

Reply

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The comments by R. E. Coulter are well taken. The statements in the original paper (Parsons, 1979) that are criticized do need clarification. I have only two statements to make in response to the amendments by Coulter. First, the impact of the open ocean environment on buoy wind measurement quality is not ruled out by Withee and Blasingame (1976). The total system-averaged error used in their study does include an environmental dependence but its influence at high wind speeds is determined in the study from a computerized model only. Withee and Blasingame call for additional model validation to ensure that the quality of the buoy measurement in such conditions is as predicted. However, as I stated in the original paper, I do agree that shipboard measurements

are responsible for the majority of the increase in buoy-shipboard intercomparison measurement error bounds. My second point is that the amendments submitted by Coulter do not bear in any way upon the central issue of the paper. While well taken, they do not affect my conclusions concerning the determination of the presence of swell from satellite radar altimetry.

REFERENCES

- Parsons, C. L., 1979: On the remote detection of swell by satellite radar altimeter. *Mon. Wea. Rev.*, **107**, 1210-1218.
- Withee, G. W., and W. C. Blasingame, 1976: Environmental data quality estimates for ocean data buoys. *Proc. Second Annual Combined Conf.*, Mar. Tech. Soc. and IEEE, 14F1-14F6.