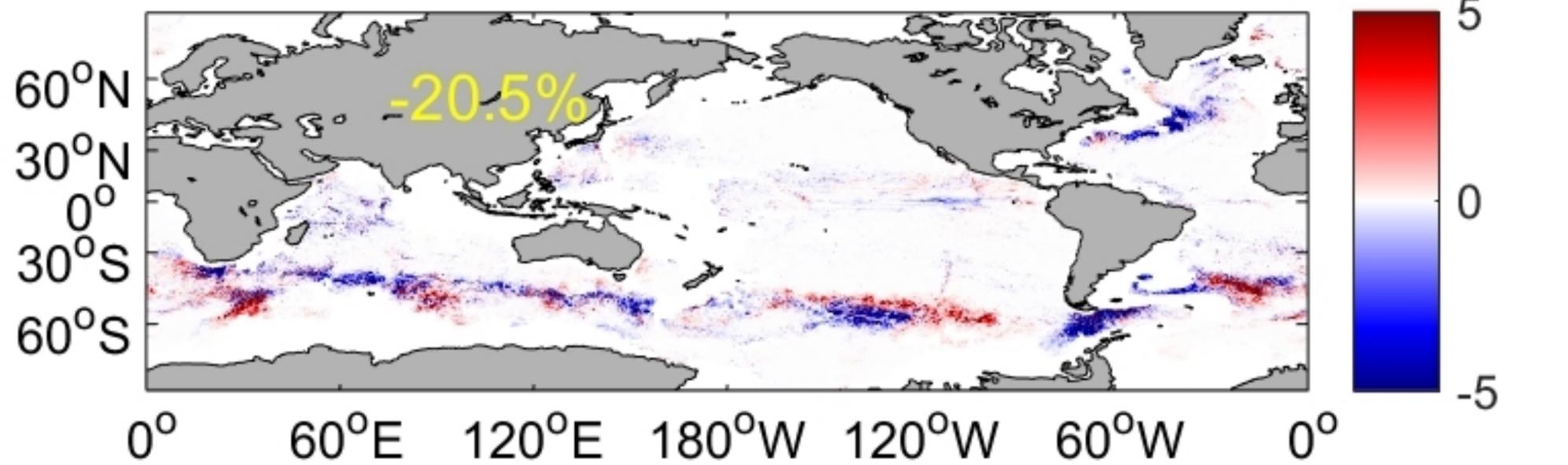


Figure 4.

# *Fr* (Historical)

